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**9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE (SUNDAY) | TIME - 1:30 PM**

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	7:00 AM TO 9:30 AM	5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM	5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM	2:00 PM TO 4:30 PM
DATE	SUBJECT		SUBJECT	
10 <sup>th</sup> June	INDIAN ECONOMY	MODERN HISTORY	विषय	INDIAN ECONOMY
11 <sup>th</sup> June	MODERN HISTORY	GEOGRAPHY	आधुनिक भारत का इतिहास	MODERN HISTORY
12 <sup>th</sup> June	GEOGRAPHY	CURRENT AFFAIRS	भूगोल	GEOGRAPHY
13 <sup>th</sup> June	CURRENT AFFAIRS	INDIAN POLITY	समसामयिकी	CURRENT AFFAIRS
14 <sup>th</sup> June	INDIAN POLITY	INDIAN ECONOMY	(अब हिन्दी माध्यम में भी)	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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## IAS 2019

In Association with



## Rajnath inducted into Cabinet panel following controversy

Defence Minister earlier left out of CCPA due to 'oversight'

**No proposal received on free rides for women: Puri**

NEW DELHI  
 The Delhi government had not sent any proposal to give free rides to women on the Delhi Metro, which Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Monday, to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs or the DMRC so far, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**  
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi - after setting up two Cabinet sub-committees for economic growth and investment, and for jobs and skills - reconstituted six other Cabinet sub-committees on Thursday.

A piquant situation arose with the formation of these committees after the Cabinet Secretariat issued an amendment on these sub-committees, adding Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's name to the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) as well as the committees on jobs and economic growth.

The late amendment was an attempt by the government to undo some of the



Rajnath Singh

were mum on why Mr. Singh was excluded in the first place, but said his exclusion from the CCPA and the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs was an oversight that was corrected.

The other major presence in most of these sub-committees is Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

**Allies find a place**  
 In the CCPA, apart from heavyweight Ministers from the BJP, NDA allies like Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Heavy Industries Minister Arvind Sawant find a place.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14  
**RAJNATH SINGH REVIEWS PURCHASES, BUDGET** PAGE 14

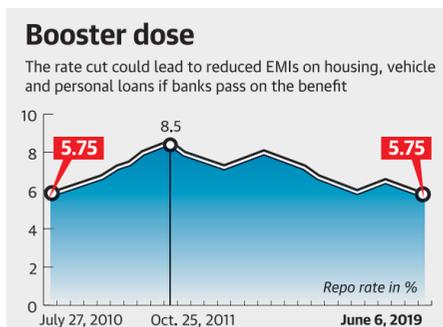
## RBI cuts interest rate by 25 bps

Changes stance to accommodative; cuts FY20 growth projection to 7%

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI**

The benchmark interest rate of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fell below 6% for the first time since 2010 as the central bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) cut repo rates by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.75% in order to address growth concerns.

The stance of the policy has also been changed from neutral to accommodative, which means a hike in interest rates is ruled out.



**Decision unanimous**  
 The decision to cut interest rate was unanimous among the MPC members. "The MPC notes that growth impulses have weakened significantly as reflected in a further widening of the output gap compared to the April 2019 policy," the RBI said.

The RBI has revised GDP growth projection for the current financial year from 7.2% to 7%. "The headline inflation trajectory remains below the target even after taking into account the expected transmission of the past two policy rate cuts,"

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said at the media interaction. "Hence, there is scope to boost aggregate demand and, in particular, private investment activity, while remaining consistent with the mandate of flexible inflation targeting," he said.

## Sensex sheds over 500 points

Equity markets lost ground on Thursday as investors remained wary of the potential impact of the liquidity issues in the non-banking financial companies segment, with rate-sensitive sectors such as banking and real estate taking the biggest beating. The Sensex lost 553.82 points, or 1.38%, to close at 39,529.72.

The path of consumer price index based inflation has been revised downward to 3.4%-3.7% in the second half of the current fiscal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14  
 MORE REPORTS ON PAGE 17  
 NO SURPRISES EDITORIAL

## Easter bombings: new evidence points to lapses

Former officials say they had warnings

**MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO**

Testifying before a parliamentary panel on Thursday, Sri Lanka's suspended police chief and former Defence Secretary confirmed that prior intelligence on a possible terror attack had been available since April 9, and it was shared among top police and defence officials on the eve of and on the morning of the Easter bombings.

IGP Pujith Jayasundara told the Parliamentary Select Committee set up to

probe the April 21 attacks that he received two calls on an imminent threat, after receiving a similar letter on April 9, from the Chief of National Intelligence. "I got two calls from the Director of the State Intelligence Service - one on the evening of April 20, saying 'Tomorrow will be dangerous, something can happen', and another, on April 21, between 6.45 a.m. and 7.15 a.m., saying 'Something can happen today'."

FISSURES IN GOVT. PAGE 16

## Colourful start



An 'Ottamthullal' artiste greeting students at the Talap Mixed Upper Primary School in Kannur on the school reopening day, Thursday. \*S.K. MOHAN

## Speaker endorses merger of 12 Cong. MLAs with ruling TRS

They will now sit with TRS legislators

**R. RAVIKANTH REDDY HYDERABAD**

In a major setback to the Congress in Telangana, the 12 party MLAs who defected to the TRS were recognised as members of the ruling party by Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy on Thursday.



Policemen outside the Assembly in Hyderabad on Thursday. \*K.V.S. GIRI

The decision came hours after they met him and sought merger of their group

with the TRS Legislature Party (TRSLP), claiming themselves to be the representatives of the Congress

Legislature Party (CLP). Later in the day, the Speaker acceded to the demand of the 12 MLAs, considering the fact that they constituted two-thirds of the total number of 18 MLAs.

Accordingly, seats were allotted to them along with TRS members in the House. Unless the merger is reversed, the Congress is set to lose its status of Opposition party in the Assembly as its strength has come down to six.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## AIR may have to power off short wave transmissions

It began international broadcasting in 1939

**SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELHI**

If Prasar Bharati has its way, All India Radio will have to stop all global short wave (SW) transmissions - 80 years after it began international broadcasting in 1939. AIR is resisting the move arguing that it will curtail its global reach.

There are about 46 SW transmitters that beam both domestic and external services. Of these, 28 are used for external services alone. Barring three that were recently installed, all the others will have to be shut down over the next six months. The external services go out to 150 countries in 13 Indian languages and 15 foreign languages.

Prasar Bharati wrote to AIR in the third week of May asking for a proposal to phase out SW transmitters.



Short wave is the only effective way to reach any part of the world, AIR administrators say. \*V.V. KRISHNAN

varied penetration of internet connectivity. Any country that wants to scuttle Indian radio can just shut down our web channel."

**No impact**  
 Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati denied that discontinuing SW will impact global outreach. He said there would be fresh investments in DD India, AIR World Service and Prasar Bharati's Gopal Digital Platform.

"Going forward, AIR world service will be primarily a digital service leveraging FM and medium wave capabilities where available and short wave in a limited way for strategic purposes. We will explore hiring air time in transmitters outside India where feasible," he told *The Hindu*.

## Sidhu loses key portfolio in Punjab Cabinet rejig

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH**

Fissures in the Congress in Punjab deepened on Thursday with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh changing Navjot Singh Sidhu's portfolio within hours of the crick-

eter-turned-politician snubbing him by skipping a Cabinet meeting.

Mr. Sidhu was divested of the Local Government and Tourism and Cultural Affairs departments and given the Power and New and Renew-

able Energy Sources portfolio in the Cabinet rejig, which the Chief Minister said would re-energise his team and further streamline the government.

DETAILS ON PAGE 14

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EE: 17 <sup>th</sup> June EC: 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	EE: 10 <sup>th</sup> June EC: 6 <sup>th</sup> June
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Air quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi	206	Gurugram 230
Ghaziabad	238	Faridabad 200
Noida	214	Greater Noida 199
Good	0-50	Moderate
Satisfactory	51-100	101-200
Poor	201-300	Very poor
	301-400	Severe
		>401

**Rai orders reinstatement  
of contractual employees**NEW DELHI  
Labour Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday inspected GB Pant Hospital and ordered registration of an FIR against an agency which allegedly terminated the services of contractual employees and directed their reinstatement, a government statement said.**DELHI TODAY****Talk:** Seminar on "Higher Education in Art the Next Decade". Panelists include, Dr. Uttam Pacharne (Chairman, Lalit Kala Kendra) Kishore Singh (Head, Exhibitions & Publications-DAG), Adwaita Charan Gadanayak (Director, NGMA), Mallika Ahluwalia (Curator, Partition Museum) at Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.**Talk:** Lecture on "Relationship between S&T and Evolution in Methods of Knowledge Production" by Prof. R.B. Grover, Emeritus Professor and Former V-C, Homi Bhabha National Institute and Member, Atomic Energy Commission at Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.**Exhibition:** A solo show of artworks by T.K Hareendran at Art Konsult, 3, Ground Floor, Hauz Khas Village, 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
(Mail your listings for this column at [cityeditor@thehindu.co.in](mailto:cityeditor@thehindu.co.in))**Entrance-based courses an alternative for DU hopefuls**

Two-hour exam will consist 100 multiple choice questions

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Applicants looking for alternatives to courses with high cut-off marks at Delhi University can consider applying for the 12 entrance-based courses at the university.

The courses include B.A. (Honours) Business Economics available in up to 12 colleges, Bachelor of Management Studies in 10 colleges, Bachelor of Elementary Education in eight colleges, Bachelor of Business Administration (Financial Investment Analysis) in three colleges, B.Tech. (Information Technology and Mathematical Innovations) and B.A. (Hons.) Humanities and Social Sciences at Cluster Innovation Centre, B.A. (Honours) Multimedia and Mass Communication at Indraprastha College for Women, Five-year Integrated Programme in Journalism at Delhi School of Journalism, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Hindustani Music, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Carnatic music and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Percussion



This year, the National Testing Agency will be conducting the entrance exams for the first time. \*SANDEEP SAXENA

Music at Faculty of Music and Fine Arts.

**Negative marking**

The two-hour written entrance exam will consist 100 multiple choice questions. The exam will also have negative marking. Additionally, for physical education and music courses, a practical component will be involved. The exams will be conducted between June 30 and July 6. The final dates will be announced on Friday, said a university official.

This year, the National Testing Agency (NTA) will be conducting the entrance exams for the first time. The NTA falls under the Ministry of Human Resource Development and is entrusted with carrying out transparent examinations. The tests will be conducted under the lens of CCTV cameras along with cell phone jammers in place.

Admission to rest of the undergraduate courses in Delhi University is based on Class XII grades.

**Court takes note of defamation suit against CM**

Case posted to June 24 for recording evidence of Vijender Gupta

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday took cognisance of a criminal defamation complaint against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia filed by Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly and BJP MLA Vijender Gupta.

Taking cognisance of the complaint, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal posted the matter

for June 24 for recording pre-summoning evidence of Mr. Gupta.

**CM's allegations**

During the recent Lok Sabha polls, Mr. Kejriwal said in an interview to a Punjabi channel that the BJP wanted to get him killed by his own Personal Security Officer (PSO) in the manner in which Indira Gandhi was assassinated, and Mr. Gupta was part of the conspiracy.

Mr. Sisodia had endorsed the charge of Mr. Gupta being a part of the conspiracy, the complainant alleged.

Mr. Gupta in his complaint alleged that Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Sisodia had maligned his image by accusing him of attempting to get the former killed.

Due to widespread circulation of tweets and news reports on the statements of the two respondents, his reputation was harmed, the

complainant alleged.

Mr. Gupta further alleged that the two accused made the statements with ulterior motives to harm his reputation, malign his image and gain some cheap political mileage in the 2019 general election.

**Damages sought**

Gupta has sought ₹1 crore as compensation and the litigation costs from the two AAP leaders.

**City may get hotter in the coming days**

Heatwave conditions likely: Met Dept.

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Temperature in parts of the city crossed the 45 degree Celsius mark again with Palam recording a maximum of 45.3 degrees Celsius.

The official temperature of the city recorded at the Safdarjung station was 43.9 degrees Celsius, which was four degrees above the normal.

The weather stations at Delhi Ridge and Ayanagar recorded the maximum temperatures at 45.2 and 45 degrees Celsius respectively. However, towards the evening, gusty winds blew across the Capital providing some relief from the hot weather.

The Met department has forecast a heatwave in the coming days with the maximum temperature likely to be above 44 degrees Celsius.

On Friday, the Met department has forecast a

A woman protects her child from the sun on a hot afternoon in the Capital.  
\*SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

partly cloudy sky and heatwave conditions at isolated pockets in the city. The maximum and minimum temperatures will hover around 44 and 28 degrees Celsius, respectively.

With the monsoon getting delayed as it is yet to hit Kerala, the IMD said that the Capital will have to wait longer this year to receive relief in the form of rain, a weather official said.

**Delhi's 'poor' air quality days down 33%: Javadekar**

'From 300 in 2014 to 206 in 2018'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Air quality in Delhi-NCR has improved with the number of "poor" air quality days coming down from 300 in 2014 to 206 in 2018, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Thursday.

Speaking at an event to mark the World Environment Day, which was on June 5, the Minister said the situation "is not as bad" as being portrayed in the media.

"Number of poor air quality days in Delhi in 2016 used to be 246, and in 2014 it used to be around 300, in 2017 it came down to 213 and now it has come down to 206 (in 2018). I am confident that when 2019 figures will come, the number of poor air quality days will further come down. This is a tremendous success. The days of poor quality air have

reduced. It is a significant improvement," he said.

The number of "poor" air quality days has come down by 33% in 2018 as compared to 2014. He also said that the number of days with 'moderate' to 'good' air quality has increased from 108 in 2016 to 159 in 2018.

"Moderate to good days have increased. 108 days of moderate air quality in 2016 have increased to 152 in 2017 and now they have gone up to 159 days. This progress in good air days are the result of concerted efforts of last four years for the Capital and NCR," he said, adding that air quality monitoring systems which record the air quality index (AQI) show improvement in air quality.

Calling for people's participation, the Minister said that just wearing masks will not help and every individual has to act responsibly towards environment.

**'Waste to Wonder Park' ticket sales up**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

South Delhi's 'Waste to Wonder Park' is emerging as a major tourist attraction and revenue from sale of tickets has crossed over ₹2 crore since it opened to public in February, the officials said on Thursday.

Authorities at the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which governs the park spread over seven acres, said the daily footfall is surging day by day.

"On Eid, the theme park attracted 12,327 visitors, including senior citizens. The collection on that day through the sale of tickets was over ₹5.48 lakh," a senior official said.

**3 acquitted in dowry death case**

Prosecution failed to prove death was due to harassment

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court here has acquitted three persons in a dowry death case and said that "merely on the ground that a woman ended her life within seven years of marriage, it cannot be said that her suicide was a result of dowry death."

According to the prosecution, the victim died by setting herself on fire in 2012.

Though the Sub-Divisional Magistrate recorded the dying declaration of the victim and the police recorded statements of her parents, yet the prosecution failed to prove the charges of dowry demand and cruelty meted out to her for not fulfilling it.

"There is nothing on record either by the victim in her dying declaration or by any of the witnesses that the victim ended her life due to cruelty or harassment caused by the accused persons. As such, the prosecution has failed to prove that the death of the victim was due to cruelty or harassment caused by the accused persons," Additional Sessions Judge Lalit Kumar said in his judgment.

The Judge said that the mother of the victim did not disclose in her entire examination as to what type of demand was raised by the accused. She did not even mention the date, time or year of the incident. Also, the victim's

father had turned hostile during the trial.

Another key witness in the case, the victim's relative, said in his cross-examination that the accused persons neither demanded dowry at the time of the marriage nor did the victim make any complaint regarding it or accused them of harassing or torturing her for dowry.

"From the testimony of victim's relative, it is evident that the victim never levelled any allegations of demand of dowry, cruelty and harassment by the accused persons. Accordingly, the accused are hereby acquitted of the charges under Sections 498A/304B/34 IPC," the Judge said.

IN BRIEF



Science clubs in 61 SDMC schools upgraded

NEW DELHI Science clubs in 61 South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) schools have been upgraded as part of a national undertaking, the civic body said on Thursday. The Union Department of Science and Technology has upgraded 233 clubs across the country based on a three-level evaluation by a panel, the statement said. The parameters included the 'level of improvement in scientific aptitude' facilities and scientific infrastructure and others.

Chopper scam: HC stays order on Saxena's foreign travel

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has stayed the permission granted to a middleman-turned-approver in a money laundering case related to the AgustaWestland chopper scam to travel abroad.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) challenged before the High Court an order of a trial court here allowing Rajeev Saxena to go to Europe, the U.K. and Dubai for medical treatment.

Justice Chander Shekhar stayed the trial court order and issued notice to Mr. Saxena and directed him to file a response by June 10 on ED's petition. "Issue notice to respondent... Meanwhile, the operation of the impugned order is stayed till next date of hearing," the Bench said on Tuesday.

# No proposal received on free metro rides for women, says Puri

Minister says Delhi's problems will be sorted out soon referring to 2020 Assembly polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Delhi government had not sent any proposal for giving free Metro rides to women to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) or the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation so far, Union Minister of State (Independent charge) MoHUA Hardeep Puri said on Thursday.

Earlier this week on Monday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced that his government had proposed to make travel for women free in public transport buses and metro trains.

Mr. Puri was speaking to reporters after launching the Ministry's sanitation ranking league for cities, Swachh Survekshan League 2020, when he was asked about the AAP government's announcement.

"There are two types of syndromes - one is broken window economics and the other is broken window fraud. To give ticket-less travel or free travel to anyone in a bus, first you need to have a bus. First, you must ask, have 11,000 buses been sanctioned? How many are there now," he asked, referring to the number of buses operated by the Delhi government vis-a-vis the required 11,000.

Discounted fares

The Minister added that he had said in Parliament that he wanted to provide special discounted fares to senior citizens and students for metro travel and that the DMRC was preparing technology for the same.

"With Mr. Kejriwal, I have a healthy ongoing debate. He has a ₹50,000-crore budget. The budget is not being spent on sanitation, Ayushman Bharat etc. But, he wants to

To give ticket-less travel or free travel to anyone in a bus, first you need to have a bus. First, you must ask, have 11,000 buses been sanctioned?

HARDEEP PURI Union Minister

give a ₹1,200 crore or ₹2,000-crore subsidy. There should be a debate on this. The BJP, we are all for women. But schemes are not made like this, that first you announce and then make the proposal. We have not received any proposal, nor has the DMRC," he said.

Calls them disruptionists

Continuing his attack on the AAP government, when asked about the pace of public toilet construction in Delhi, Mr. Puri said, "Delhi is a sui generis [of its own kind] case. We will sort out Delhi's problem. This phenomena is there only for another six months. I have no doubt. These are people who came in at number three. They are disruptionists."

Mr. Puri was referring to the Delhi Assembly elections, which are expected early 2020, and the Lok Sabha election, in which AAP was at third place in the majority of Delhi's seven seats. He said he had written several letters to the Delhi government about various projects, but the AAP dispensation had not used the funds allocated in time.

"Arvind Kejriwal has a problem of a different kind. He will take out a full page advertisement saying something is starting in two or three months, but the proposal has not even been made," he said.



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on June 3 had announced free rides for women in city's buses and metro trains. ■FILE PHOTO

## Plan likely to be tabled before Cabinet on June 11

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi government is likely to bring a proposal, on making bus and metro rides free for women, before the Cabinet on June 11.

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot wrote to Principal Secretary-cum-Transport Commissioner Rajeev Kumar on June 3, asking him to take necessary steps to give shape to the proposal.

In a letter to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) chairman, Mr. Kumar sought to know the proposal's financial implication, technical feasibility and modalities and challenges in its implementation.

Similar details have also been sought from the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and the Delhi Integrated Multi Modal Transit System (DIMITS), which together run around 5,500 public transport buses in the city.

A meeting of senior officials of DMRC, DTC and DIMITS was held on Thursday morning to discuss various aspects of the proposal.

Meanwhile, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said that the Delhi government was developing a plan and will make it public once finalised. "In the last three-four days, we have been doing many meetings on this... The Chief Minister and I have also been taking meetings," Mr. Sisodia said on Thursday.

"Just now we heard Hardeep Puri's statement that Delhi does not have plan or money to make metro rides free for women. Sir, Delhi government has the plan and the money. You please keep smiling and blessing us, Delhi government will implement it in a good way. We have a concrete plan, to provide free travel for women in buses and metro," Mr. Sisodia said.

(With PTI inputs)

# Mega CCTV project draws flak

Privacy advocacy group issues notice to Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Raising concerns of the creation of a 'surveillance state' with the planned installation of up to 1.4 lakh CCTV cameras in Delhi, privacy advocacy group Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) sent a legal notice to Chief Minister Kejriwal on Thursday, calling upon him to halt the project.

The letter alleged that the policy was pushed through in an "opaque manner" without public consultation or feasibility studies. It highlighted the "lack of legal standing" for the 'Standard Operating Procedure', which acts as the governing framework for the policy.

The SOP does not specify the intended use of the installations, "which make the personal information of the residents of Delhi open to indiscriminate use and profiling," it stated.

It also raised concerns on



Big brother is watching: A privacy group claims the CCTV policy was initiated without consultations. ■FILE PHOTO

the lack of safeguards regarding whom the footage may be shared with, duration for which the footage will be stored, and the rights of residents to access or seek deletion of the footage.

Absence of safeguards

"The absence of these safeguards will lead to the creation of a powerful surveillance architecture that will inevitably be prone to mis-

use," it argued. It claimed that "there is emerging global acknowledgement that CCTVs have little to no impact in acting as a deterrent or reducing the incidence of crime".

The group argues that such a formulation even if limited in scope, is better than the present state of regulation. It has warned of legal action if the project is not halted.

# BJP submits inspection report on desilting of drains to EPCA

Demands action to prevent flooding during monsoon

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta and other MLAs submitted a field inspection report on desilting of nullahs and drains in the Capital to the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) on Thursday. It shows that 85% of the major drains have not yet been desilted ahead of the rainy season.

Mr. Gupta said that the BJP delegation inspected large drains under Irrigation and Flood Control Department and Public Works Department and found that work on desilting, that was

supposed to have been completed by June 15, had not been done. The team demanded urgent action to prevent flooding of Delhi roads and colonies as well as traffic snarls during the upcoming monsoon season.

Silt removal

"The dirty water of these drains has made normal life unbearable. In a few instances where desilting was carried out, the garbage continues to lie alongside the drain. No arrangement has been made for the removal of silt," Mr. Gupta said.

He added that every monsoon, the Capital gets flooded with rainwater causing in-

convenience to residents. It also increases the chances of water-borne diseases.

"More than 85% of the big nullahs which includes 1,034 big drains are yet to be desilted and only a few have been done for which crores has been shown to be paid. The entire scenario points to massive corruption," Mr. Gupta alleged.

The team alleged that no action has been taken till date on the Drainage Master Plan prepared by a team from IIT-Delhi that was submitted to the AAP-led government in December 2016, four years after the Sheila Dikshit government commissioned it in 2012.

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## IN BRIEF



## Violet Line services hit by technical snag

NEW DELHI  
Services on the Delhi Metro's Violet Line on Thursday were disrupted for nearly half-an-hour due to a technical snag, said a DMRC official. The Violet Line was hit by signalling issues, he said. Around 9 a.m., the DMRC alerted commuters via Twitter about the delay in services between Nehru Place and Badarpur stations.

## Traffic cop hit by car during checking

NEW DELHI  
A traffic policeman, Yogender, who was posted in Kapashera Circle, got injured after he was hit by a speeding car during checking at Dwarka Link road on Thursday morning. The police said the offending vehicle was signalled to stop for speeding but sped off. A case has been registered, they added.

## Man shot at by bike-borne men

NEW DELHI  
A 30-year-old man, Narendra Sharma, was shot at in Nihal Vihar on Wednesday night, the police said on Thursday. Three persons on a bike fired six rounds towards the car the victim was driving. Mr. Sharma sustained bullet injuries in his stomach and head. A case has been registered.

## Delhi Tourism organises festival to beat the heat

NEW DELHI  
To help residents and tourists visiting the city beat the heat, Delhi Tourism is organising a festival that will offer a plethora of summer coolers. Titled Mehfil-E-Sharbat, the organisers said they will have on offer traditional *sharbats*, *shikanjis* and *pannas* alongside modern herbal refreshments that are recommended in summer. The three-day festival, from June 8-9, will be held at Dilli Haat.

## Man kills childhood friend, arrested

Accused was absconding since the incident on May 18

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

A 28-year-old man was arrested on Thursday for allegedly killing his childhood friend with an iron rod following a minor altercation, the police said.

Both worked at a scrap dealer's shop in Laxman Vihar here.

Anees had been on the run since the attack on May 18 and hid at several places in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

He was arrested from Rajiv Chowk here following a tip-off, the police said.

Anees and Bhoop Ram were having a meal along with two other workers at the shop in the evening

when they entered into an altercation over a trivial matter.

## 'Tried to pacify'

The fellow workers – Lalu and Sumeri – intervened and tried to pacify Anees but he abused Bhoop and threatened to kill him, the police said.

## Hit with iron rod

A few hours later, Anees returned with an iron rod and hit his friend on the head while he was asleep, causing serious injuries.

He then hit him again on the face and fled the spot, they added.

Bhoop was taken to a hospital and later transferred to

Safdarjang Hospital in Delhi. A case was registered at Sector 9A police station after the shop's owner lodged a complaint on May 20.

Bhoop from Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly died during treatment on May 30 after which Section 302 (murder) was added to the first information report.

The police mounted technical surveillance and activated its sources to arrest Anees. The accused has criminal antecedents and cases of attempt to murder and causing hurt are registered against him at Bareilly, the police said.

Both belonged to Kareli village and were friends since school days.

## 2 held for ramming car into crowd

Both wanted to flee spot on seeing policemen near mosque

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Two people have been arrested for alleged rash driving near Shahdara's Khureji Masjid in which at least eight persons were injured on Wednesday, the police said on Thursday.

The victims were dispersing after offering prayers on Id, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Meghna Yadav said prime accused 26-year-old Shahrukh has 27 criminal involvements and a robbery case registered against him.

Shahrukh had stolen the sedan on May 30 from Madhu Vihar. He used to sleep in the car and had parked it in Geeta Colony, the police said.

"On June 5 [Id], he noticed police deployment, which scared him and he wanted to flee the area. He then sped the car near the masjid," Ms. Yadav said.

On seeing police officers, he sped towards Anand Vihar where he abandoned the



Prime accused Shahrukh; scooty used in commission of crime.

\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

car and fled, the officer said. On Wednesday night, he again stole a scooty, on which he and his accomplice escaped, the police said.

## CCTV footage scanned

After checking CCTV footage, he was identified after which raids were conducted and his accomplices were interrogated. The two were finally arrested from Kashmir Gate on Thursday afternoon.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly told the police that he used a master



Prime accused Shahrukh; scooty used in commission of crime.

\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

key to steal vehicles.

## Drug addict

The accused also said he stole vehicles and batteries to buy drugs.

The police said they have recovered a car, a scooty, ATM card, metro card of his friend and syringes used to consume drugs. A video of the incident in which agitating crowd can be seen vandalising a bus is doing the rounds. A case has been registered and investigation has been taken up, the police added.

## PART-III

## Ebb in the Yamuna flow

Increased water volume will reduce pollution, but plans to augment river flow miss deadlines

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

As the Yamuna passes through the Okhla barrage, the water – smelly and layered with oil at certain areas – starts to froth at its two gates.

"When I was young, the river extended right till where my car is parked. Whatever little water the river has now is highly polluted," says Mehender Bhargava, 67, who had come to the river to dump puja items.

The Yamuna is one of the "most polluted rivers in the world", especially in Delhi, and it is getting more polluted, said experts.

Both experts and a Monitoring Committee appointed by the National Green Tribunal state that less flow in the river is one of the main reasons for pollution.

Three plans to augment the Yamuna's volume and flow have either missed deadlines or are progressing very slowly – a National Mission for Clean Ganga-commissioned study on minimum flow needed in the Yamuna, a project to rejuvenate waterbodies and recharge groundwater, and a plan to build an off-channel reservoir to store water along the river.

"Presently the pollution in the Yamuna is far in excess and no impact on river quality is likely unless there a minimum environmental flow," stated a report by the Monitoring Committee headed by former Delhi Chief Secretary Shailaja Chandra and retired NGT expert member B.S. Sawan.

## CHOPPY WATERS

## POLLUTION

• Less flow in the river is one of the major reasons for pollution in the Yamuna, both experts and a Monitoring Committee appointed by the NGT stated

• Pollutants will be diluted if there is enough flow in the river

## DEADLINES MISSED

• A study ordered by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMG), based on which a decision is to be taken on whether flow in the river should be increased

• Works to rejuvenate water bodies, which will recharge groundwater and then feed the river

• Project to build off-channel reservoirs to store water along the river, which can be used



Garbage floats in the Yamuna at Kalindi Kunj in New Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"Pollutants will be diluted if there is enough flow in the river," said Manoj Misra, former IFS officer and convener of Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan – a group fighting to clean the river.

The NCMG had last year ordered the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, to conduct a study on the minimum flow needed in the river.

It set a deadline of April 30, 2019, but the study is nowhere near completion. "The study is being done in several phases; the first-phase report will be submitted in a few months," said Sharad K. Jain, NIH director.

An NGT judgment of January 13, 2015, had also sought the immediate preparation of a plan to ensure proper flow in the river. "We direct the Chief Secretaries... to prepare an immediate action plan required to ensure proper environmental flows throughout the year, in the entire river and particularly

the stretch flowing through Delhi," stated the green panel order. "If groundwater is recharged by waterbodies, then during the lean period it would flow to the Yamuna through aquifers, increasing the river flow," said Mr. Misra.

The 2015 NGT order, which had a deadline of March 31, 2017 for cleaning the Yamuna, had also made reviving waterbodies a priority. But not much has moved on that front. The Delhi Jal Board has made a list of 159 waterbodies to be rejuvenated and is working on the project.

"We are carrying out the rejuvenation in coordination with the departments, which own the waterbodies," a DJB official said.

On Thursday, officials were undertaking a survey to revive Satpula, a 13th century water harvesting dam in south Delhi that is now bone dry.

There are hundreds of such waterbodies in the city; only one has been rejuvenated so far, but tenders have been invited for 19 others and for the creation of two artificial lakes.

## Off-channel reservoirs

On May 6, 2015, a Principal Committee, in its report submitted to the NGT, had recommended a host of measures including creating off-river reservoirs along the floodplain to increase the river's flow. Such reservoirs would be filled by diverting excess water from the Yamuna during the monsoon and allowed to percolate, thus recharging the groundwater and in turn helping the river's flow.

An official at the Flood and Irrigation Department of the Delhi government said that they have awarded the consultancy work for exploring the feasibility of creating such reservoirs. "We expect the report by July 15," said the official, declining to give a deadline for the project.

(The series is concluded.)

## One dead, three injured as diesel tank explodes

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A welder died and three others sustained injuries when a diesel tank burst in a workshop south-east Delhi's Govindpuri on Thursday afternoon, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Chinmoy Biswal said the deceased has been identified as Sumit from Dakshinpuri. The injured have been identified as Mohd Nurain Khan, Nizamuddin, and Shakil Ahmed.

A PCR call was received at 12.15 p.m regarding a fire in a tank. "On reaching the spot, the police found four persons were injured in the incident. They were rushed to

hospital where Sumit was declared dead," Mr. Biswal said.

"Nizamuddin and Nurain were passing by and tried to save the victims. They have sustained minor injuries. Shakil, the owner of the workshop, has sustained 35% burns. He is in the ICU," Mr. Biswal said.

During enquiry, it was revealed that Sumit was welding the diesel tank when it exploded leading to a major fire.

A case under Sections 304A (causing death by negligence) and 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire) of the IPC has been registered and further investigation is under way.



A fire broke out at a forest area near the Yamuna bank in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ R. V. MOORTHY

## Fire near Yamuna bank, no injuries reported

No fire tender reached spot, allege locals

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A fire broke out in the forest area behind Yamuna bank on Thursday evening.

No injuries were reported, said fire department officials.

A fire official said a call was received regarding the blaze at 2.35 p.m.

Four fire tenders were

pressed into service.

"The fire was doused by 6 p.m.," the official said. However, locals claimed that the fire broke out on Wednesday and it kept spreading. No fire tender had reached the spot to douse it, they said.

The fire department maintained that the call was received on Thursday.

## Two held for stealing imported paper rolls worth ₹70,000

They have no previous criminal involvement: police

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Two men have been arrested for allegedly stealing imported paper rolls from a godown in outer north Delhi's Alipur, the police said on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said Shiv Bahadur (35), a scrap dealer, and Yogender (28), driver are both residents of Khera Kalan.

On Wednesday, one Ashwani Garg allegedly told the police that in the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, he had kept 10 imported Kraft paper rolls in the tin shed outside his godown.

When he came there around 12 noon, he saw that the rolls worth ₹70,000 missing. A case was then registered.



The accused in police custody. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

During investigation, profiles of thieves were checked.

## 'Roko Toko scheme'

"During patrolling, the accused duo was enquired in Roko Toko scheme of Delhi Police. It was then revealed that the accused were carrying those paper rolls," Mr. Sharma said, adding that the two were then arrested.

The truck used in commission of crime and the paper rolls were recovered from their possession, the police said.

Mr. Sharma said that Shiv had identified the place from where they stole the articles and Yogender had arranged for the vehicle.

Both of them have no previous criminal involvement, they added.

## NGT forms panel to discuss plea seeking ban on plastic packaging

Committee to ascertain whether further norms required

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Following a plea seeking a ban on the plastic packaging of food products, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted an expert committee to ascertain whether further norms are required to restrict the use of plastic packaging.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel constituted the panel comprising representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Bureau of Indian Standards and the Directorate of

Health Services.

Directing the FSSAI to be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance of the order, the Bench said,

## 'Subject of restrictions'

"We are of the opinion that the question of whether any further regulatory provisions are required on the subject of restrictions on the packaging by use of plastic material, after the steps already taken...are to be examined by an expert committee."

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by NGO Him Jagriti Uttar-

chal Welfare Society that sought a ban on the use of plastic bottle and multi-layered or pet bottles.

The NGT also noted the submissions made by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change pertaining to the fact that phasing out multilayered plastic may not be immediately possible without alternatives.

The NGO, however, contended that the Ministry had only focused on waste management and not on the issue of restrictions to be imposed on the use of plastic as packaging material.

**N0.5 (2)/2018/HOME-III/CFO DEPU./DFS/  
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(VIVEK KUMAR NARESH)  
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## NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

## TARIFF PETITIONS FOR TRUE UP OF FY 2017-18 AND ARR FOR FY 2019-20

1. The Power utilities of Delhi i.e. GENCOs (IPGCL & PPCL), TRANSCO (DTL) and DISCOMs (BRPL, BYPL, TPDDL & NDMC) had filed their Tariff Petitions for True up of FY 2017-18 and ARR of FY 2019-20, which have been admitted by the Commission. The last date for submission of comments/suggestions by stakeholders on the Tariff Petitions was 05.04.2019.

2. As per Regulation 27(x) of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission Comprehensive (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2001, the Commission has decided to conduct Public Hearing on Tariff Petitions for True Up of FY 2017-18 and ARR for FY 2019-20 at the following venue on 10.07.2019. Further, the last date of submission of the comments/ suggestions on Tariff Petitions has been extended till 10.07.2019

Date	Venue	Time
10/07/2019, Wednesday	Auditorium of SCOPE Convention Centre, SCOPE Complex, 7-Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.	10:30 AM to 01:30PM & 02:30 PM to 05:00 PM

- Public Hearing shall be conducted on First Come- First Heard Basis.
- Please bring your Photo -1 Card with you for attending the Hearing.
- Entry timing shall be from 09:30AM onwards.

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(Mahender Singh)  
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**DELHI** ☀️ **Timings**

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RISE	09:05	SET 23:06
SATURDAY, JUNE 08		
RISE	05:23	SET 19:18
RISE	10:10	SET 23:53
SUNDAY, JUNE 09		
RISE	05:23	SET 19:18
RISE	11:15	SET 00:00

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## Rajasthan BJP chief sparks row with Akbar remark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan BJP chief Madan Lal Saini on Thursday claimed Mughal emperor Akbar tried to misbehave with a Bikaner queen in an all-women Meena Bazaar, which he used to frequent in disguise.

Mr. Saini's statement invited swift condemnation from the Congress, which accused the State BJP of creating communal disharmony. "The entire world knows that Akbar organised 'Meena Bazaars' where only women worked. Men were not permitted to visit them. But Akbar used to visit them in disguise to commit 'dushkarm'," claimed Mr. Saini.

Mr. Saini later said by "dushkarm" or wrongdoing, he meant *chhed chhad* (indecent behaviour).

# NSA may be slapped against two for murdering infant

Autopsy rules out rape: police; security beefed up in Tappal

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

The Aligarh police said they could slap the stringent National Security Act against two persons accused of brutally murdering an infant girl in the west Uttar Pradesh district. The incident caused much outrage in the area with locals staging demonstrations demanding justice.

The police also put rumours to rest and said that the autopsy of the two-and-a-half-year-old girl had ruled out rape.

The infant was murdered by "strangulation," said SSP Aligarh Akash Kulhary.

The officer said the police were "trying to invoke the NSA" against the two accused who have been arrested. They were identified as

Zahid and Aslam.

According to police, the infant's family lodged a complaint on May 31 at the Tappal police station that their infant daughter had gone missing and was kidnapped. Even as the family desperately tried to search for the child, her body was recovered from a waste dump.

**'Body mutilated'**

The infant's father said the body was found in a mutilated state, perhaps to "ensure that she could not be recognised."

He also accused the police of delay and laxity in investigation.

Mr. Kulhary said the accused and the victim's father shared personal animosity and the main accused Zahid

had threatened the father two days before his daughter went missing. The victim's father owed some money to Zahid.

The victim's mother demanded death sentence to the accused. "What animosity did they have with the child," she asked on a television channel.

The victim's father has demanded that other family members of the accused be arrested as the crime could not have been carried out without their knowledge.

Security measures at Tappal township, 50 km from the district headquarters, have been tightened as a precautionary measure after tension mounted there on Wednesday.

(with PTI inputs)

## Feeling the heat



A deserted street with historic buildings on either side on an extremely hot afternoon in Jaipur on Thursday. • ROHIT JAIN PARAS

## DSP held for taking bribe in Rajasthan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOTA

A Deputy Superintendent of Police was on Thursday arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau for allegedly tak-

ing a bribe from a liquor shop contractor in Rajasthan's Bundi district, an official said.

Om Prakash Chandoliya (55) was caught taking a

bribe of ₹24,000 from the contractor at his official residence in Lakheri town, the bureau's Additional Superintendent of Police Chandrasheel Thakur said.

## 'Those behind Mandsaur firing will be punished'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BHOPAL

On the second anniversary of the Mandsaur police firing in which six farmers were killed, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Thursday said those behind the "barbarous" incident will be punished and asserted that all false cases against cultivators will be withdrawn.

Mr. Nath paid tributes to the farmers who were killed when the police opened fire during an agitation in Mandsaur on June 6, 2017.

In a tweet, Mr. Nath said, "Our government is determined to punish the accused of this firing, to give justice to the victims and to withdraw the false cases registered against the innocent farmers."

## CCI imposes penalty on pharma companies, trade associations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India has found Madhya Pradesh Chemist and Druggist Association, Indore Chemist Association, Himalaya Drug Company and Intas Pharmaceuticals Limited, along with some of their office-bearers/officials, to be in contravention of the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002.

The allegation was that the associations, through their practice of mandating 'No Objection Certificate' prior to appointment of stockists, were stifling competition in the market by limiting access of consumers to various pharmaceutical products and con-

trolling supply of drugs in the market.

**Rules flouted**

The Commission had directed the office of Director General to conduct investigation into the matter. The investigation found contravention of rules on the part of the aforementioned associations and companies and officer-bearers/officials.

The Commission has imposed a penalty of ₹4,18,404 on the MPCDA and ₹.39,142 on the ICA, in addition to cease and desist directions under Section 27 of the Competition Act. Taking into account the mitigating factors demonstrated by HDC and IPL, the CCI imposed penal-

ties of ₹18,59,58,000 and ₹55,59,68,000 on them respectively. Some of the individuals have also been imposed similar penalties.

The Commission also directed the MPCDA to organise at least five competition awareness and compliance programmes over a period of six months in Madhya Pradesh and told the ICA to organise a similar programme in Indore district, besides asking HDC and IPL to put a competition compliance programme in place and file a compliance report.

The CCI's action was initiated on the basis of a complaint filed by the Madhya Pradesh Chemists' and Distributors' Federation.

## Pro-Khalistan slogans raised at Golden Temple

Partial bandh on Blue Star anniversary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AMRITSAR

Markets around the Golden Temple remained closed for several hours and pro-Khalistan slogans were raised by Sikh hardliners in the complex on Thursday, the 35th anniversary of Operation Blue Star. Later in the afternoon, the shops around the temple and in the main markets started reopening.

The partial bandh was observed in the city on a call given by radical Sikh outfit Dal Khalsa on the anniversary of the military operation carried out in 1984 to flush out heavily-armed terrorists holed up in the temple

complex.

The Akal Takht also organised prayers in memory of those killed in the military operation and some people raised slogans at the end.

Some people in the gathering were also seen brandishing swords and wearing t-shirts and carrying banners with pictures of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, head of Sikh religious sect Damdami Taksal, who was killed in the military operation.

Former MP and president of SAD (Amritsar) Simranjit Singh Mann along with a "parallel Jathedar" of the Akal Takht Dhian Singh Mand was also present at the Takht.

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Chief Minister, Haryana

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana [www.prharyana.gov.in](http://www.prharyana.gov.in)

## Odisha continues to remain in poll mode

No dates yet for 2 Assembly, 4 RS seats

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESAR

Odisha continues to remain in poll mode even though a month has passed since the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections were held in the State simultaneously in four phases in April.

Elections were to be held for two Assembly seats – Patkura and Bijepur – and four Rajya Sabha berths in the State. Four Biju Janata Dal members of the Upper House of Parliament have contested and won the recent Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

The Patkura Assembly constituency was first scheduled to go to the polls on April 29. However, polling was adjourned following the death of BJD nominee Bed Prakash Agarwalla on April 20. Mr. Agarwalla's wife Savitri Agarwalla filed the nomination as a BJD candidate when polling date was scheduled for May 19.

Polling in Patkura was deferred again due to Cyclone Fani that devastated many coastal districts on May 3. The Election Commission of India is likely to announce the date of polling for the constituency shortly.

On the other hand, the Bijepur Assembly seat in western Odisha has already been vacated by Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik. The bypoll will be held in Bijepur within six

months after the ECI announces the schedule. Mr. Patnaik had won from two Assembly segments – Bijepur and Hinjili – in south Odisha.

The Bijepur seat will witness a triangular contest involving the three major parties – the BJD, the BJP and the Congress. A triangular contest is also likely in the Patkura seat.

### Lobbying for seats

Meanwhile, lobbying has started in the BJD for the Rajya Sabha seats that were to fall vacant before completion of the term.

While Rajya Sabha members Anubhav Mohanty and Achyuta Samanta have got elected from Kendrapara and Kandhamal Lok Sabha seats, two other members of the Upper House – Pratap Keshari Deb and Soumya Ranjan Patnaik – have got elected to the State Assembly from Aul and Khandapada seats.

While the BJD, with 112 legislators in the 147-member Assembly, is certain to bag three of the four seats easily, election to the fourth seat will be crucial since the BJP, which has become the main Opposition party, does not have the required numbers to win a single seat comfortably.

The BJP has won 23 seats in the Assembly and Congress has nine.

## Trinamool protests Meghalaya Governor's remarks on Bengalis

'Bengali boys are sweeping floors, Bengali girls are bar dancers in Mumbai'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress' new women outfit, the Banga Janani Vahini, on Thursday held a protest here against Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy's comments that Bengali boys are working as sweepers and the girls as bar dancers in other States.

In a series of tweets posted on June 4, Mr. Roy, a former BJP leader, had argued that Bengalis' opposition to learning Hindi was political and claimed that many boys in Bengal are "now sweeping floors" in other States, while the Bengali girls are working as "bar dancers" in Mumbai.

Protesting against Mr. Roy's statement, senior women Trinamool Congress



Governor Tathagata Roy.

leaders, including State Minister Sashi Panja, Jaynagar MP Pratima Mondal, Barasat MP Kakoli Ghosh Dasitdar, accompanied by the party's women activists held a sit-in at South Kolkata's Hazra crossing on Thursday afternoon.

The women, dressed in white and red sarees, blew conch shells to invoke women power and held up placards condemning the Go-

vernor's comments.

"There is a fundamental flaw in BJP's ideology. They will never be able to respect women. They always try to divide people and have a condescending attitude towards the women," said the State Minister for Women and Child Development Sashi Panja.

"Every Indian has the right to choose their profession. Those who are making derogatory comments about somebody's profession do not even have the minimum education," Trinamool leader Chandrima Banerjee said.

Mr. Roy had made the comments in question while arguing that learning Hindi was necessary for everyone, including Bengalis.

"... There is no great opposition. They only make

noise for political reasons. Assam, Maharashtra, Odisha are also non-Hindi speaking States but they don't oppose Hindi. The 2nd argument is Bengal is the land of Vidyasagar, Vivekananda, Rabindranath and Netaji so why should Bengalis learn Hindi," he tweeted.

### 'Greatness gone'

"What is the link between these great men and opposition to learning Hindi? Secondly, who will explain to them that the era of these stalwarts is long gone, and the greatness of Bengal is gone too. Now from Haryana to Kerala, Bengali boys are sweeping the floors in homes and Bengali girls are bar dancers in Mumbai, which was unthinkable before," he wrote.

## Tripura govt.'s bid to boost school education

Uniform question papers in schools

SYED SAJJAD ALI  
AGARTALA

The Tripura government has decided to effect some major changes in primary and school education in the State. In one such initiative, uniform question papers would be introduced in all government schools.

Education Minister Ratan Lal Nath said that measures getting implemented from this year would put the State's education standard to the national level. He informed that a Special Technical Examination Unit (STEU) was being set up under the education directorate.

"Purpose of STEU is to prepare common and quality questions for all classes in

all schools. This is aimed at achieving standard in all spheres of education in State as well as end disparity in learning system", the Minister asserted.

The Minister said the incumbent BJP-IPFT coalition government is determined to improve education scenario which was neglected by the past regimes.

### No-detention policy

He also spoke on 'failure' of no-detention policy and stated that students studying in Class V and above would have to appear in examinations. The State government also decided to introduce Nursery level in 67 government primary schools across the State.

## Odisha deer park faces closure

Located inside a varsity campus, it is facing a space crunch

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

The three-decade-old deer park on Berhampur University campus in Ganjam district is all set to be shut and its animals shifted to Gajapati district.

At present, there are 55 spotted deer in the park, which has become too small for their increased numbers. The deer park was opened in 1989 on an area of 2.2 acres. Initially it had only a pair of spotted deer, which increased in numbers over time.

### Licence not renewed

Due to lack of proper infrastructure, the Central Zoo Authority has not renewed the mini-zoo licence of the park. Berhampur University, too, wants the deer to be



The park inside Berhampur University campus in Ganjam district. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

shifted to some other place for their better upkeep.

The main issue related to relocation of these deer is finding a proper place to which they can easily adapt, said Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer Ashish Behara.

## Shah urged to ensure justice for Sanaullah

War veteran declared a 'foreigner'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GUWAHATI

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure "justice" to Kargil war veteran Mohammad Sanaullah, who has been recently declared a "foreigner" and sent to a detention camp.

Mr. Gogoi, in his letter to Mr. Shah, made available to the media on Thursday, urged him to institute an inquiry into the alleged inefficiency of police officers who verified his documents and the subsequent declaration of the former Army personnel as "foreigner" by the Foreigners' Tribunal at Boko.

The Congress MP, elected to the Lok Sabha for the second consecutive term from Kaliabor, demanded that the erring officials be barred from continuing their duty in such "irresponsible manner".

People of Assam are pinning hopes on the central government for justice, he insisted.

"Sanaullah's long service in the armed forces is proof of his patriotism and citizenship and we sincerely want relief for the veteran AMyman," the MP added.

A resident Kolohikash village in Boko area of Kamrup district, Mr. Sanaullah was serving as a sub-inspector in the Assam Border Police before being declared a "foreigner" on May 23 and dismissed from service.

### Decorated Armyman

Earlier, he had also served in the Electronic and Mechanical Services of the armed forces and was awarded the President's Medal in 2014. He is currently lodged at a detention centre at Goalpara district in the State.

## Odisha MLA asks engineer to do sit-ups

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The Balangir district administration has ordered an inquiry into an MLA directing a government official to do sit-ups in public as punishment for alleged poor quality of road work in Belpada block of the district.

The MLA in question is Saroj Meher, elected for the first time on BJD ticket from Patnagarh Assembly constituency in western Odisha.

In a video clip, Mr. Meher is reportedly seen asking the junior engineer (JE) to do sit-ups in presence of some people.

The JE shows reluctance to do sit-ups but buckles under pressure. He also reportedly begs for pardon.

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Notice No.916/GM/EZ/E-Tender/RNN/2019 Dated: 04/06/2019

**Short Term E-Tender Press Notice**

General Manager (Etawah Block) invites e-Tender for Construction of 05 Seated 01 Block Toilet in Judicial Campus Mathura, Construction of Computer Lab at Rajkiya Degree College Matl, Mathura and Construction of Cool Shade (of Size 27.30X10.00mtr.) at Mathura. For more Details visit website [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) & [www.upnrm.co.in](http://www.upnrm.co.in)

GENERAL MANAGER (E.Z)

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**E-Procurement Tender Notice**

Name of Work: Supply of H.S Type St. Th. Joint boxes and End Termination suitable for 11KV cable in M/S Area

Estimated Cost: Rs. 20,27,019.00

Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution: 04.06.2019

Last date/time for receipt of bid/tender through e-procurement solution: 17.06.2019 3:00 PM

Date/time for opening of bid/tenders through e-procurement solution: 17.06.2019 3:30 PM

Tender ID: 2019\_NDMC\_173591\_1

Further details can be seen at [www.ndmc.gov.in](http://www.ndmc.gov.in) or <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with application services provider (NIC) is mandatory. Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M/S)

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**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount
1	28/MANAGER SYSTEM/AMC/VMS/2018-19	A.M.C. of visitor management system installed at Noida	Rs. 15,35,350/-

Which can be uploaded by Date 13.06.2019 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date 14.06.2019 at 11.00 AM.

Manager System

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project\_ngz@yahoo.in

NIT No. EE\_Pr\_NGZ/Plan/TC/2019-20/1 Dated: 03.06.2019  
**Press Notice for Tender**

On line percentage/item rate tenders are invited by EE(Pr)NGZ on behalf of Commissioner, SDMC from the registered contractors of MCD of appropriate class. Tender will be received as per time table and will be opened on 11.01 am on 25.06.2019 in the office of EE(Pr)NGZ. Validity of rates will be 5 months from the date of opening of NIT & in case of negotiation from the date of negotiation. All details of Revision, Clarification, Corrigendum, Addendum, Time Extension etc. if any in respect of these tenders will be uploaded on SDMC website only and will not be published in newspaper(s). It is responsibility of the firms/bidders to update themselves about the tender through the website. SDMC is not responsible for any information not available on website.

**Request of tender document from :** 11.06.2019 10.00 AM; **Request of tender document to :** 22.06.2019 18.00 PM; **Bid clarification date :** 24.06.2019 10.01 AM; **Issue of tender document from :** 11.06.2019 10.01 AM; **Issue of tender document to :** 24.06.2019 18.00 PM; **Tender closing date & time :** 25.06.2019 11.00 AM; **Cost open date & time :** 25.06.2019 11.01 AM

The detail of tenders of NIT/Item No. can be seen from website of SDMC i.e. [www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER](http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER)  
RO No. 10/DPI/S/2019-20 Executive Engineer (Project) NGZ

## STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND

Government of Jharkhand

**e-procurement Notice inviting BID**

**Ref No: SHAJ/PROCU/KATRAS-KERKEND ROAD/2019 Date: 04.06.2019**

- State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites BID "Construction of Vehicle under pass in 11th Km Katras Panchgarhi Kerkend Road ". Length of VUP – 12.640 M. The approximate cost of the work is Rs. 6,69,36,873/-
- The interested bidders who have experience in execution of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Bid document from e-tendering portal [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) from 08.06.2019 (15:00 hrs) to 05.07.2019 (15:00 hrs). The complete BID Application shall be submitted online by 05.07.2019 (upto 15:00 hrs) on e-tendering portal [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in). All the details regarding this BID will be available on the above mentioned website.
- The contractors are required to submit non-refundable document fee of Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. Fifty thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of "State Highways Authority of Jharkhand Fund" payable at Ranchi & Bid Security of Rs.62.08 lacs ( Six lacs and seventy thousand.) only in the form of Bank Guarantee from a Schedule Commercial Bank as per prescribed format. The document fee & Bid Security should be submitted to the office of undersigned latest by 06.07.2019 (upto 15:00 hrs).
- No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

Member (Technical)  
State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi  
Deen Dayal Nagar  
(Near Office of Executive Engineer, NH Division, Ranchi)  
Booty Road, Ranchi-834008. Ph.: 0651-2361306,  
E-mail: [membertechnical.sha2@gmail.com](mailto:membertechnical.sha2@gmail.com)

P.R. 208016 State Highway  
Authority of Jharkhand(19-20)-D

## STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND

Government of Jharkhand

**e-procurement Notice inviting BID**

**Ref No: SHAJ/PROCUREMENT-02/2015 (P-IV) Date:**

- State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites BID "Construction of Hazaribag Ring Road Four lane Divided Carriageway Ring Road Section from Rewali NH-100 (Ring Road Ch.-10+850) to Massipirhi NH-33 (Ring Road Ch.- 16+432) total length 5.582 km (with bridge construction) for Hazaribag Town Under Hazaribag district. The approximate cost of the work is Rs. 62,08,34,382/-
- The interested bidders who have experience in execution of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Bid document from e-tendering portal [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) from 08.06.2019 (15:00 hrs) to 05.07.2019 (15:00 hrs). The complete BID Application shall be submitted online by 05.07.2019 (upto 15:00 hrs) on e-tendering portal [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in). All the details regarding this BID will be available on the above mentioned website.
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- No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

Member (Technical)  
State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi  
Deen Dayal Nagar  
(Near Office of Executive Engineer, NH Division, Ranchi)  
Booty Road, Ranchi-834008. Ph.: 0651-2361306,  
E-mail: [membertechnical.sha2@gmail.com](mailto:membertechnical.sha2@gmail.com)

P.R.208020 State Highway Authority of Jharkhand(19-20):D

## Man held for fraudulently availing bank loans

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Odisha police has arrested a man who is alleged to have misappropriated over ₹1 crore by fraudulently availing of bank loan for purchasing cars.

The EOW on Thursday nabbed Maitreya Mishra, who had been absconding after the probe agency started trailing him.

Last year, Central Bank of India branch manager Palaspalli had registered a complaint stating that Mishra had misappropriated money by opening fake accounts in the name of different automobile dealers. Subsequently, the EOW started investigation in the case.

"The accused person had opened fake bank accounts in connivance with bank employees and needy loan seekers. He used to deposit the demand drafts which were issued in the name of automobile dealers against vehicle loans sanctioned and disbursed by banks in those fake accounts," said EOW officer Ashish Mishra. Investigation revealed that an amount of ₹1.09 crore had been misappropriated between 2015 and 2017.

## Odisha govt. approves land for tourism projects

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has approved allotment of land for hotels and tourism projects, which entail an investment to the tune of ₹354.34 crore.

A high-power committee chaired by Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi examined the proposals and gave its nod stating that these projects would bring socio-economic benefit to the community.

Investors have been asked to commission their projects within three years of allotment of land.

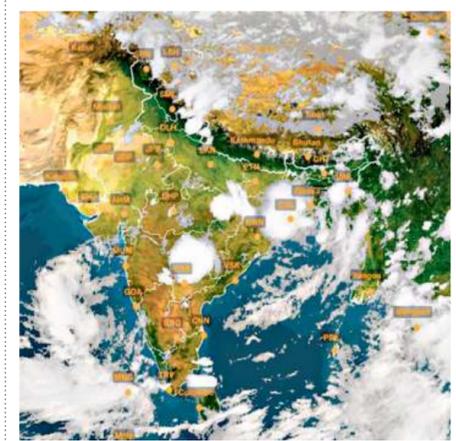
"Projects will be developed over a total area of around 79.5 acres, out of which the government has decided to allot around 42.5 acres. Some project proponents have arranged balance land on their own," said Vishal Dev, State Tourism Secretary, on Thursday.

**Job opportunities**  
Mr. Dev said these projects, apart from creating direct employment opportunities will also have the potential for large indirect employment.

The approved projects include a golf resort at Satpada near Chilika Lake and a water park near Sambalpur.

## 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 Friday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal and Kerala. Heat wave conditions likely in many/some/isolated parts over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Marathawada and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.5	34.5	25.4	Kozhikode	15.2	34.5	25.4
Ahmedabad	43.4	29.0	29.0	Kurnool	42.0	29.6	29.6
Aizawl	30.9	19.1	19.1	Lucknow	41.6	30.7	30.7
Allahabad	43.2	32.0	32.0	Madurai	38.6	25.8	25.8
Bengaluru	32.0	20.6	20.6	Mangaluru	32.5	23.0	23.0
Bhopal	45.9	31.4	31.4	Mumbai	35.1	29.0	29.0
Bhubaneswar	34.6	22.0	22.0	Mysuru	32.5	18.8	18.8
Chandigarh	40.2	27.6	27.6	New Delhi	43.9	28.6	28.6
Chennai	36.0	29.4	29.4	Patna	36.8	28.0	28.0
Coimbatore	1.6	35.1	23.8	Port Blair	33.4	25.8	25.8
Dehradun	31.2	24.2	24.2	Puducherry	35.6	28.0	28.0
Gangtok	2.1	20.2	17.1	Pune	34.7	25.2	25.2
Goa	23.8	30.4	22.4	Raipur	44.6	31.5	31.5
Guwahati	12.6	34.6	24.0	Ranchi	33.2	25.5	25.5
Hubbali	41.8	24.0	24.0	Shillong	1.8	25.0	17.0
Hyderabad	41.8	24.0	24.0	Shimla	24.5	18.5	18.5
Imphal	28	31.2	21.3	Srinagar	3.2	26.0	11.6
Jaipur	45.0	32.6	32.6	Trivandrum	5	32.2	25.0
Kochi	50.4	32.6	25.0	Tiruchi	3.6	39.0	26.2
Kohima	3	32.7	16.2	Vijayawada	39.6	29.3	29.3
Kolkata	10	34.1	24.6	Visakhapatnam	33.0	29.0	29.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	98	78	53	61	100	Red
Bengaluru	4	74	66	42	56	Green
Chennai	7	13	50	171	111	Yellow
Delhi	34	65	41	152	317	Red
Hyderabad	8	49	16	87	118	Yellow
Kolkata	3	23	10	44	50	Green
Lucknow	12	24				

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<b>HISTORY</b> BY HEMANT JHA	<b>10 JUNE</b> 3:00pm
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b> BY SACHIN ARORA	<b>10 JUNE</b> 3:00pm
<b>POLITICAL SC.</b> BY C.K. SINGH	<b>10 JUNE</b> 3:00pm
<b>SOCIOLOGY</b> BY DHARMENDRA Dharmendra's Sociology	<b>17 JUNE</b> 3:00pm

VENUE: 20 Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station, Opp. Metro Station Pillar No. 97, New Delhi-110005  
9999648884, 9868773344, 28751379

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by Bibhash Sharma

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9:00 AM - Mukherjee Nagar  
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Namita Sharma Marks - 305 CSE - 2018 AIR - 145	Abhilash Baranwal, IAS Marks - 303 CSE - 2017 AIR - 44	Ila Tripathi, IAS Marks - 301 CSE - 2016 AIR - 51
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**3 दिवसीय निःशुल्क कार्यशाला** JUNE 10 | 11 | 12  
11:30am

VENUE: A-7, Jai Tower, First Floor, Commercial Complex, Near Chawla Restaurant, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09

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CLASSES FROM 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019

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On 9<sup>th</sup> June at 10:00 AM  
INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH SOME OF OUR SELECTED STUDENTS

**CLASS SCHEDULE**  
MORNING BATCH: 8:30 am onwards  
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MEDIUM: English & Hindi

**SPECIAL FEATURES OF THIS COURSE**

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<b>ESSAY/ ETHICS</b> 14 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	<b>GENERAL STUDIES</b> 16 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE

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<b>SALONI KHEMKA</b> IAS 2018 RANK : 27	<b>GARIMA AGGARWAL</b> IAS 2018 RANK : 40
---	---

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--	---

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CENTRES	DATE	CONTACT
BENGALURU	14 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	7619166663
JAIPUR	24 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	8290800441
PATNA	10 <sup>th</sup> JULY	7463950774
INDORE	12 <sup>th</sup> JULY	9893772941
BHOPAL	22 <sup>nd</sup> JULY	7509975361

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**OPEN SEMINAR 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE**  
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**ANTHROPOLOGY** by Vijay Singh (Author "Social & Physical Anthropology" 32<sup>nd</sup> Year Guiding Experience)

Selections in CSE-2018: Shubhank Mishra (AIR-184), Jai Kishan (AIR-393), Pooja Sachin (AIR-444), Ashima Mittal (AIR-12), Anika Mishra (AIR-105), Shiv Narayan Chandan Sharma (AIR-278), AIR-767

**Batch Starts: 10<sup>th</sup> June**  
Time: 11:30 am to 1:30pm & 5:30 to 7:30pm  
Topic-wise Previous Questions Solved in the Class  
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CSE - 2018 RESULT

AIR-29: SHREE LAKSHMI	AIR-43: ADARSH KESHAV SINGH	AIR-48: JUNEER ANAND	AIR-97: HARSH KISHOR	AIR-102: HIRSH RASOJ SIA	AIR-162: PALAN BANSAL
AIR-222: ANSHU KUMAR	AIR-290: ANSHU KUMAR	AIR-432: ANSHU KUMAR	AIR-538: ANSHU KUMAR	AIR-629: ANSHU KUMAR	AIR-725: ANSHU KUMAR

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**Open Workshop 7 JUNE @ 10:30 AM**  
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**FORESTRY**  
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8<sup>th</sup> June | 1:30 PM

**ZOOLOGY**  
Course introduction & How to prepare  
10<sup>th</sup> June | 10 AM

**GEOLOGY**  
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Rajdeep Chandrakar - 321 Marks  
Amit Kale - 304 Marks  
Indraver Singh - 303 Marks  
Priyanka Shukla - 301 Marks

**OPEN INTERACTION**  
8 JUNE 3:00pm  
AIR-109 : PRIYANKA SHUKLA  
to share her strategy for increasing her Geography Optional score from 206 (2017) to 301 (2018)  
• Strategy discussion to optimise Geography Optional.  
• An overview of "How to make synopsis of entire Geo. syllabus."

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(Optional) **3:30 PM TO 6 PM**  
सामान्य अध्ययन-II (MAINS) **11 JUNE 2019**  
सामाजिक न्याय (Social Justice) **11:30 AM TO 2 PM**  
सामान्य अध्ययन-IV (MAINS) **11 JUNE 2019**  
नीतिशास्त्र **11 JUNE 2019**  
ETHICS **6:15PM TO 8:30PM**  
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Veer Pratap Singh	B.Tech	306	92
Jasleen Kaur	M.Sc.	296	152
Sidharth Goyal	MBA	298	153
Siddhartha Nahar	B.A.	276	182
Singhvi R Kundanmal	B.Sc. (Phy.)	286	202
Shaikh Md Zaib Zakir	Mec. Eng.	283	225
Alok Kumar Tiwari	B.Tech+MBA	270	332
Hari Shankar	B.A.	295	428
Anuj Pratap Singh	IIT-ECE	288	441
Sudhambika R.	B.Tech	301	624

Final Result 22+  
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State approves ₹150 crore for Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has approved a sum of ₹150 crore for the implementation of various programmes on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.

Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar announced the fund approval via Twitter. "₹150 crore fund approved for implementing various policies and programmes marking 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi," he said on the micro-blogging site.

In another tweet, Mr. Mungantiwar said the BJP-led government has sanctioned a ₹266-crore development plan to refurbish the Sevagram Ashram in Wardha district.

Gandhi had stayed at the ashram, 8 km from Wardha city in the Vidarbha region, between mid-1930 and 1940.

Mr. Mungantiwar said the works to be carried out at the ashram would be of world-class level.

Last year, the Centre had announced two-year long celebrations (October 2, 2018 to October 2, 2020) to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, who was born on October 2, 1869.

# BJP, Sena to contest 140 seats each in State Assembly polls

Allotment a challenge since both parties contested 2014 elections separately

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

Though disagreements may have emerged in the Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alliance, the top leadership of both parties is firm on contesting the Assembly polls together. While the BJP and the Sena will contest 140 seats each in the 288-member Assembly, the remaining eight seats will go to other smaller allies.

A BJP leader confirmed to *The Hindu* that the seat sharing formula being considered presently gives 140 seats to each party. "The top leadership of both the parties is firm on contesting the polls as an alliance. As announced earlier, the 50-50 formula is being talked about and 280 out of 288 seats will be shared equally between two of us. The other smaller parties which are in alliance with us will get rest of the eight seats," said the leader.

### 'Smooth exchange'

According to the leader, the real test at the negotiation table would be to solve the issue of seats which were won by either the Sena or the BJP in 2014 when both contested independently; but were held or contested by the other party in earlier elections, when they stood as an al-

liance. "For example, Goregaon was won by the BJP in 2014, but has traditionally been with the Sena. The process of exchange has to be smooth," he said.

A number of possible defections from opposition MLAs from seats where either the BJP or the Sena were

second in the 2014 polls also make the calculations difficult. In Shirdi, Congress leader Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil defeated the Sena candidate in 2014. If he joins the BJP, the Sena may have to step back from its claim on the seat. Similar situation may arise in the Wadala seat.

"Lastly, the Congress-NCP was thrown to the number three and four spot in around 90 seats in 2014. Us contesting as an alliance would mean bringing them to the number two spot. Whether we should do that is also a point of discussion at present," the leader said.

## No hitch in seat-sharing: Uddhav

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

Stating that the Shiv Sena's alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was strong as ever, Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday said that the seat-sharing arrangements for the Assembly elections had already been decided.

"We have satisfactorily sorted out the seat-sharing arrangements. The media need not worry about it at this moment. They will come to know at the right time," he said, adding that all parties in the BJP-Sena 'Mahayuti' would be satisfactorily accommodated in the arrangement.

Mr. Thackeray further said that the Sena's demand for the post of the Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha ought not to be mis-



Praying for keeps: Uddhav Thackeray with his party's newly-elected MPs at Mahalaxmi temple in Kolhapur on Thursday. • RAJESH WARADKAR

construed as 'disgruntlement' on its part.

Quashing suggestions of any disaffection with the BJP, he said, "Now that everything between the two parties is going fine, we will ensure that this alliance remains firm."

Mr. Thackeray, his wife

Rashmi and son, Yuva Sena chief Aditya Thackeray prayed at the Mahalaxmi Temple in Kolhapur with the party's newly-elected MPs to celebrate the BJP-Sena's victory in the Lok Sabha elections. State Revenue Minister Chandrakant Patil was also present.

## 'Pawar leader of Baramati only'

Prakash Ambedkar says Cong.-NCP not main opposition

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

Stating that the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) had reached a political dead end, Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) leader Prakash Ambedkar on Thursday said that NCP chief Sharad Pawar had lost all claim to be a 'national leader' after his party's rout in the general elections.

"The dismal performance of the NCP and the Congress in the elections has reduced Sharad Pawar from being a national leader to being the leader of only the Baramati constituency," said Mr. Ambedkar, speaking in Solapur.

He also said Mr. Pawar had been 'caught in the trap' laid by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Mr. Ambedkar, whose front proved to be a major vote-splitter of traditional Congress-NCP votes, claimed that post the poll results, the VBA had emerged as the main opposition party and not the Congress-NCP combine.

"If you analyse their [Congress-NCP] cumulative vote share, 80% of the votes they received were from the minority community while only 20% constitute non-Muslim votes," said the VBA leader, who intends to contest all 288 seats in the upcoming Assembly elections.

He also said the parties would have to contest the Assembly polls separately if they wished to rebuild their crumbling organisations.

## NCP chief asks workers to learn PR from RSS



Pep talk: Sharad Pawar addresses party supporters at Pimpri-Chinchwad in Pune on Thursday. • JIGNESH MISTRY

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

With the Assembly polls around the corner, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday exhorted his party workers to take lessons from the skilful public relations of the members of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

"I am not saying that one must take everything from them [the RSS]... But their workers must be commended on their doggedness in reaching out to the public and propagating about their organization," Mr. Pawar said, speaking during a pre-poll review meeting of NCP party leaders, office bearers and workers in Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Mr. Pawar presided over

the meet, the purpose of which was to introspect on the NCP's poor show in the Lok Sabha elections while strategising how to shore up the party's crumbling base in Pimpri-Chinchwad.

"With a little over two months to go for the Assembly polls, one must begin door-to-door campaigning in earnest. Else, if one starts campaigning at the eleventh hour, the voter will rightly ask why the NCP thinks about him only before elections. To prevent this from happening, one must start getting into the act right now," he said.

Urging his workers not to be disheartened by the Lok Sabha results, he said that the Assembly elections was a different ball game altogether.

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## IN BRIEF



## Southwest monsoon just 48 hours away, says IMD

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
The delayed southwest monsoon is very likely to set in over Kerala during the next 48 hours, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a special bulletin on Thursday evening. Earlier, the IMD had predicted a June 6 onset. By Sunday, a low pressure area is likely to take shape off the Kerala-Karnataka coast, the IMD warned.

## Elephant attacks bus on Gavi ghat road

PATHANAMTHITTA  
Six passengers and two crew members of a Kerala State Road Transport Corporation bus had a narrow escape when the vehicle was attacked by a wild elephant on the Pathanamthitta-Gavi ghat road on Wednesday. The driver stopped the vehicle upon seeing the wild elephant and a calf. The elephant, however, turned violent and charged at the vehicle. The driver kept the engine running, and the animal and the calf retreated to the forests.

## Case against 3 hospitals over H1N1 patient's death

KOTTAYAM  
The district police have filed a case against the Government Medical College Hospital and two private hospitals, Carithas Hospital and Matha Hospital, here following the death of a 62-year-old H1N1 patient after they allegedly refused to treat him. The case was filed under Section 304 of the IPC for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The hospitals said they could not admit him as ventilators were unavailable. The incident triggered protests by various groups.

## 6 test negative, Nipah fear eases

One more suspected case has been admitted to Kalamassery hospital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

One more person was admitted to the isolation ward in the Government Medical College Hospital at Kalamassery on Thursday with suspected Nipah fever, taking the number of patients in the ward to eight.

However, body fluids of six of them sent to the National Virology Institute, Pune, have returned negative. Samples of the remaining two are with the two virology institutes in Alappuzha and Pune. The Nipah negative patients would, nevertheless, remain in the isolation ward till they fully recovered, said Minister for Health K.K. Shylaja.

Meanwhile, the condition of the 23-year-old confirmed Nipah case, being treated at a private hospital here, was stable, she said.

## Alert to continue

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who reviewed the preventive activities in the wake of the outbreak, said it was a relief that the tests were negative. "But we cannot relax now. Alert will continue," he said. Fruit bats had been identified as the primary carriers of the disease.

More research had to be done on the transmission of the disease. The State would soon call a meeting of various departments to initiate such research, the Chief Minister said. Various Central and State agencies, such as the Kerala Agricultural University, Animal Husbandry, Forest Research Institute and the National Institute of Epidemiology, would be involved in a national-level research to find out how and when fruit bats became agents of transmission.

Ms. Shylaja said the status quo on all those quarantined



Safety first: Health workers in full protective gear at an isolation ward of the Ernakulam Medical College on Thursday. ■THULASI KAKKAT

for being in direct or indirect contact with the confirmed case would be maintained till the incubation period was over.

Preventive activities would continue in the district till July, even if there were no more Nipah cases, she said. Thirty doctors in the government sector, 250 paramedical staff and 10 ambulance drivers had completed training. In the private sector, 190 doctors were given training.

## Ready for emergencies

At the Medical College, where the isolation ward had been arranged, 50 doctors, 75 paramedical staff and 30 attenders were provided training. A stand-by team had also been created. Four ambulances were ready to handle emergency situations. Biomedical waste from the isolation ward was being handled carefully and disposed of properly.

Tribal settlements had been given awareness classes too. In the district, 898 families were contacted and made aware of the Nipah infection and preventive mechanism to be adopted.

## 'Mechanisms in place to probe source of virus'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

With the source of the latest case of infection by the Nipah virus in Kerala still being investigated, the central Health Ministry said that trained personnel from the State health department were available for providing care, while a multidisciplinary central team was looking into the possible source of the infection as well as the history of exposure.

## 'Reviewing situation'

"I am personally reviewing the situation with the Health Minister of Kerala, K.K. Shylaja, on a regular basis," Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Thursday.

"Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary [Health and Family Welfare] and other senior officers are also in touch with their counterparts in the State for daily feedback and updates," he added.

The Union Health Ministry said the focus is on con-

taining the spread of the virus and that proper record keeping in the district control room, with daily sharing of information is key to that effort.

According to it the State government should update the contact list (those who came in contact with the infected person), ensure daily follow-up for symptoms, advise self-monitoring and ensure the use of personal protective equipment at work for symptomatic contacts.

"Also vital is categorisation of contacts into priority contacts (family contacts, health care workers of health facilities) and implementing a planned standard operating procedure for quarantine of symptomatic contacts, sample collection/testing and dedicated isolation facility," the Health Ministry said in a release.

A core group was also meeting on a daily basis to review and monitor the situation.

## Jagan govt. scraps TDP's pet project 'Annadata Sukhibhava'

Instead, 'YSR Rythu Bharosa' will be launched on October 15

STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy announced the launch of 'YSR Rythu Bharosa' under which farmers holding up to five acres will be given financial assistance of ₹50,000 in four equal instalments of ₹12,500 beginning October 15 and the scrapping of the farmers' welfare scheme 'Annadata Sukhibhava' introduced by the TDP government.

As on date, a sum of approximately ₹1,822 crore has been disbursed to the beneficiaries of 'Annadata Sukhibhava' as per information posted on its website. A sum of ₹5,000 crore was allocated for it in the 2019-20 vote-on-account budget by the Chandrababu Naidu government.

The CM also asked his



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

Principal Advisor Ajeya Kalam to take a re-look at various schemes to achieve better outcomes and also keeping in view the allegations of large-scale diversion of funds.

Addressing a review meeting on agriculture and allied sectors at his resi-

dence on Thursday, Mr. Jagan said the benefit under 'YSR Rythu Bharosa', which was one of his nine election promises ('Navaratnalu'), would be directly credited into the bank accounts of farmers to help them in procuring agricultural inputs.

## Spurious seed menace

He took a serious view of the spurious seeds business that affected farmers and suggested that a seed act be brought to curb the menace and instructed the officials to take steps for distributing seeds, fertilizers and other farm inputs at the village secretariats which would start functioning on October 2.

The Government would bear the entire burden of premium to be paid by farmers on the crop insurance scheme, the CM said.

## Rahul on a three-day visit to Wayanad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOZHIKODE

After his huge mandate from Wayanad in the recent Lok Sabha polls, Congress president Rahul Gandhi will make a three-day visit to the parliamentary constituency beginning Friday.

Mr. Gandhi won the seat by a margin of over 4.31 lakh votes, though he was defeated in the Congress bastion of Amethi in Uttar Pradesh.

The Congress will go beyond the ceremonial thanksgiving to the electorate, and turn the occasion into a political show of strength.

## Janardhana Reddy seeks permission to visit Ballari

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Mining baron and former Karnataka Minister Gali Janardhana Reddy on Thursday approached the Supreme Court for permission to visit Ballari district, saying his father-in-law has suffered a stroke.

A Vacation Bench, led by Justice Indira Banerjee, agreed to hear the plea urgently on Friday.

As per his bail condition, Mr. Reddy is not permitted to visit Ballari without prior go-ahead from the court.

In January 2015, the Supreme Court had granted bail to Mr. Reddy in an illegal mining case involving Obulapuram Mining Com-



Janardhana Reddy

pany (OMC) on the condition that he would not visit any of the mining zones in Karnataka or Andhra Pradesh.

By 2015, Mr. Reddy had been in jail for over three years and agreed with the court's caution to cooperate in the trial before a special court in Hyderabad.

## Y.V. Subba Reddy's Wiki page turns into 'religious battlefield'

YSRCP leader is the front-runner for TTD chairman post

THARUN BODA  
VIJAYAWADA

The Wikipedia page of YSR Congress Party leader and former MP Y.V. Subba Reddy was defaced multiple times on Thursday over 'declaration' of his religion by troublemakers.

The issue surfaced after sources in the YSRCP said that Mr. Reddy was being considered for the post of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams chairman. Within no time, a section of users on social media platforms began wrongly pointing out his religious affiliation.

In no time, Mr. Reddy's page on Wikipedia started witnessing traffic with users trying to add his religion to the profile. Until Wednesday, Mr. Reddy's profile had only three lines of description with no mention of reli-



Y.V. Subba Reddy

gion. Editing activity started early on Thursday when an anonymous user added the field religion and attributed "converted Christian" to it, according to the edit history.

## 'Worked for church'

Another guest user changed the religion to Hindu and it was immediately changed to Christian by a user going by the name Chitrada. Appa-

rently, the same user also added the phrase "he worked for church welfare and protection," citing the source to a non-existent link on the Ministry of Home Affairs website.

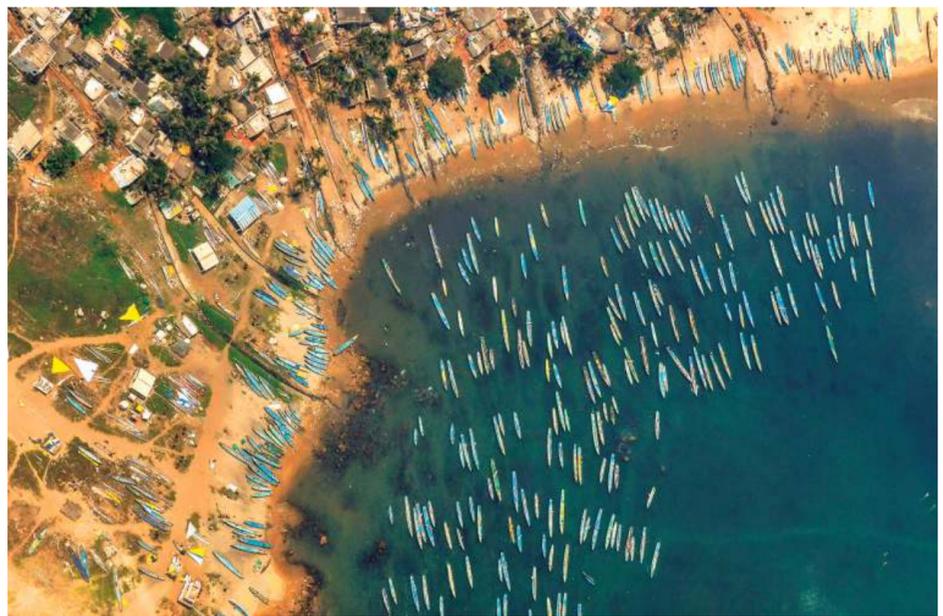
As of 7 p.m., the page was edited about 95 times. Some users tried to remove the field of religion but it was added again and some even went overboard issuing threats in the name of god.

The addition of religion as Christian to the page fuelled further debates and controversy on social media and the screenshot of the same was circulated widely.

As a last resort, Wikipedia locked the page for guest users.

The YSRCP is yet to make an official announcement regarding the appointment of Mr. Reddy.

## Fish eye



An aerial view of country boats anchored in shallow coastal waters at Jalaripeta in Visakhapatnam. The annual fishing conservation period is being enforced from April 15 to June 14. ■K.R. DEEPAK

## Kerala builder moves SC on demolition

Court misled, says petitioner, 2 days before 5 buildings are to be brought down

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Two days before the end of the Supreme Court's deadline to demolish five apartment buildings in the Maradu Panchayat, a builder on Thursday moved the apex court to review its order, saying that the court was misled by the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA) into passing the order.

On May 8, a Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra directed the demolition of five apartment buildings in Kochi's Maradu within a month. The court, based on a report submitted by its expert committee, concluded the buildings fell within the CRZ-III (Coastal Regulation Zone) limits.

The committee submitted its report stating that as per

the CRZ notification of 1991 and the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Plan 1996, the area in question came under CRZ III. As per the CRZ notification 1991, no construction is permitted within 200 meters from the coastal line in CRZ III.

## Vital fact hid

But Holy Faith Builders, represented by advocates A. Karthik and Santhosh Mathew, submitted that KCZMA hid a vital fact from the apex court - that is, a more recent Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) prepared pursuant to a 2011 CRZ notification was approved by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on February 28, 2019, by which the Maradu area of Ernakulam was categorised under CRZ-II.

The builder said the apex court's May 8 judgment to demolish 400 flats would render 400 families in Maradu area homeless.

## 'Owners not heard'

The expert committee did not hear the apartment owners.

"The apartment owners were not heard by the committee despite the direction of this court to hear all affected parties. All the 91 units in the petitioner's [Holy Faith Builders] building have been sold. Thereafter, tax is being paid by them every year. The committee did not issue notice to the owners of the apartments who are residing there. They are the affected parties, if an adverse order is passed in the matter," the petitioner said.

It said the Maradu Panchayat was formed in the year 1953 and was part of the Greater Cochin Development Authority, and "hence is part of a legally designated urban area".

The petitioner said it was factually incorrect to say that the Maradu area was situated in the shores of backwaters in Ernakulam district.

The May 8 judgment had blamed the "devastating effects" of unbridled construction activities in eco-sensitive areas with natural water flow. It said illegal constructions on river shores and "unscrupulous trespass" into the natural path of backwaters have led to natural calamities like those seen in the recent floods in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Uttarakhand.

## Centre to come up with policy on AI, cybersecurity soon

'There is a need to skill our people in machine learning'

M.L. MELLY MAITREYI  
HYDERABAD

The NITI Aayog has come up with a policy on artificial intelligence and cyber security and it would be taken up by the Union Cabinet soon, disclosed V.K. Saraswat, member of NITI Aayog.

Speaking at the seminar, he said the policy announcement was delayed owing to the recent elections.

At a time when the government was promoting the digitisation programme and India had emerged the second country with most Internet access, the protection of data becomes crucial - be at home, workspace or institutions.

Dr. Saraswat emphasised the need for giving access to the National Knowledge Network for setting up centres of excellence for research on AI, for which funding would be provided by the Union government.

"Digitisation has brought in enormous data and like oil, it will impact the economies of the world. Thus, data protection becomes crucial. A global data protection and regulation Act is coming up and in this context, cyber security becomes important too," he said.

Communication is digitised in every sector and the C.R. Rao Advanced Institute has been focussing on cyber

security, which is undergoing paradigm changes due to induction of AI and ML, he explained.

"This disruptive technology is used by various sectors, including agencies for crime control. The market to provide cyber security cover runs into billions of dollars," he said. He said those itching to cause harm were also becoming smarter with AI necessitating 24x7 protection of the entire command and control of the data network. But the main challenge to use AI is to get highly trained manpower. "We have to skill our people in AI, machine learning, augmented reality and others," he said.

Also known as Employment through Skill Training & Placement (ESTP) Call Centre, it has had a low-key launch a few days ago and has begun to function from the CDMA premises at Masab Tank.

## Now, a call centre for jobs, counselling

V. GEETANATH  
HYDERABAD

If you are an educated unemployed youth, living in urban areas and searching for a job or even wondering about career options, dial - 040-48210000. It is the newest call centre set up to cater to educated youth in all the 142 Urban Local Bodies across Telangana to counsel them about careers, skills training and jobs available in the market.

The novel initiative has been launched by the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas of the Commissionerate & Director of Municipal Administration. The cloud-based virtual call centre will be working seven days a week from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

## Feedback mechanism

"It will also serve as a feedback mechanism for us to know whether our skill training programmes need to be revised and how youngsters trained and placed during our programmes are faring in their jobs," says MEPMA Mission Director & DMA T. K. Sreedevi.

Under MEPMA programmes, unskilled urban poor are to be given training in various skills required in the market to enable them to get salaried jobs in the private sector and for setting up of self-employment ventures.

Till now, 31,986 unemployed youth were trained and 12,646 youth are undergoing training in various courses and placements provided to 14,612 youth.

Oh deer!



**Alive and well:** 1) A female sambar deer after it fell into a sludge-filled open well in Udhagamandalam, Tamil Nadu, on Thursday. 2) Locals and officials tried to pull the animal out using nets, ropes and poles. 3) When nothing worked, a fire and rescue service crew member rappelled into the well. 4) The deer was set free after being pulled out. • M. SATHYAMOORTHY

IN BRIEF



**ED seeks info from U.K. on Robert Vadra's assets**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Enforcement Directorate has widened its probe against Robert Vadra and requested its U.K. counterparts to share details of ownership of assets there that they claimed were acquired using laundered money and belonged to him, officials said. The ED has also sought help from financial intelligence units of some countries to unravel the flow of funds used to buy the assets, they said. PTI

**One held for assaulting naked man in Meghalaya**

**GUWAHATI**  
The Meghalaya police arrested the member of a group of four seen assaulting a naked, bearded man in a viral video. The incident happened at Ranikor, 1 km from the India-Bangladesh border, in South West Khasi Hills earlier this month. The police registered a case *suo motu* and arrested Teiborlang Marwein, 24, one of the four seen kicking and slapping the man, who was bleeding and crying for mercy.

**Will not accept Hindi in any form: Jayakumar**

**CHENNAI**  
Tamil Nadu will not accept Hindi in any form and under any circumstances, senior AIADMK leader and Minister D. Jayakumar said here on Thursday. He said the recent tweet by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami was intended to spread Tamil in other States. Another Minister K. Pandiarajan said the CM had tweeted with a good intention.

Local residents join An-32 search

Villagers claim they saw smoke on a mountain

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUAHATI/NEW DELHI**

The Arunachal Pradesh government has roped in local residents to search for the IAF's An-32 transport aircraft, which went missing over the State on June 3. In New Delhi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met family members of some of the personnel, defence sources said.

"The Defence Minister met some of the family members and apprised them of the search and rescue efforts being undertaken. He assured them of all help," a source said.

The State government has asked the local authorities to verify the claim of three villagers who claim to have spotted black smoke billowing from a mountain after the An-32 with 13 on board went missing.

On Thursday, Chief Minis-



**In happier times:** Ashish Tanwar and wife Sandhya

Pilot's wife was on ATC duty when he took off

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI**

Sandhya Tanwar was on duty at the IAF's Air Traffic Control in Jorhat, watching as her husband Ashish Tanwar piloted an An-32 aircraft that took off from the airbase for the thickly forested area of Mechuka in Arunachal Pradesh that fateful Monday afternoon.

ter Pema Khandu asked the authorities of Siang, West Siang, Lower Siang and Shi-Yomi districts to intensify the search operation and help armed forces personnel, who were not familiar with the topography. His appeal coincided with the IAF and the Army resuming aerial surveys along the flight path of the An-32 on Mi-17 choppers, Sukhoi SU-30 fighter jets, Advanced Light Helicopters and C-130J trans-

port aircraft, besides un-

manned aerial vehicles.

The Deputy Commissioners of Siang and West Siang districts said they had organised three search teams with at least three local people, who know the terrain. The teams set out for the Bayor-Adi mountain range near Tumbin village, the Pari-Adi mountain range near Molo village and the Vigrong mountain range between Molo and Tumbin.

Barely half an hour later, the plane went off the radar, leaving the young Tanwar to be one of the first to know about the disappearance of the IAF transport aircraft that had 12 others also on board. Sandhya, an air traffic control officer posted at the Jorhat airbase, had married Flight Lieutenant Ashish Tanwar in 2018.

All these ranges fall under the Payum administrative circle of Siang district and are along the flight path. Along with the adjoining Kaying circle in the same district, the search area covers 2,500 sq km.

The team for the Bayor-Adi range scouted the area on Wednesday without any result. But hopes of locating the aircraft went up after the three villagers reported seeing thick smoke in the fields.

3 held for leak of SSC exam papers

CBI had registered case in May 2018

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Thursday arrested three persons in connection with the leak of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) Combined Graduate-Level (Tier-II) examination papers and their answer keys in May 2017.

"They have been identified as Sandeep Mathur, Dharmender and Akshay Kumar Malik. While Akshay was allegedly involved in leaking the questions and answers, the other two arranged candidates who would pay up for the help in clearing the examination," said an official.

**Searches conducted**

The CBI has got custody of the arrested till June 10. "Searches were also conducted at four places in Delhi and Ghaziabad, which led to the seizure of incriminating documents and articles. Investigation is on to determine the source of the leak," the official said.

On May 22, 2018, the CBI had registered cases against 17 people, including seven candidates, nine site supervisors and the question-paper bank custodian of a private company.

The SSC had started conducting online examinations in 2016, for which an agreement with Sify Technologies Limited had been executed.

**All preparations**

The company had to make all arrangements for the tests - from setting up centres, preparing question paper sets and capturing the biometric details and photographs of the candidates to monitoring and recording the activities of the candidates at each venue through CCTV surveillance.

It also had to take measures to prevent paper leak and block access to all possible web resources on the computers used for the tests, said the CBI.

However, the agency said answer keys of at least seven test papers were leaked. In one case, the answers for a quantitative ability test to be held at 10.30 a.m. on February 21, 2018, were available on social media at least 20 minutes in advance.

The CBI said it found that the computers of some candidates were remotely accessed and they received assistance from outside the test centres in solving the questions.

Pragya seeks exemption from court appearance

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI**

BJP Member of Parliament and prime accused in the Malegaon 2008 blasts Pragya Singh Thakur on Thursday filed for exemption from appearing before the National Investigation Agency court on medical grounds.

Ms. Thakur told the court that she had high blood pressure because of which she was hospitalised for a day and could not be present in court.

**'No documents given'**

Special judge Vinod Padalkar granted the exemption but said she would have to be present on Friday or would have to face the consequences as no medical documents had been submitted in court.

Ms. Thakur won against Congress leader Digvijay Singh from Bhopal and had earlier filed a plea seeking exemption from June 3-7 to complete parliamentary procedures.

The court rejected the plea and directed her to be present this week. On May 21, the court had granted exemption to Ms. Thakur, Lt. Col. Prasad Purohit and Sudhakar Chaturvedi from appearing before it.

Can't hide illness when buying policy: SC

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Failure on the part of a person to reveal past history of disease is a valid ground for repudiation of his insurance policy benefits, the Supreme Court has held.

The recent judgment by a Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud was on the basis of an appeal filed by the Life Insurance Corporation against a 2018 order of the National Consumer Disputes

Redressal Commission, which confirmed a payment of over ₹2 lakh to the health policy holder Manish Gupta.

The court concluded that Mr. Gupta failed to disclose that he had a past history of cardiovascular disease in the policy documents in 2008.

Justice Chandrachud observed that "when an information on a specific aspect is asked for in the proposal form, an assured is under a solemn obligation to make a

true and full disclosure of the information on the subject which is within his knowledge".

"It is not for the proposer to determine whether the information sought for is material for the purpose of the policy or not. Of course, obligation to disclose extends only to facts which are known to the applicant and not to what he ought to have known," the court said.

The Bench found that the

consumer fora made a "fundamental error in allowing the claim for reimbursement of medical expenses in the face of the uncontroverted material on record".

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Ambala, had directed the company to pay ₹2,21,990, together with interest at the rate of 9% per annum from October 29, 2009, which is the date on which the claim was repudiated.

SC directs varsity to conduct fresh entrance test

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

A Vacation Bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the operation of two orders passed by the Delhi High Court, directing the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University to conduct a fresh common entrance test for its MBA course for 2019-20.

The Bench, led by Justice Indira Banerjee, issued notice to the Self Financing Educational Institutions Association, on whose petition the

HC had passed the consecutive orders in April and May. The notice is returnable on July 9, after the apex court re-opens, post the summer vacation.

**Stay on orders**

The court said, "There shall be stay of operation of the orders dated 12.04.2019 and 29.05.2019 passed by the High Court of Delhi".

The April 12 order was passed by a Single Bench of the HC, while the one in May was based on a review peti-

tion. In its petition before the apex court, the varsity said the Centre issued an order on February 11, allowing the institution to conduct national level tests like the Common Admission Test, etc., for admissions to courses for the year 2019-20.

Subsequently, the university had issued a circular that its MBA (Master of Business Administration) admissions would be based on CAT and Common Management Aptitude Test (CMAT) scores.

However, this was challenged by the association in the High Court, which had stayed the government order and university circular citing provisions from the Delhi Professional College or Institutions (Prohibition of Capitation Fee, Regulation of Admission, Fixation of Non-Exploitative Fee and Other Measures to Ensure Equity and Excellence) Act of 2007. It had ordered the varsity to conduct fresh entrance tests for MBA admissions.

Villagers search for discarded idol to get rain

Three 'possessed' devotees send them on a wild goose chase in the Cauvery

**VIGNESH VIJAYAKUMAR SALEM**

Guided by three people who claimed that they were possessed by spirits, the villagers of Ottaipatti, near Edappadi here, have been searching for an Amman idol they discarded in the Cauvery nearly a decade ago. If the idol is restored to its pride of place in the temple, they believe, the rains will return.

While renovating the Amman temple, the villagers immersed the Amman idol in the river nine years ago and installed a new idol at its place. Recently a woman, during a



Locals at Ottaipatti pacify a devotee who went into a trance and asked them to locate a discarded idol in the Cauvery.

ritual dance after being possessed (sami attam) at the annual temple festival, said the village had been facing drought after the idol

was discarded. The village would receive rains once the idol was back in its place, she said.

The devout villagers launched a search in the Cauvery for the idol nearly a fortnight ago. The brought in deep divers from Thoothukudi also, said a villager. As they could not locate it, they took the woman who made the prophecy to the river. On the banks, as she was being led to the boat, a middle aged man and another woman were also possessed by the spirit, the locals said. The confused villagers decided to take them all in a

boat to locate the idol.

The first woman took the boat and threw a lemon into the river. The divers searched the bottom of the river but the idol could not be found. Next, the man took to the coracle and indicated a spread of water. That search also ended in vain.

The young woman who was possessed was finally forced into a coracle too but she too failed to show the right place.

Five coracles, one boat, and deep divers are still searching the river to bring back rains and prosperity to the village.

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH**

**NOTICE**

It is hereby informed to all concerned that due to Administrative reason, the counseling for MD/MS courses of this Institute scheduled to be held on 14.6.2019 for July, 2019 session has been postponed. Now the same will be held on 17th June, 2019 at 11:00 A.M in Bhargava Auditorium of the Institute.

**REGISTRAR**

**MANAGE - CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND AGRIPRENEURSHIP**  
(A Knowledge Partner for RKVY - RAFTAAR, MoA&FW, GoI)

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(An Organization of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)  
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For more details : [www.manage.gov.in](http://www.manage.gov.in) (Dr. Saravanan Raj) Director (Agricultural Extension)

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For Lateral entry to work at STPP, Jaipur, Mancheril Dist. Telangana State SCCL is looking for suitable / Experienced persons from Government / Public Sector/ Private Sector for the following posts in its 2 X 600MW Thermal Power Project

Name of the Posts	No. of posts
General Manager (Operations & Maintenance)	1
Deputy General Manager (Safety)	1
Deputy General Manager (Ash Handling Plant)	1
Superintendent (Analytical)	1

For Details, i.e., experience, age, qualifications, grade, scale of pay etc., Please visit Our SCCL Website <http://www.scclmines.com>; "Careers" link available on Home page. Please Apply ONLINE w.e.f 07-06-2019. Contact No. 08744-249992

PR/2019-20/PER (CRP)/DRS/26 **Chairman & Managing Director**

**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL TAMIL**  
(An Autonomous Institution, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)  
No. 40, 100 Feet Road, Taramani, Chennai-600113

**THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR CLASSICAL TAMIL (2018-19)**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai invites nominations for **Tholkappiyar, Kural Peedam and Young Scholar Awards for the year 2018-19** for excellence in research in Classical Tamil. The last date for receiving nomination is **6th July 2019**. For details and the nomination proforma, please visit our website: [www.cict.in](http://www.cict.in)

**Director**

**No. A12026/4/2018-Estt.IV**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation**

Narmada Control Authority (NCA) is a Body Corporate set up by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6A of the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956, for the purpose of securing compliance with the implementation of the decision and direction of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal. The Narmada Control Authority has its headquarter at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

2. Applications are invited from eligible and suitable officers for filling up one post of Member (Environment & Rehabilitation) in Narmada Control Authority, Indore in the Pay Matrix Level-14 (Rs. 144200-218200/-) on deputation (including short-term contract) basis.

3. Details of the post, eligibility conditions etc. Are available on website of the Ministry ([mowr.gov.in](http://mowr.gov.in)); and Narmada Control Authority ([nca.gov.in](http://nca.gov.in)). Applications complete in all respect of suitable and eligible officers and who can be spared immediately in the event of selection may be sent through proper channel to :- The Under Secretary (Estt. IV), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi- 110001 within a period of 60 days from the date of issue/ publishing of this Advertisement in the Employment News.

4. Advance copies of application or application received after the prescribed period or not accompanied with the requisite information/ documents are liable to be rejected.

**(Arun Kumar)**  
**Under Secretary to the Govt. Of India**



## No surprises

The RBI has played conservative in announcing a rate cut of just 25 basis points

There were no surprises in the second bimonthly monetary policy announcement by the Reserve Bank of India. A 25 basis point (0.25 percentage point) cut was widely expected, and the RBI delivered that. Whether a deeper 50 basis point cut was necessary, given the sharp slowdown in the economy, is now a purely scholastic question. With inflation well under the benchmark figure of 4%, the stage was probably set for the RBI to spring a surprise but it chose to play conservative. Maybe the idea is to keep the powder dry for a further rate cut, if needed, in the next policy. If the economy fails to recover well enough from its slumber by August, the onus will, after all, shift back to the RBI. That said, there is enough in the latest policy to indicate that the RBI's focus is now on growth. The change of stance to 'accommodative' from 'neutral', the statements by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at the press conference that ensuring systemic liquidity will remain a priority for the central bank, and the setting up of an internal working group to review the existing liquidity management framework, all clearly point to a central bank that is not only listening to the demands of the key stakeholders in the economy, but also acting on them.

The one area where the RBI has some work to do is in the transmission of rates. By its own admission, only 21 of the cumulative 50 basis points rate cut effected by the RBI in the February and April policies has been passed on to borrowers by banks. The excuse from banks, at least in the last few months, was that liquidity was tight and so deposit rates could not be cut. However, liquidity has considerably improved in the last week, and more so with the new government loosening the purse strings. There cannot be any more excuses from banks to not pass on the cuts fully. The RBI's decision to do away with its charges on RTGS/ NEFT (Real Time Gross Settlement System/ National Electronic Funds Transfer) transactions is welcome provided it can, again, ensure that banks pass on the benefit to customers. The central bank has also proposed measures such as a reduction in the leverage ratio under Basel norms for banks, which will increase their lendable resources. The projected growth rate for this fiscal has been lowered to 7% from the 7.2% projected in April, and the first-half growth is estimated at 6.4-6.7%, which by itself appears ambitious given the current trends in the economy. With the RBI having done its bit, the focus shifts to the Finance Ministry. There are tremendous expectations from the government over the next round of reforms, backed as it is by a strong mandate. The onus is now on the budget, to be presented on July 5, to unleash the animal spirits again in the economy.

## Sudan on the brink

The military rulers must climb down and transfer power to a civilian government

When Sudanese dictator Omar al-Bashir was toppled on April 11 after a months-long popular uprising, the generals had two options before them. One was the Tunisian model in which the army allowed a smooth transition of power to a civilian government after Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was removed from power in 2011. The other was the Egyptian model in which the army, after losing power to a civilian ruler following Hosni Mubarak's ouster as President in 2011, staged a coup in 2013 and reinstated itself at the helm. Unfortunately, the Sudanese generals chose the latter, setting the stage for a prolonged showdown. The protesters had demanded a transfer of power to a transitional civilian government, followed by free and fair elections. But the generals used the crisis to concentrate more powers in their own hands. They established a military council which took over governance, while angry protesters continued a sit-in in front of the Defence Ministry in Khartoum. As talks between pro-democracy activists and the military rulers collapsed, paramilitary groups unleashed deadly violence this week to break the sit-in, killing at least 100 people and injuring hundreds. The Rapid Support Forces, the paramilitary troops notorious for atrocities committed in the impoverished western province of Darfur in the early 2000s, reportedly threw the dead into the Nile.

It is evident that the military will not easily give up power. After the crackdown, Lt. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the military ruler, has offered to hold elections in nine months, upturning an earlier plan of a two-year transition. But there is no immediate plan to transfer power to a civilian transitional government, a key demand of the protesters. Unsurprisingly, they have rejected the military's offer. At present, Sudan's generals enjoy regional and international support. The UN Security Council couldn't even condemn the violence as China, backed by Russia, blocked the move. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which offered financial aid to the junta as soon as Mr. Bashir was removed from power, also support the generals. This gives the military rulers a sense of impunity even when they unleash murderous paramilitaries on peaceful protesters. This has to change. Arab countries as well as the UN should put meaningful pressure on the military council to pay heed to popular demands and hold those responsible for the June 3 massacre accountable. There is no easy solution to the crisis. If the military wants to keep its grip on power, there could be more bloodshed as the protesters are defiant. It will have to necessarily build a more oppressive regime, as in Egypt after the 2013 coup. The other, wiser option is to compromise, resume talks with the protesters and facilitate a quick and orderly transition to civilian rule. The choice the generals make will determine the future of Sudan.

# Language, the opening move

The 'Hindi' controversy foretells the larger political narrative for the coming years



G.N. DEVY

Language makes us human. During the process of natural evolution, the human brain acquired the ability to engage with the world primarily through linguistic transactions. Language, therefore, has become the mode of knowing for Homo sapiens. Being the foundation of knowledge, language plays a pivotal role in formal institutions of knowledge. It is as necessary for thought and knowledge to exist as are air and water for the survival of life.

Scientific evidence shows that humans came to use language, a semiotic system made of verbal icons, some 70,000 years ago. The species continued to develop the brain's linguistic ability as well as the semantic complexity of languages in use throughout these millennia. The intermittent prolonged spells of the ice ages did not deter the species in its language pursuit. We are now at a stage when a newborn manages to learn the entire language capability of the brain developed over the last 70,000 years.

By the time a child enters school, she already has the language competence that schools promise to give her. This is not to undermine the importance of formal education. Schooling can indeed bring a greater self-awareness of the language one uses. It

can, under ideal conditions, help the learner in acquiring a greater ease in processing abstraction and judgment, the two highest cognitive abilities that the human brain has developed. It is now established beyond doubt that if a child receives formal instruction in the language of its home environment, the ease of doing cognitive transactions is enhanced.

### The second language

As one tries to understand the nature of the language controversy that erupted last week, it should be instructive to ask how many languages children in most other countries are required to learn. The answer to this question can leave us ashamed and angry. In England, Germany and most European Union countries, children are required to study only one language in primary school and another language of their choice in middle school. In the U.S., it is English and Spanish or some other language as a 'second language'. In Japan, it is Japanese and English from the primary level. In Hong Kong, it is primarily English, but also Mandarin and, if children wish, some Cantonese. In Egypt, Arabic is the primary language of instruction with a six-year stint in English as a 'second language'. Almost all over the world, with the exception of some former colonies, children are required to study primarily one language and another one as a 'second language'. In India they are asked to tackle three languages, and if their home language happens to have no formal status, they are faced with the daunting task of having to



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cope with four languages.

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics and Global Education Monitoring had reported in 2016 that there were 47 million drop-outs by the 10th standard in India. Of course, gender discrimination, absence of toilets for girls, economic marginalisation, poor infrastructure, inadequate teacher training and lack of employment at the end of high-school education contribute to the 'expulsion' of young learners from schools. But equally crucial a reason is the language challenge. If we have to bring this great injustice to an end, sooner or later India will have to accept the scientific premise that education in the mother tongue is the key to the life of the mind. 'Mother tongue' does not, however, mean the language determined by the state as a desirable 'first' language but a language that parents think will give the child the ease of learning.

### A colonial legacy

The question of language education as well as that of the language for education has three important facets – linguistic (including neurological and pedagogical), political and administrative. Since Independence, we have laid a disproportionately high emphasis on the administrative side of this

question. For purely administrative considerations we have kept oscillating between one position and another, bringing in its trail bitterly fought language battles. The colonial legacy of English as a language of modernity and knowledge has made it difficult for us to bring the vacillations to any rational conclusion. The nation appears to have forgotten the violent language movements in the past in Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka; now the draft National Education Policy (NEP) has opened a festering wound once again.

The face of the controversy stoked through the draft is of a political nature. During the last two decades, NEPs have become an old habit with us, though none of them resulted in any genuinely fresh breakthrough in education. The new NEP draft comes at a time when the nation is sharply divided, thanks to the no-holds-barred abusive rhetoric during the recent election. It is not surprising that what was post-haste deleted came to be seen as imposition of Hindi in violation of the linguistic sovereignty of the States guaranteed by the Constitution.

### The BJP's zeal

The zeal of the BJP to spread Hindi in non-Hindi States is based on deeply flawed premises. To begin with, the government does not have any authentic data on the linguistic composition of the country. The 2011 Census data on languages, published last year, was heavily doctored. It presents Hindi as the 'mother tongue' of over 52 crore people by subsuming more than 5 crore claimants of Bhojpur

and more than 9 crore speakers of nearly 61 other languages – claimed as 'other' by their speech communities – from Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. 'The Hindi' is probably spoken by not more than 30% of the population, but it is not the mother tongue for the remaining 70%. Knowingly causing risk to any indigenous language has been described by the UNESCO as 'an act amounting to genocide'. I will use the term 'phonoicide' to describe the expansionist aspirations in the name of nationalism. The aspirations are not to be attributed to the speakers of Hindi, but to the politics of the pseudo-nationalists who have no patience with the cultural diversity of India, so sensitively enshrined in the Constitution.

The sharp reaction that came up reflects democratic aspirations of the non-Hindi languages. The sparks that flew – before the controversy was hurriedly doused, probably temporarily so – foretell the larger political narrative for the coming years. In numerous ways, it is likely to be a conflict between the pseudo-nationalists and the constitutional democrats, a conflict over culture, language, knowledge, faith, history, worldviews and approaches to modernity. One hopes it does not take the form of a north against south conflict. Language, being the foundation of both civilisation and knowledge, has naturally become the opening move in what is to come.

G.N. Devy is Chairman, the People's Linguistic Survey of India

## Pakistan's blasphemy ordeal

Just the accusation of blasphemy can be punishment for the accused and their defenders



FARAHNAZ ISPAHANI

Barely two weeks after Pakistani Christian Asia Naureen (usually referred to as Asia Bibi), whose ordeal over false blasphemy charges attracted international attention, was allowed to leave the country, Pakistan's blasphemy laws claimed new victims.

### In Mirpurkhas

A Hindu veterinary doctor, Ramesh Kumar, was arrested in Sindh province on May 27 after a local cleric filed a police complaint accusing him of committing blasphemy. Mr. Kumar's village Phulhadiyon, in Mirpurkhas district, has a population of about 7,000 people, the majority of whom are Hindus. As is often the case when blasphemy allegations are made in Pakistan, riots broke out in the area and an angry mob burnt down Mr. Kumar's establishment as well as other property belonging to him and his family. The mob also tried to attack the police station and caused some damage in the process. Although six suspects were soon taken into custody for rioting and damaging the vet's property, it is Mr. Kumar's family that will now be living in fear while his prosecution meanders through Pakistan's judicial system.

Ms. Bibi's experience highlights the difficult path ahead for Mr. Kumar. Her relocation to Canada does not reflect substantive

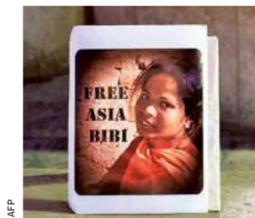
change in the persecuted state of Pakistan's religious minorities. Pakistan's draconian blasphemy laws remain in force, and there is no sign that the authorities plan to drop prosecution of hundreds of blasphemy cases.

Between 1987 and 2012, Pakistani authorities prosecuted 1,170 people for blasphemy. That number has only increased over the years. The Pakistani legal system offers little protection to someone charged with blasphemy and mere accusation is tantamount to punishment. Judges and lawyers fear religious vigilantes who violently attack anyone they deem to be supporting a blasphemer.

Salmaan Taseer, Governor of Pakistan's Punjab province, was killed by his own bodyguard in 2011 for supporting reconsideration of blasphemy laws; the judge who convicted his murderer had to flee the country; and a shrine was built for the assassin after his execution.

Ms. Bibi's case attracted international attention. She was an unlettered berry-picker convicted by a Pakistani court of insulting Prophet Mohammed after being framed by neighbours who objected to her, as a Christian, drinking water from the same glass as them. She was sentenced to death for her comments in response to her neighbours' mistreatment. Support from church-goers and human rights defenders around the world meant that the U.S. government and the Pope paid attention to her case. Parallel efforts were initiated by the EU's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief to secure her release.

Last year Pakistan's Supreme



AFP

Court decided to hear her appeal after having ignored it for years. She had spent more than eight years in solitary confinement before being acquitted by the Supreme Court in October 2018. But Islamist groups took to the streets to protest that decision, and a review petition against her release was put in to block the Supreme Court's decision. Even after the review petition was dismissed, Ms. Bibi remained under 'protective custody' at an unknown location. Eventually, pressure from Western governments and the Vatican, coupled with threats of EU sanctions at a time when Pakistan sought its thirteenth bailout from the International Monetary Fund in three decades, worked.

Pakistan's all-powerful military and the civilian government installed last year are obsessed with improving Pakistan's international image, without really changing its reality. They wanted Ms. Bibi's flight to safety to be projected as reflecting a change in Pakistan's treatment of its minorities. It is nothing of the sort, as the persecution of Mr. Kumar amply indicates.

### Lonely struggle?

Unlike Ms. Bibi, Mr. Kumar is unlikely to have the support of West-

ern governments and the Vatican. Any action by Hindu organisations in India or abroad on his behalf will only be misrepresented in Pakistan's officially directed media as part of the 'ongoing conspiracies' against the country that are used as an excuse to maintain Pakistan's semi-authoritarian power structure.

Ms. Bibi was eventually smuggled out of Pakistan. Those who fought for her freedom for over eight years rejoiced in a way usually reserved for a member of one's own family. We all hope that she may know peace and happiness for her remaining life abroad. But we must not forget that, without major reform in its legal and political environment, Pakistan continues to have one of the worst track records in protecting its religious minorities.

Christians, Hindus, and Ahmadi Muslims continue to face persecution and the country's blasphemy laws, under which Ms. Bibi was targeted, enable that repression. Blasphemy charges are filed routinely by Islamist extremists for political gain, by neighbours for revenge over a slight, and sometimes even by corrupt landlords for advantage in property disputes.

Pakistan's blasphemy laws, which date back to the military dictatorship of General Zia-ul-Haq, have only encouraged the unleashing of extremist religious frenzy. According to an Amnesty International report, the mere accusation of blasphemy is tantamount to punishment. Several cases illustrate that point.

Junaid Hafeez, a visiting lecturer of English at Bahauddin Zakaria

University in Multan, has been in prison for the last six years after being accused of blasphemy by Islamist student activists. He was charged because he invited a speaker to a seminar who had allegedly "penned blasphemous passages in her book".

His lawyer dropped him as a client after being mobbed by over 200 fellow lawyers; when human rights defender Rashid Rehman took up his case, he was shot dead in his office. The killer has never been apprehended and judges do not want to hear the case, which has been transferred from one court since 2013.

For Pakistan's religious minorities to feel safe, Pakistan's blasphemy laws must be tackled, amended or removed as a crucial first step. After that, or alongside, must begin the decades-long process of removing the seed of hatred sowed soon after the death of Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah. That would involve an effort of mammoth proportions starting with the defanging of terrorist groups, changing school curriculum, and banning hate speech in all public venues. Political and religious leaders as well as the mass media must become a partner in confronting hate. So far, it seems that they would rather benefit from spreading the poison of communal hatred than confronting it.

Farahnaz Ispahani, a former member of Pakistan's Parliament, is author of 'Purifying The Land of the Pure: Pakistan's Religious Minorities'. She is Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC and Senior Fellow of the Religious Freedom Institute

## 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.

### Slow growth

With the World Bank forecasting slow global growth, it is necessary for the government to take proactive economic measures ("PM to head committee in economic growth," June 6). With the balance sheets of corporates and banks deteriorating, there is concern about the fiscal policies that are being pursued by the government. Apart from this, data transparency is found wanting, as seen in the delay in releasing figures on unemployment. There should be a proper briefing on the deliberations of these committees so that citizens

can distinguish between rhetoric and reality.  
V. SUBRAMANIAN,  
Chennai

After suggesting that all is well through his pakoda example and refusing to talk about unemployment in his election campaign, the Prime Minister has now constituted a Cabinet committee to look into the problem. Problems like these cannot be solved overnight. If sincere efforts are taken now, it may yield results after three or four years, perhaps to enhance confidence in the campaign for the next general election.

A.G. RAJMOHAN,  
Anantapur

### Language problems

The main argument of those advocating Hindi is that it would help in national integration ("Hindi or English, comparing apples and oranges", June 6). India is already a well integrated country. In fact, it is the fear of imposition of Hindi by the Central government that is seen as discriminatory and that is causing disquiet in non-Hindi speaking regions. Our language policy's primary objective of replacing English with Hindi will be counterproductive in a globalised world. It would be in the larger national interest if English is adopted as a compulsory second language in all

schools and colleges. Hindi may be offered as an optional subject for students who wish to learn a third language.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,  
Hyderabad

In 1965, as a young boy I had participated in the anti-Hindi agitation only to realise years later the mistake of refusing to learn Hindi. I got a job in a public sector undertaking in Bombay and in a batch of 35 officers, only four of us from Tamil Nadu could not understand Hindi. This was a great handicap. Students of Tamil Nadu should be provided an opportunity to learn Hindi as they only stand to benefit from

learning the language.

V.J. SINGH,  
Tirunelveli

### Breathing clean air

This year's theme for World Environment Day, 'Beat air pollution', must be taken seriously by India ("Make ecological problems a political issue: Rahul," June 6). It would be irresponsible to completely put the onus on the

government to tackle this problem. Citizens must adopt eco-friendly lifestyles and reduce conspicuous consumption. Carpooling, using bicycles and retaining a certain percentage of green cover within their houses are some measures that citizens can take.

Y. MEENA,  
Hyderabad

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

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:** The report headlined "Studying Olive Ridley's" (some editions, June 6, 2019) had erroneously referred to them as *vulnerable* marine turtles. They should have been described as *endangered*.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-2841297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturba Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

# Is this the end of the road for the Congress party?

PARLEY

It needs an organisational reboot and a firm ideology to differentiate itself from other parties

*The BJP's massive victory in the Lok Sabha election has thrown the Congress into disarray. With Rahul Gandhi insisting that he does not want to continue as the president of the party, Mridula Mukherjee and Rahul Verma talk about the Congress's ideology and what could keep it afloat today. Edited excerpts of a conversation moderated by Varghese K. George:*

**Is the Congress history?**

**Mridula Mukherjee:** No, the Congress has a long history but it is not history. I think it has a future. I think we need the Congress more than the Congress needs us at this crucial juncture, to provide ideological and organisational leadership to the forces that are now tasked with the job of defending the basic idea of India, which is in the Constitution. I don't think we can afford to let the Congress become history.

**Rahul, does the Congress have an ideology and is it relevant?**

**Rahul Verma:** I think that's the biggest challenge the Congress is facing. It does not have a clear ideological vision. Whenever you question them on what their ideological vision is, Congress leaders say they are focusing on welfare policies and that the party is going to lift people out of poverty. This cannot be an ideological vision because no political party is going to take an opposing stand on some of these issues. On the question of social justice and secularism, the Congress fails to distinguish itself from many of the State-level parties. Say, in U.P., how is the Congress different on the issue of social justice from the BSP? Or the RJD in Bihar?

**So, what do you think could be a distinguishing ideological character for the Congress, particularly in a society polarised on religious lines?**

**RV:** See, on many questions related to social justice, the Congress has not been clear from the beginning. Even the granting of SC/ST reservation happened under historical compromise. The Congress did

nothing on OBC reservation for a long time. The Kaka Kalelkar Commission was formed, submitted reports in 1955, nothing happened till Indira Gandhi came to the scene, Emergency happened. The Mandal Commission came to the fore. So, the Congress can hang on to issues of social justice and secularism, but because it does not have a clear line on these questions it fails to distinguish itself from other parties.

**On the question of social justice, particularly on accommodating the rights of lower caste movements, the Congress has been very slow, if at all responsive. Do you think the Congress's dominance by upper caste groups has led to the party losing its grip on rural India, particularly in places where lower caste politics became an appealing tool of mobilisation?**

**MM:** In the struggle for freedom, which is the bedrock of the Congress and I don't think we can understand it even today without that background, this is not true. Mahatma Gandhi, from the time he took charge of the Congress, made the most important issue of untouchability a basic plank of the Congress. Then through the 1920s and '30s, not only did we have movements such as the Vaikom Satyagraha and the Guruvayur Satyagraha, but also many other movements for social reform. Gandhiji himself devoted almost two years of his life almost exclusively to the issue of caste and the struggle against caste oppression. He went on a tour, which lasted almost a year, and visited the most remote, rural parts of India. He travelled by train, by foot, and sat in village compounds and argued with village pandits and the upper castes. The point I am trying to make is, it's not true that the Congress leadership has not grappled with the issue of social justice. Obviously Gandhi's way and the Congress's way was different from Ambedkar's way, but that happens very often. A party which is appealing to the whole electorate cannot take a plank of either a leader of a group or a party which by necessity appeals



only to one section of the electorate.

**That's a fair point. However, a logical question that follows from that is regardless of what Gandhi may have done and what Nehru may have believed, the fact is that power under Congress regimes was invariably in the hands of upper caste people.**

**MM:** In various parts of the country, the middle caste movements, non-Brahmin movements merged with the Congress from the late 1930s and threw up many leaders.

**But has the party been willing to share power adequately with upper castes and Dalits since 1947?**

**MM:** I think the trouble is that we are looking at things from today's lens and essentially a lens that started in the 1980s and '90s. The earlier perspective was not so much a question of sharing power at individual levels. It was not a question of representation, it was more a question of programmes and policies. And there, of course, was the Congress perspective, the Nehru perspective, with the focus on economic development and poverty alleviation. Now, you can argue that it was not right or wrong but that does not mean that there was no perspective.

**Rahul, Mridula is saying you should judge a political party by the programmes and policies it advocates. Do you**

**Secularism cannot be an ideological vision out of compulsion or convenience. There must be some sort of conviction that secularism is the only way to go about believing in the idea of India or whatever the Congress's vision of India is.**

**think that will be a good enough case to get backward caste and Dalit votes in India?**

**RV:** I don't know whether policies and programmes can bring votes for the Congress. I partially agree with the argument that one should not judge a political dispensation just by looking at whether it managed to provide representation to groups or not. But you cannot deny the fact that the making of the Indian Constitution at its very heart had group representation, and even the Congress party was not advocating individual rights during the making of the Constitution. Representational blockage of certain groups became the starting point of the rise of socialist parties, which in some cases became the backward caste parties in the '60s and '70s. Even on the question of economic policies and programmes, what I think is that the Nehruvian era was in some ways contested. We equate it with the idea of India but even in those times, in the '50s and '60s, the Nehruvian idea was contested from the right as well as from the left. And what we see is that once you stop giving representation to

groups, the left and the right get an opportunity to mobilise groups. So, in the '30s and '40s, there was the socialist left. Once Indira Gandhi came to power, she started moving the Congress towards the left of centre, which opened the space for right-wing parties to coalesce there, and also right-wing groups within the Congress started moving out of the Congress. You would remember that the interim Prime Minister Gulzarilal Nanda was also one of the founding members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. So, the point I'm trying to make is, if the model you are building is based on group representation and you fail to provide that in the policies or within the party organisation or in the government, then this is bound to happen.

**What should the Congress do to get renewed ideological identity and focus?**

**MM:** I still believe that secularism is at the core of the Congress's ideology but I, of course, see that there are many deviations from it and I would argue that here you have to get back on firmer ground. One should not get frightened by accusations of appeasement. One must come out very clearly against communalism of all kinds, whether Sikh or Christian or Muslim or Hindu. And one's secularism has to be clearly asserted. You can define it in various ways, you can talk about social harmony, you can talk about love and peace, but secularism has to be at the core.

**RV:** One needs to understand what the ideological space of Indian politics looks like today. The BJP now has become the dominant party. It occupies the space from the centre-right to the extreme right. The Congress cannot be playing a little bit here and a little bit there. It has to be very clear that if it is about the question of inclusivity, diversity and secularism, it needs to have a very clear position on that. Secularism cannot be an ideological vision out of compulsion, out of convenience. There must be some sort of conviction that secularism is the only way to go about believing in the idea of India or whatever the Congress's vision of India is.

Second, even on the question of social justice, how do you want to accommodate various groups into the body politic? This is a challenge

even the BJP is going to face sooner or later. Once you become an umbrella party, if you fail to give representation to people who are voting for you, they are going to find new political entrepreneurs who will be mobilising on the issue of giving exclusive representation.

**Do you think there is a Congress without the Gandhis?**

**MM:** In the short run, no, because you cannot displace established political leadership. And this is true for all political parties. No party undergoes this kind of a complete overhaul. There is a certain leadership in place. It always takes time for an alternative leadership to emerge. So, I think going away from Rahul Gandhi's leadership would not be wise at all today; it would be suicidal for the Congress. They should not come under pressure, they should look at the interests of the party and not what others are talking. Every party in India virtually has dynasty now at its core, but somehow it's pure for them and impure for the Congress.

**RV:** The Congress is in real trouble. The problems are intertwined in a way which makes it hard to see. The party has an ideological crisis. It does not have an organisation in most parts of the country. If you look at the bigger States, it has not been in power for 30-odd years and the States are also facing leadership challenges. All of this is tied to the idea that they have a dynasty sitting at the national level and in many States. Now, you cannot have a new ideological vision without a new leadership and you cannot have troops on the ground who can mobilise and change a party structure from the bottom to the top without an ideological vision that they are convinced about. So, in a way, I don't know what the solution is. But the problems are intertwined in a way that there are two ways of going about it. Dismantle the whole structure and think afresh, or wait for some time and think that there will be some miracle that will change all of these three or four variables. I agree with this argument that perhaps the Gandhi family has the authority within the Congress party to get it to overcome the crisis of ideological vision, but can the dynasty or the first family think of a new ideological vision for India?



**Mridula Mukherjee** is a historian and former director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library



**Rahul Verma** is a political scientist and co-author of 'Ideology and Identity: The Changing Party Systems of India'



Scan the QR code to listen to the full audio online

## SINGLE FILE

### A new Bengal?

We ought to preserve the old Bengal that was inclusive and did not tell people what to wear or eat

KUNAL RAY



turned to is deeply polarised.

Political consciousness was part of our upbringing. Animated political discussions were the norm at home. I saw my father regularly disagree with my grandfather. They voted for different parties. My grandfather would taunt my father before going to vote. These discussions were issue- and ideology-based. The criticism was primarily based upon the performance of a candidate or the party she represented. Religion never featured in these discussions. We didn't even know that religion could be an election issue, a site for contestation of the kind we saw in this election.

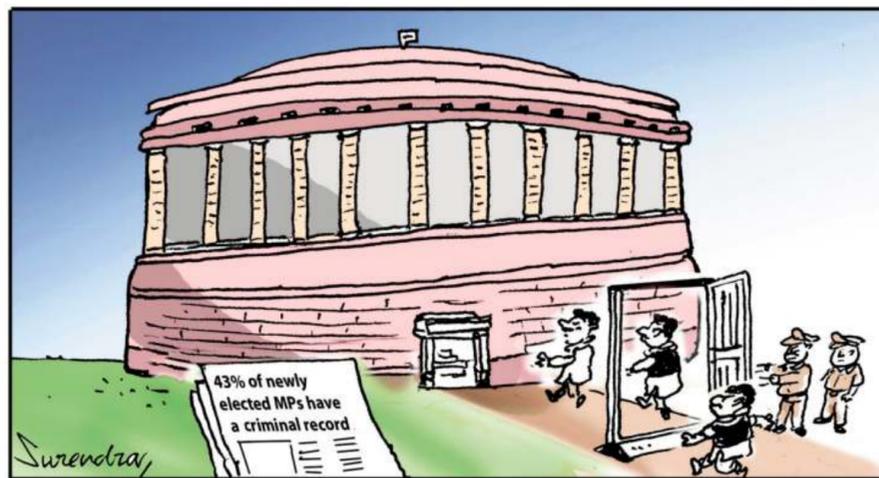
I don't want to get into evocations of the 'intellectual, progressive Bengali'. Having grown up here and then lived away, I have come to realise that a certain kind of conservatism was always part of the social fabric of the State. Some of the literature, music, films and art of West Bengal helped counter that conservatism and aided in the creation of a distinct cultural identity.

The closest that Bengal got to experiencing religious fervour was during the Durga Puja festivities. More than religiosity, it was a social occasion for friends and families to meet. Muslim friends and neighbours did not stay away from the celebrations either. Categories such as 'them' and 'us' didn't exist. Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti didn't feature in the religious calendar of the State until a few years ago.

Today, I see 'them' and 'us' as the new narrative of the State. From tea shops to bazaars to metro stations, everybody seems to be talking about how a certain community is being appeased by the current political dispensation in the State, succumbing to vote-bank politics. The majority feel threatened because their wishes have been ignored. Their religious identity is apparently endangered.

Somebody recently took to social media to complain that two recently elected women parliamentarians posing in front of Parliament wearing western outfits were not dressed appropriately, that their behaviour was not fitting of Bengalis. The Bengal that I knew and grew up in was inclusive and did not tell people what to wear or eat or how to behave in public. It is that Bengal we ought to restore and preserve.

The writer teaches literary and cultural studies at FLAME University, Pune



## NOTEBOOK

### Turning the tables: when respondents ask reporters questions

A dilemma journalists grapple with during election time

SOBHANA K. NAIR

As reporters sometimes we take for granted our licence to probe the political views of strangers. We demand to know their castes as well as their voting preferences.

I have forgotten the number of times I pushed gates, sat cross-legged on verandahs, interrupted tea sessions and caught hold of people while they were working in the fields in the run-up to the recent election. I cajoled them into conversation and most of them obliged.

But what happens when an interviewee turns the tables on you and asks, "Who did you vote for? Which side are you on? What ideology do you subscribe to? Who according to you is the right candidate this election?"

I was speechless when an insistent group in a village near Ajmer asked me these questions while pointing at my left index

finger which was freshly marked with indelible ink.

Next came nervous laughter. I tried to evade the question using humour. Then I replied that I was a mere observer who was sent to record their reactions; that I had no views of my own. The group would not buy any of it. They were adamant. In the political war that was playing out across the country, they wanted to know which side I was on.

I then tried giving vague replies about the race in the Lok Sabha constituency that I voted in. Not satisfied with my response, a young man in the group decided for himself my ideology and my political inclination. With the spread of fake news on WhatsApp and the derisive use of the term 'left liberals' while referring to the media, I was an easy target. "If you can ask us, why can't we ask you?" he demanded. A fair request, after all.

I deflected the question by asking them about the board game they were playing. The cement floor had a frame drawn on it with chalk, and rounded grey pebbles. The game was called *char-maar* or *naukante*, they explained. I still don't know anything about it did get me off the hook.

Of course, not everyone is always so persistent. On the same trip, I sought out a beautiful Rajasthani woman dressed in a parrot-coloured dupatta, silver bangles, armlets, a necklace and a nose ring. We did not speak each other's language, yet we managed to converse. In a thick Rajasthani dialect she asked, "You tell me, who should I vote for?" I redirected the conversation to the everyday rigours of life.

Many respondents ask this question indirectly but politely to learn about a journalist's views.

From the first day in the

newsroom, we reporters are told that we are not the story. We are told that we have to try to fade into the background and imagine that we are wearing Harry Potter's invisibility cloak while our ears do most of the work. We must probe a little and provoke a little in order to ensure that the conversation goes on. We are told to keep a tight lid on our own opinions and not let the 'confirmation bias' creep in. We are told to honestly reflect what we hear.

I have started questioning this age-old wisdom though, especially with Twitter being ablaze with opinions and forcing reporters to pick a side.

Why should journalists not be entitled to their own views? As a respected journalist recently said, in divisive times you can't be neutral; you have to be objective.

I am still looking for answers.

## FROM THE HINDU ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 7, 1969

### Stowaway's freezing ordeal

Doctors and aircraft technicians to-day [June 6] puzzled over the apparently impossible feat of a young Cuban who survived the freezing ordeal of an 8-hour flight to Spain squeezed in the undercarriage of a DC-8 jetliner. The man, an 18-year-old welder A. Socarras, hid in the wheel compartment before the aircraft left Havana, and eight hours later tumbled unconscious and half-frozen onto the runway of Madrid's Barajas airport. He appears to have survived virtually unscathed after flying 5,600 miles at heights of up to 29,000 feet in an unpressurised and unheated compartment, with temperatures dropping below minus 40°C. One medical theory to-day was that Socarras spent the entire flight in a state of frozen hibernation similar to that induced in patients prior to complicated heart operations or transplants. This state is produced in operating theatres at minus 28°C. The heart stops, leaving the patient frozen in suspended animation during the operation.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 7, 1919.

### Prohibition Movement

The Lord Bishop of Madras yesterday [in Coonoor on June 5] presided at the annual conference of Missionaries in connection with the South Indian Missionary Association at Stanes School. The Rev. J. M. Baker read the report of the last year's work. The following resolution was adopted: Believing that the consumption of alcohol in India is on the increase and is causing injury to the Indian people; and believing that in spite of all regulations the injury is sure to increase unless there is prohibition; and sympathising with the aspirations of Hindu and Mahomedan reformers to make all India dry, the Coonoor Conference of the S.I.M.A. records its hearty approval of this association uniting with other bodies throughout the land in the effort to make India a prohibition country in the fullest sense of that term, and that as a step towards that ultimate goal the Government should be requested to give a wide extension in the principle of local option.

## CONCEPTUAL

### Cultural learning

SOCIOLOGY

This refers to how people living in a society learn various things from others around them and further spread such knowledge to more people. Children, for instance, learn new things by socialising with other children they meet as well as with adults around them. So the kind of culture into which they are born influences the behaviour of people right from their childhood. Many believe that human beings and other organisms may be naturally wired to engage in cultural learning as it helps them to better adapt to the environment around them, thus improving their chances of survival.

## MORE ON THE WEB

Jungle Jewels: promoting eco-friendly jewellery

<http://bit.ly/Ecofriendlyjewels>

FROM PAGE ONE

## Rajnath inducted into Cabinet panel

Mr. Paswan is the only ally to have been included in the Cabinet Committee on parliamentary affairs along with Mr. Shah, Social Justice Minister Thawarchand Gehlot, Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar, Ms. Sitharaman, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Environment Minister Prakash Java-

dekar, and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi. The all-important Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs was also reconstituted with Prime Minister Modi at the helm, along with Mr. Shah, Mr. Rajnath Singh, Ms. Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and others.

## RBI cuts interest rate by 25 bps

RBI targets 4% CPI inflation over the medium term.

The governor said banks transmitted only 21 basis points of the cumulative 50 basis points rate cut (in February and April).

"Our expectation is that as we go forward, there will be higher and faster transmission," he said, adding the impact of the same will be seen in consumer and two-wheeler loans.

While yield on the 10-year benchmark government bond dropped 9 bps to close at 6.93%, equity indices settled in the negative territory.

### Digital transactions

The banking regulator also took steps to boost digital transactions as it decided to waive off the charges for fund transfer by Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) – which is meant for large-value instantaneous fund transfers and the Na-

tional Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) System for other fund transfers.

In addition, a committee has also been formed to review the charges in transactions in automated teller machines. The rate cut could lead to reduced EMIs on housing, vehicle and personal loans if banks decide to pass on the benefit.

Economists expect another rate cut in the August policy review to boost growth as inflation risks are likely to remain muted on the back of a normal monsoon. "Although the RBI revised its growth forecast lower for FY20, there could be further downside risks to their H1 growth estimates, warranting more rate cuts this year," said Abheek Barua, Chief Economist, HDFC Bank. "We believe that another rate cut could be in the offing in August, assuming that inflation risks remain muted," he added.

## Merger of 12 Cong. MLAs with TRS endorsed

Legislature Secretary V. Narasimha Charyulu issued a bulletin stating that the Speaker had taken note that the 12 Congress MLAs were deemed to have been merged with the TRSLP as per Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

The bulletin said the Congress MLAs addressed a letter to Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy that they constituted two-thirds of total members of Congress Legislature Party and that they be treated as members of TRSLP. The leader of TRSLP, Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan, had communicated to the Speaker that the TRS had conceded their request and sought necessary action.

The MLAs earlier met TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao at Pragati Bhavan, apparently to seek his consent for the merger. Later, they went to the residence of the Speaker and submitted a memorandum.

The MLAs received a shot

in the arm as Tandur MLA P. Rohith Reddy joined them, taking their number to 12. Till the Lok Sabha election, their strength was 11 out of 19, and they were waiting for two more MLAs to meet the mandatory norm of the two-thirds mark for merger to escape disqualification under the anti-defection law.

The 11 MLAs include Haripriya Naik, Athram Sakku, Rega Kantha Rao, Sabita Indra Reddy, Kandala Upenreddy, D. Sudheer Reddy, Chirumarti Lingaiah, Jajula Surender, B. Harshvardhan Reddy, Vanama Venkateshwar Rao and Gandra Venkataramana Reddy.

The number required for the two-thirds strength came down to 12 against the original 13, with TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy resigning from Huzurnagar after he was elected as MP from Nalgonda. His resignation was accepted and the Assembly Secretary notified the vacancy.

## Trinamool set to hire poll strategist Prashant Kishor

Mamata's nephew Abhishek coordinates two-hour meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Ending prolonged speculation, the Trinamool Congress on Thursday appeared set to hire political and electoral strategist Prashant Kishor after the 42-year-old met Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for almost two hours at the State Secretariat. Ms. Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, a Lok Sabha MP, also attended the meeting.

A Trinamool official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Kishor and the party had had exploratory talks three years ago, but both sides could not agree on many issues then.

On Thursday, however, the talks proceeded smoothly and Mr. Kishor is expected to start working for the Trinamool in a few weeks, the party leader said. "What we have heard is Didi [Ms. Ba-



Prashant Kishor

nerjee) wanted Mr. Kishor to work with us. Mr. Kishor requested for a month's time," the leader said.

In the lead-up to Mr. Kishor's meeting, the Trinamool kept a tight lid on the developments with not even the journalists stationed at the State Secretariat aware of the visit. It was only hours after Mr. Kishor had left that the mediapersons got to know about the meeting. The meeting with Mr.

## Modi-Khan meeting unlikely in Bishkek

Both are scheduled to travel to the Kyrgyz Republic for the SCO summit on June 13 and 14

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
NEW DELHI

There is no confirmation of a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistan counterpart, Imran Khan, on the sidelines of the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

The clarification comes just a day before Mr. Modi begins his first round of foreign trips with stops in the Maldives and Sri Lanka where sports diplomacy and counter-terror will be on the agenda.

"To the best of my knowledge, I am not aware of any bilateral meeting being set up or organised, between PM Modi and Prime Minister

Imran Khan at Bishkek," Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said.

Both the leaders are scheduled to travel to Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, for the SCO summit of June 13 and 14.

### Pulwama and after

There has been a series of developments that indicate continuing efforts for de-escalation of the tension that erupted after the terror attack at Pulwama and the Balakot counter-terror strike.

Despite the lack of confirmation on a meeting with Pakistan, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said India would emphasise the importance of the "Neighbourhood first" policy as Mr. Modi would travel to the Maldives and Sri



PM Narendra Modi will visit Male on Saturday.

Lanka during June 8 and 9.

During his Male visit, Mr. Modi will hold a consultation with Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohammed Solih, former President Mohammed Nasheed and others. India expects agreements on customs, white

shipping and training of civil service to be sealed during the visit, Mr. Gokhale said.

The diplomat highlighted the importance of sports as an element in the visit. He said that a ferry service between Kochi and the Maldives is under consideration.

### Cricket stadium project

"President Solih had expressed interest in training for the Maldivian cricketing team. Among his requests under active consideration are a cricket stadium which we expect to build under a Line of Credit that will be given, and training. A team from the BCCI has visited the Maldives for training of the Maldivian cricket team," said Mr. Gokhale, highlighting

the importance of development and cultural ties.

India is expected to give cricketing assistance to the Maldives as it did for Afghanistan some years ago.

The Foreign Secretary announced that Mr. Modi would fly to Colombo, where he will be the first foreign head of government to visit since the Easter bombings.

Mr. Gokhale said that India was aware of alleged activities of the terror group IS in South Asia and it would help when governments request for support. "Naturally the demand and the kind of cooperation they desire has to come from them and on receipt of this request, our government will be happy to cooperate," he said.



Navjot Singh Sidhu

## Sidhu loses key portfolio in Cabinet rejig

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Fissures in the Congress in Punjab deepened on Thursday with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh changing Navjot Singh Sidhu's portfolio within hours of the cricketer-turned-politician snubbing him by skipping a Cabinet meeting.

The fast-paced developments came amid simmering tensions between Capt. Singh and Mr. Sidhu which was triggered by the Chief Minister's allegations that the Minister's "inept handling" of the crucial Local Government Department had resulted in the Congress's "poor performance" in urban areas in the Lok Sabha election.

Asserting that he cannot be taken for granted, Mr. Sidhu told presspersons that his department "is being singled out publicly", and said urban areas had played a pivotal role in the party's victory.

Mr. Sidhu was divested of the Local Government and Tourism and Cultural Affairs departments and given the Power and New and Renewable Energy Sources portfolio in the Cabinet rejig, which the Chief Minister said would re-energise his team and further streamline the government. Barring four Ministers, there were some changes in the portfolios of all the others, according to an official statement.

## Rajnath reviews Ministry's activities

Takes a look at purchases, budget

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday reviewed the activities of the Ministry with the three service chiefs, Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra and other senior officials.

"The Defence Minister was briefed regarding defence cooperation activities with Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs). He was also briefed about planning activities of the armed forces, including the tri-services agencies – Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and Armed Forces Special Forces Division, which were approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security in 2019," the Ministry said in a statement.



Rajnath Singh

Mr. Singh was briefed about the Defence Procurement Procedures (DPP), budget utilisation, major procurements and the challenges.

He also reviewed the policy matters pertaining to defence diplomacy, including bilateral and multilateral exercises, capacity building, training and material assistance to FFCs.

## BJP won votes of welfare scheme beneficiaries: Puri

'They have 22 crore beneficiaries; we got 22 crore votes'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Launching the annual sanitation survey's first-ever quarterly ranking exercise for cities and towns, Swachh Survekshan League 2020, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister of State (independent charge) Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday said the fact that beneficiaries of government schemes vote for the party in power cannot be discounted.

Referring to the Ministry's Swachh Bharat Mission and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, which respectively provide for the construction of toilets and homes, as well as the Ujjwala scheme that enables households to access cooking gas cylinders, Mr. Puri said there were a total of 22 crore beneficiaries for



Hardeep Singh Puri

the various schemes that the last government had implemented.

"I used to say this even six months before the elections... our schemes have 22 crore beneficiaries. We got 22 crore votes this election," said Mr. Puri. "I am not trying to establish a correlation between the beneficiaries of

schemes and the number of votes, but anyone who suggests to me that there is no correlation, is also wrong," asserted the Minister.

"People vote in different ways... if one family gets a gas cylinder, or toilet or house, then maybe three people will vote, not everyone. You can't at the same time discount that those who are beneficiaries will not vote."

Speaking about the quarterly rankings, which would account for 25% of the final grade for cities in next year's ranking, Mr. Puri said this time the cleanliness assessments would happen throughout the year and feed into the annual survey. This time, the ranking would also focus on parameters of waste water treatment and faecal sludge management.

## Cong. seeks report on Rajasthan rout

Amid factional fighting, party tells State leaders to maintain discipline

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday made public a directive that the party has sent to its Rajasthan unit, asking for a report on the 2019 Lok Sabha election washout.

The party's Rajasthan in-charge, Avinash Pandey, appealed to the State-level leaders not to break party discipline and issue statements that allowed the BJP to attack the Congress government in the State.

### Booth-wise details

Mr. Pandey sent a letter to Rajasthan Congress chief Sachin Pilot asking for a report on the losses.



Sachin Pilot

"Please take the trouble of finding out details of votes polled in every booth of every Lok Sabha seat and also enlist the reasons why Con-

gress candidates lost in every Assembly segment," Mr. Pandey's letter mentioned and asked the report to be sent by June 11.

He issued an appeal saying that the party leaders in the State should not behave in a way that conveyed that "they are working on personal agenda" above party interests.

### Twin camps

The letter and the appeal by the Congress's Rajasthan in-charge come in the middle of an ugly factional fight between supporters of Rajasthan Pradesh Congress chief Sachin Pilot and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

On Wednesday, Congress MLA Pritivi Raj Meena asked Mr. Gehlot to be replaced by Sachin Pilot as the Chief Minister.

This came just two days after Mr. Gehlot asked Mr. Pilot to shoulder responsibility for the party's loss in the prestigious Jodhpur Lok Sabha constituency from where his son, Vaibhav, was defeated.

The Congress in Rajasthan has been in a churn after Congress president Rahul Gandhi on May 25 reportedly told the Congress Working Committee that Mr. Gehlot put "personal interests above party" and focussed only on his son's seat.

## 'People in Bengal see BJP as a rescuer'

Congress leader says they feel only the saffron party can resist Trinamool

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

The dramatic rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in West Bengal is not so much about communal politics as it is about providing an alternative political narrative to the ruling Trinamool, said the former West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Mr. Chowdhury, who won the Murshidabad Lok Sabha seat for the fifth consecutive term, appealed to party president Rahul Gandhi not to relinquish his post to "prevent the Congress from withering away".

"In West Bengal, unlike other north Indian States, it is not the rise of Hindutva or the growth of purely communal politics. On the contrary, in West Bengal, common people, especially those who are discriminated, tortured, persecuted are now under the impression that the BJP is the only party who can resist the tyranny of



ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY, MP and former West Bengal Congress chief

the Trinamool regime," he said in an interview with *The Hindu*.

### Major switch

"The other Opposition parties, the CPI(M) and the Congress, don't have the kind of capacity, resources or political leadership to resist the Trinamool's atrocities. That is why people switched over to the BJP. Even Communist workers who are diametrically opposite to the BJP ideologically have supported them," Mr. Chowdhury said.

"I don't deny that there is a communal tinge but the

Ram, the Congress leader said Bengal would increasingly witness "competitive communalism".

"Mamata Banerjee [West Bengal Chief Minister] is going all out to retain her Muslim vote bank and projecting herself as a messiah, as if she is the only one who can protect them from the BJP and that is why she got enraged at the slogan. It's a ploy to send a message. The BJP too is taking advantage of the situation and trying to extract political mileage as much as possible," he said.

Once a strong votary of the Congress-Left tie-up in Bengal, Mr. Chowdhury denied that Mr. Gandhi's decision to contest from Left-ruled Kerala led to the collapse of the Congress-Left pact. "By then [Mr. Gandhi's announcement from Wayanad], everything had collapsed... Going forward, there is no option for the Congress and the Left and they have to come together," he said.

## No more victory rallies, says Mamata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday directed the police not to allow any victory rallies in the State.

Ms. Banerjee, who visited Nimta in North 24 Parganas during the day, met family members of Trinamool leader Nirmal Kundu who was shot dead by miscreants on Tuesday.

"Several days have passed after the results. I have asked police not to allow any more victory rallies. We have won more seats and we should be doing more rallies, but they [BJP] are indulging in violence in the name of victory rallies," she said.

Not a single BJP supporter had been killed, but Trinamool supporters were being targeted at certain places, Ms. Banerjee said and directed the Criminal Investigation Department to take over the case.

IN BRIEF



**SAD team meets Amit Shah on Blue Star**

**NEW DELHI**  
A Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) delegation met Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday and demanded immediate handing over of the precious treasure of the Sikhs allegedly seized by the Army during the 1984 Operation Blue Star. The delegation led by Sukhbir Singh Badal, former Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab, demanded regular pension to those who quit the armed forces after they intervened to flush out terrorists from the Golden Temple.

**BJP asserts Bengali actor is Indian national**

**KOLKATA**  
A day after Bengali actor Anju Ghosh joined the BJP, the party State unit said she was an Indian national. A section of people including Kolkata Mayor Firdah Hakim had alleged that Ms. Ghosh was a Bangladeshi national. "Someone who is an Indian by birth, how can she be a Bangladeshi national," Joyprakash Majumdar, vice-president of the State unit, asked. He produced copies of her birth certificate, passport and so on.

**Congress seeks bailout package for MTNL**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Congress on Thursday sought a bailout package for the MTNL as the future of its 45,000 employees are at stake. At a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said, "The MTNL could lose its licence to offer mobile services as the government is yet to pay ₹11,000 crore to renew its licence." While private companies are launching 5G, the government is blocking the allocation of 4G spectrum to state-owned BSNL and MTNL, the Congress said.

# South Asia is top priority: Jaishankar

Minister speaks of the need for more coordination between External Affairs and economic Ministries

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Building connectivity in the South Asian region and coordinating economic issues will be top priorities of the External Affairs Ministry, new Minister S. Jaishankar said here on Thursday.

Mr. Jaishankar, who leaves for Bhutan, his first destination abroad a week after taking office, indicated that the government had chosen to invite leaders of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) rather than leaders of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) because there was a higher likelihood of making progress with BIMSTEC, as it did not include Pakistan.

"SAARC has certain problems which are known to all. Even if you put the terrorism issue aside, there are trade and connectivity issues... BIMSTEC leaders were invited for the swearing-in ceremony because we see today an energy and a possibility in BIMSTEC and a mindset which fits in with that very optimistic vision of economic cooperation that



**Setting the agenda:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at a meeting in New Delhi on Thursday. •SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

we want," Mr. Jaishankar told an audience of businessmen organised by the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry), think tank Ananta and Swiss consultancy Smadja and Smadja, in his first public comments as Minister.

He spoke on need for more coordination between the External Affairs and economic Ministries.

He said he had spent a substantial part of his first week in office dealing more with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Commerce Minister Piyush

Goyal. The comments reflect the economic challenges the government faces immediately, given the U.S. decision to withdraw India's 'GSP' preferential trade status, and the emerging costs of replacing Iranian oil after sanctions.

Mr. Jaishankar will receive U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on June 25 and 26, where many of the trade issues, including data localisation and Washington's push to have Chinese telecom major Huawei banned by friendly countries, are likely to be raised.

## 'It was a surprise call'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

S. Jaishankar, who demitted office as Foreign Secretary last year and joined Tata Sons as its president for global corporate affairs, said on Thursday that he did not expect his appointment as External Affairs Minister.

He said that until a few days ago, he was part of the executive committee organising the very event he was

addressing, and had wondered which Minister they would invite.

"I must confess that I never dreamt that I would be the Minister in question," he said, drawing laughter from the audience.

He credited his predecessor, Sushma Swaraj, for helping "Indians in trouble worldwide", and declared that he would follow in her footsteps.

In a veiled reference to the Huawei issue, Mr. Jaishankar said it showed that the line between economics and politics was "vanishing".

"When a country invokes tariffs on national security basis, the line is pretty much gone," he said adding India had a "strong tradition of independence" which it would adhere to.

**Bhutan visit**

The Ministry announced on Thursday that Mr. Jaishankar would visit Thimphu on June 7 and 8 to meet with the King of Bhutan, Prime Minister

Lotay Tshering, and Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji.

Hinting at a possible visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the near future to Bhutan, the Ministry, in a statement, said the two sides would discuss "upcoming high-level exchanges, economic development and hydro-power cooperation".

Mr. Jaishankar emphasised the need for more regional exchanges, saying India needed to "incentivise cooperation in the neighbourhood" by being "generous" to its smaller neighbours.

# BJP to launch membership drive

PM asks State units not to sit on their laurels

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

The BJP, fresh from its victory in the Lok Sabha election, is embarking on a fresh membership drive in the coming months, with its State units being told to up their game.

The party undertook a similar campaign after the 2014 election, and claimed to have enrolled 11 crore

members through an aggressive drive then. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has instructed all State units not to sit on their laurels and get cracking on not just the membership drive but also the observation of the death anniversary (June 23) of Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who died in custody in Srinagar, in a big way. The day has been labelled *Balidaan Divas* (Day of Sacrifice) by the BJP.

The Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh State units of the party may see or-



Amit Shah

ganisational polls as their presidents, Nityanand Rai, Rao Saheb Danve and Mahendranath Pandey, respectively, have been appointed

Ministers. There is also a question mark on whether Home Minister Amit Shah will be replaced as party chief after his entry into the government.

Maharashtra will go to the polls later this year, which may be a reason to postpone the organisational elections there. Sources in the party remained tight-lipped on the prospects of organisational polls at the national level. Mr. Shah's term, which has been extended in view of the Lok Sabha election, expires in January.

# NIA files chargesheet in J&K case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) said on Thursday that it was investigating the role of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Riyaz Naikoo in the theft of seven AK-47 rifles from the house of a former PDP legislator in Srinagar last year, as it filed a chargesheet against two other accused in a Jammu court on Thursday.

Naikoo is one of the most wanted terrorists in the Kashmir Valley and barring him, all the senior comman-

ders of Hizbul and other terrorist outfits have been killed. He is the only surviving militant from Burhan Wani's camp. Wani was killed in an encounter with security forces in 2016.

On September 28, the AK rifles and one pistol along with ammunition were stolen from the official residence of Aijaz Ahmad Mir.

The case was initially registered by J&K Police against Adil Bashir Sheikh, who was deployed as a Special Police Officer at the former MLA's residence.

The case was subsequently handed over to NIA.

NIA arrested one accused, Rafique Ahmad Bhat on December 10.

"It was revealed that Sheikh, Bhat and another accused Yawar Ahmad Dar had conspired with Abid Manzoor Magray alias Sajju, an active terrorist of Hizbul Mujahideen, to steal arms and ammunition for distributing them among active cadres of HM," the NIA said.

NIA filed the chargesheet against Bhat and Sheikh, who is absconding.

# New Ministers join NITI Aayog

Shah, others are ex-officio members

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday approved the reconstitution of the NITI Aayog.

Rajiv Kumar will continue as its Vice-Chairman, and V.K. Saraswat, Ramesh Chand and V.K. Paul as members. Bibek Debroy, who is the Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Council, is no longer a member of the think tank, an official statement said.

NITI Aayog will have Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, and Narendra Singh Tomar as ex-officio members. Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Thaawar Chand



Gehlot, Piyush Goyal and Rao Inderjit Singh will be special invitees.

The announcement comes ahead of the first meeting of the governing council of the organisation after the election.

The statement did not mention Amitabh Kant, Chief Executive Officer, whose term is ending on June 30.

# J&K soldier home for Id gunned down

Militants cornered in Pulwama

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Suspected militants killed an off-duty soldier in south Kashmir on Thursday evening. Meanwhile, security forces have encircled a group of militants in an ongoing operation in Pulwama, while two policemen were reported missing from the district.

A police official said the soldier, Manzoor Beg, a resident of Anantnag's Sadoora, was fired upon from a close range outside his residence. "He was subsequently evacuated to a hospital, where he died. The police are investigating the circumstances of this crime," said the police.

Beg was posted with the Army's Rashtriya Rifles-34, deployed in Shopian. Sources said Beg was on leave to celebrate Id when the suspected militants struck.

In a separate incident, two Special Operation Group (SOG) personnel of the police were reported missing, along with their service rifles from the District Police Lines (DPL) Pulwama.

They were identified as Shabir Ahmad from Pulwama's Tujan and Salman Ahmad from Shopian's Uthmula. "Both were posted at the DPL Pulwama and went missing on Wednesday. "The matter is being investigated," said the police.

# Shah may get Vajpayee's house

Former PM's family vacated the house last November

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to be allotted former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Krishna Menon Marg residence in central Delhi, government sources said on Thursday.

Vajpayee had moved to the bungalow in 2004 after his government was voted out, and stayed there with his family for nearly 14 years. The family vacated the house last November after his death in August.

A government source said the bungalow had been allotted to Mr. Shah.

According to sources, Mr. Shah, who is the BJP president, recently visited the house. He suggested some changes and renovation had started. "The work should be completed in a month or



The Krishna Menon Marg residence where Atal Bihari Vajpayee spent his retired days. •SANDEEP SAXENA

two," another source said.

Mr. Shah, who took charge as a Union Minister for the first time earlier this week following the landslide victory of the BJP-led NDA, is currently staying at the 11 Akbar Road residence.

When Vajpayee moved to the Krishna Menon Marg house, he had got the municipal number changed from 8 to 6-A. After the Modi government came to power

in 2014, it was decided that no government bungalow previously occupied by a leader in Delhi would be converted into a memorial after their death.

The government has built 'Sadaiv Atal', memorial to Vajpayee, near the Rashtriya Smriti Sthal, a place designated for the last rites of Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Prime Ministers.

# Triple talaq Bill likely in first session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

In its very first session of Parliament the Narendra Modi government is likely to table the controversial Triple Talaq Bill.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Second Ordinance was promulgated on February 21 this year. An ordinance lapses after six months. The legislation has to be passed by both sessions of Parliament within 45 days after the first sitting of Parliament.

During the Modi government's first tenure it failed to get the Bill cleared in the Rajya Sabha as the Opposition opposed the criminality clause.

Even when the government removed the clause, the Bill could not be tabled, owing to continuous disruptions.

**कोलकाता पत्तन त्वास KOLKATA PORT TRUST KOLKATA DOCK SYSTEM**  
Tender No.: KOPT/KDS/CIV/IT/2335/86/1 - For "Design, engineering, supply and installation of water sprinkling system including supervision, operation and maintenance period of one year for dust suppression of coal stock piles at Coal berth area of KP Docks and Alifnagar area of NS Dock, Kolkata Dock System. Estimated Cost: Rs.2.13 Crores. Last date of Submission: 03.07.2019 upto 3 P.M. For details of the above tender, please visit [www.msctcecommerce.com](http://www.msctcecommerce.com), <https://eprocure.gov.in> & [www.kolkataporttrust.gov.in](http://www.kolkataporttrust.gov.in).

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**GREATER WARANGAL SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED**

- RFP Notice No.SE/GWMC/10Recall/e-procurement/2018-19, Dated: 03-06-2019**  
Request for proposal for supply, delivery commissioning of self-propelled heavy duty belt driven sweeping machines of minimum 5 cum capacity with operation & maintenance for period of 5 (five) years with defect liability period of 2 (two) years in GWMC limits.
- Tender Notice No. GWSCCL / CTN / 01 / 2019-20, Dt:03-06-2019**  
A) Road corridor Improvement for eleven smart road in Package I in Warangal Smart City in the State of Telangana (Project Cost - 70.10 Crores & ECV - 46, 32, 47, 180.94)  
B) Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants at 3 Locations i.e., 100 MLD STP at Reddypuram, 15MLD at Pragathinagar and 5MLD at Ursugutta) under Single Package in GWMC - under Smart City Development Funds (Project Cost - 70.10 Crores & ECV - 171, 04, 08, 930.00)  
The proposals shall be submitted through e-procurement Site <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

1. Bid Document download start Date & Time	7-6-2019@5:00 PM
2. Pre-bid meeting Date & Venue	20-6-2019@11:00AM O/o.Commissioner, GWMC Office
3. Last date for Queries	22-6-2019
4. Response to Queries	24-6-2019
5. Bid Document download end Date & Time	02-7-2019@3:00 PM
6. Bid Document Last submission end Date & Time	03-7-2019@12:00 AM
7. Technical bid opening Date & Time	03-7-2019@4:00 PM

Office Address:  
Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation,  
GWMC, Beside MGM Hospital, Warangal - 506 002  
For Further Details visit Website:<https://tender.telangana.gov.in>  
Sd/- MD & CEO, GWSCCL,  
WARANGAL CITY, TELANGANA STATE

**अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), भुवनेश्वर ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR**  
Sijua, Post: Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar - 751019  
AIIMS/BBSR/EE (ELEC)/NPS/044/2019 Dated: 03<sup>rd</sup> Jun 2019  
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar invites e-Tender for "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Network Power Switch-II, 400Amp, 3-Phase for Implementation of Dual Source of Power Supply to MOTs at Hospital Complex, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar". Detailed description, terms & conditions and document for processing e-Tender alongwith last date of submission can be viewed and downloaded from e-Tender portal of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar website [www.aiimsbhubaneswar.edu.in](http://www.aiimsbhubaneswar.edu.in). Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer  
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION UDAIPUR**  
Tel No. 0294-2481538, E-mail: [cephedudaipur@gmail.com](mailto:cephedudaipur@gmail.com)  
No:ACE/UDR/Solar/2019-20/1562 to 1571 Dated: 27-5-2019  
**Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) No. 01 / 2019-20**  
Online tenders are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan from appropriate Bidders (as per details given in TD). The tender documents can be downloaded from the website: <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> Details of this tender notification and qualification criteria can also be seen in NIT exhibited on website: [www.dipronline.org](http://www.dipronline.org) and <http://sppraj.nic.in> Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website: <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>

Sl.No.	NIT No.	Particular of works on single point responsibility and on rate contract basis
1.	01	Work for Designing, providing, installation and commissioning of 300 Nos. Solar Energy based bore well water pumping systems, including comprehensive operation and maintenance for a period of seven years in various Villages / Towns of Region Udaipur Estimated Cost Rs. 2160.00 lacs. Bid download Date: 28-05-2019 and bid submission end Date: 20-06-2019 NIT No. 01/2019-20: UBN No. PHE 1920WLB00397

Addl. Chief Engineer,  
PHED, Region Udaipur  
DIPRC/3790

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(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)  
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru - 575004. Ph: 0824-2885795 E-mail: [sepmescom@gmail.com](mailto:sepmescom@gmail.com)  
CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425  
No. MESCOM/SEE/(P)/EE(W)/2019-20/3160 Date: 30.05.2019  
**TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Mode Only)**  
MESCOM invites tender for the following works pertaining to Puttur Division of Mangaluru Circle under System Improvement on Total Turnkey Basis vide respective Bid Enquiry numbers:

Sl. No	Name of the work	Bid Enquiry No.
1	Construction of 3 Nos. of 33kV evacuation circuit from proposed 110/33/11kV Madavu substation to Madavu Katte near 33/11kV Kumbra MUSS by using 400 sqmm. UG cable (1.1Kms*4). Converting SC line to DC line from Madavu Katte to 33/11kV Bellare MUSS by using Coyote conductor for a distance of 6.0Kms & formation of 2 Nos. of 33kV bay at Bellare MUSS in Puttur Rural Sub-division.	MESCOM/2019-20/EL/WORK_INDENT1227
2	Construction of 33kV Single Circuit line from 33/11kV Guthigar MUSS to 33/11kV Subrahmanya MUSS for a distance of 15.0 kms using 400 sqmm. UG cable and Formation of 33kV Terminal bays at existing Guthigar & Subrahmanya MUSS in Subrahmanya sub-division.	MESCOM/2019-20/EL/WORK_INDENT1228

The interested eligible bidders may log on to : [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) on or after 12.06.2019.  
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (ELe.) (Proc), MESCOM, Mangaluru  
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# Trump threatens to ramp up trade war

Says he could target 'at least' another \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods; Beijing remains defiant

REUTERS  
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SHANNON/BEIJING

President Donald Trump threatened to hit China with tariffs on "at least" another \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods but said he thought both China and Mexico wanted to make deals in their trade disputes.

While Mr. Trump said on Thursday that talks with China were ongoing, no face-to-face meetings have been held since May 10, the day he sharply increased tariffs on a \$200 billion list of Chinese goods to 25%, prompting Beijing to retaliate. "Our talks with China, a lot of interesting things are happening. We'll see what happens... I could go up another at least \$300 billion and I'll do that at the right time," Mr. Trump told reporters.

"But I think China wants to make a deal and I think Mexico wants to make a deal badly," said Mr. Trump before boarding Air Force One at the Irish airport of Shannon on his way to France for D-Day commemorations.

Later, he said he would wait until after a G20 meeting in Japan at the end of the month before deciding on the tariffs. "Additional tariffs



**Memories of a war:** U.S. President Donald Trump with wife Melania, French President Emmanuel Macron and Brigitte Macron at a ceremony in Normandy on Thursday to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day landings that changed the course of the Second World War. • AP

on China? You mean, when am I going to put the extra \$325 billion worth of tariffs?" Mr. Trump said on his trip to northern France in response to a question from a reporter about when the new tariffs were coming.

"I will make that decision over the next two weeks, probably right after the G20," he said, adding that he would hold talks with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the summit in Osaka on June 28-29. "One way or the other I will make that decision after the G20," Mr.

Trump added. "I will be meeting with President Xi (at the summit) and we'll see what happens."

**Tribute to war veterans**  
Mr. Trump also sought to reassure allies rattled by his nationalist rhetoric by saying the bonds between them were "unbreakable", on the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

He joined other world leaders in northern France where thousands of well-wishers gathered to pay tribute to the veterans of the

famed landings which shaped the outcome of Second World War.

"To all of our friends and partners, our cherished alliance was forged in the heat of battle, tested in the trials of war and proven in the blessings of peace. Our bond is unbreakable," Mr. Trump said in Colleville-sur-Mer.

French President Emmanuel Macron, in a pointed message targeting Mr. Trump's "America First" slogan, said: "America is never as big as when it is fighting for the freedom of others."

Responding to Mr. Trump's threat on tariffs, China's Commerce Ministry struck a defiant tone. "If the United States wilfully decides to escalate tensions, we'll fight to the end," Ministry spokesman Gao Feng told a regular news briefing.

**Groundless claims: China**  
The Commerce Ministry also issued a report on how the U.S. has benefited from years of economic and trade cooperation with China, saying U.S. claims that China has taken advantage in bilateral trade were groundless.

"Since the new U.S. administration took office, it has disregarded the mutually beneficial and win-win nature of China-U.S. economic and trade cooperation, and has advocated the theory that the United States has 'lost out' to China on trade," the Ministry said in a research report. "It has also taken the trade deficit issue as an excuse to provoke economic and trade frictions."

Adding to concerns China may target U.S. companies in the trade war, the Ministry last week said it was drafting a list of "unreliable entities" that have harmed Chinese firms' interests.

# German killer nurse gets life term for 85 hospital murders

Police suspect Högel's final death toll may be over 200

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
OLDENBURG

A German nurse believed to be the most prolific serial killer in the country's post-war history was handed a life sentence on Thursday for murdering 85 patients in his care.

Judge Sebastian Buehrmann called Niels Högel's killing spree "incomprehensible" and acknowledged that the trial left many families with painful, unanswered questions.

Högel, 42, murdered patients selected at random with lethal injections between 2000 and 2005, when he was caught in the act.

**Exhumation, autopsy**  
Högel has already spent a decade in prison following a previous life sentence he received for six other murders. The exhumation and autopsy of more than 130 bodies were necessary to build the case for the prosecution. Police suspect that Högel's final death toll may be more than 200.

But the court was unable to say for sure because of the gaps in Högel's memory and



Niels Hoegel at his trial in Oldenburg, Germany, on Thursday. • REUTERS

because many likely victims were cremated before autopsies could be performed. Judge Buehrmann of the regional court in the northern city of Oldenburg said the number of deaths at Högel's hands "surpasses human imagination".

"Your guilt is unfathomable," he told the defendant. "Sometimes one's worst nightmares fail to capture the truth." He expressed regret that the court had not been "fully able to lift the fog" for loved ones about other likely victims.

On the final day of hearings on Wednesday, Högel asked his victims' families for forgiveness for his "hor-

rible acts". "I would like to sincerely apologise for everything I did to you over the course of years," he said.

**Caught in 2005**  
Caught in 2005 while injecting an unapproved medication into a patient in Delmenhorst, Högel was sentenced in 2008 to seven years in prison for attempted murder. A second trial followed in 2014-2015 under pressure from alleged victims' families. He was found guilty of murder and attempted murder of five other victims and given the maximum sentence of life.

At the start of the third trial in October, Judge Buehrmann said its main aim was to establish the full scope of the killing that was allowed to go unchecked for years. "It is like a house with dark rooms - we want to bring light into the darkness," he said.

After admitting on the first day of testimony to killing 100 patients in his care, Högel later revised his statement. He now says he committed 43 murders but denies five others.

# African Union suspends Sudan, seeks civilian rule

More than 100 have died in crackdown

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KHARTOUM

The African Union (AU) suspended Sudan on Thursday, demanding a "civilian-led transitional authority" to resolve an entrenched and bloody crisis.

Calls for the AU to take action had mounted after Monday's crackdown on protesters who had camped outside Army headquarters in Khartoum. Sudanese authorities admitted that dozens were killed.

An Opposition-linked doctors' group said on Wednesday that 40 bodies had been pulled from the Nile,

taking the toll to at least 108.

"The AU Peace and Security Council has with immediate effect suspended the participation of the Republic of Sudan in all AU activities until the effective establishment of a Civilian-led Transitional Authority, as the only way to allow the Sudan to exit from the current crisis," the AU tweeted.

Patrick Kapuwa, the chairperson of the AU's Peace and Security Council, said the military leadership that took control after the ouster of Omar al-Bashir in April had failed to hand over power to civilians.

# Taiwan's move to buy U.S. arms riles China

Its Defence Ministry wants 108 battle tanks and 250 anti-aircraft missiles

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TAIPEI

Taiwan on Thursday confirmed that it is hoping to buy state-of-the-art tanks and portable missiles from the U.S. in a proposed deal that drew an angry rebuke from China.

Taipei's Defence Ministry has formally asked for 108 M1A2 Abrams main battle tanks, more than 1,500 Javelin and TOW anti-tank missiles, and 250 shoulder-fired Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, it said in a statement.

The request was proceeding "as normal", the Ministry added. The U.S. government has given Congress informal notification of its plan to sell

the equipment in a deal worth \$2 billion, Bloomberg News reported.

**'Serious concerns'**  
Beijing said it had "serious concerns" about the sale. "We have repeatedly emphasised to the U.S. to fully understand the extremely sensitive and damaging nature of their decision to sell arms to Taiwan, and abide by the One China principle," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said on Thursday. Taiwan has been ruled separately since the end of a civil war in 1949 but China still views it as its territory and has vowed to take the island, by force if necessary.



Members of Taiwan's artillery in Pingtung. • AP

Beijing has significantly stepped up diplomatic and military pressure on Taipei since Beijing-sected president Tsai Ing-wen was elected in 2016. The U.S. govern-

ment announced plans last year to sell spare parts worth \$330 million to Taiwan for its U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets and C-130 military transport planes. Taipei has also submitted a formal request to Washington for new fighter jets to upgrade its air force but there has been no public response yet from the U.S.

Taiwan would be massively outgunned in terms of troop numbers and firepower in any war with China and it desperately needs to upgrade much of its equipment. Its current tank force consists of around 1,000 CM 11 Brave Tiger and M60A3 tanks, technology that is increasingly obsolete.

# 'Defence cut won't affect response potential'

Pak. Army chief comments on move

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Army's move to slash its defence budget for one year will not impact the military's "response potential" to all types of threat, Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa asserted, as he celebrated Id-ul-Fitr with soldiers posted along the Line of Control (LoC).

Speaking on the voluntary decision to forego even the routine increase in the annual defence budget, the Army chief said, "This initiative is not a favour to the nation as we are one through thick and thin."



General Qamar Javed Bajwa. • REUTERS

He said the Pakistan Army will manage the shortfall during the financial year by "tightening our belt".

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has welcomed the voluntary cuts.

## ELSEWHERE



### Abe to visit Iran on mediation mission

TOKYO  
Shinzo Abe plans to travel to Iran next week, the first visit by a Japanese Prime Minister in more than four decades, as Tokyo hopes to ease tensions in the region by mediating between Washington and Tehran. Local media said he will hold talks with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani. AFP

### U.K. relaxes travel advice for Sri Lanka

LONDON  
Britain on Thursday relaxed its travel advice on Sri Lanka after earlier warning against "all but essential travel" following the April terror attacks. "If you're visiting or resident in Sri Lanka, you should continue to remain vigilant and keep up to date with developments," the Foreign Office said. Tourists were still warned that "terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks". AFP

### Death toll in Hungary boat accident rises to 15

BUDAPEST  
The bodies of two more South Korean tourists have been found after a sightseeing vessel sunk in Budapest last week, bringing the death toll to 15, with 13 still missing, police said. Police said late on Wednesday that a body found 50 km south of the Hungarian capital, near the town of Ercsi, was that of a South Korean woman passenger from the boat. AFP

# Former Sri Lankan official points to fissures within govt.

Says President had asked him not to invite PM for meetings

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's suspended police chief said on Thursday that he did what he could do as Inspector General of Police with the intelligence inputs he got on possible terror attacks, while the former Defence Secretary pointed to the fissures within the government.

"There was no emergency declared. I had no power to declare a curfew. I could not do this alone," Pujith Jayasundara, the former IGP, told the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) set up to probe Easter attacks.

**Pressured by Sirisena**  
The IGP also admitted that he was pressured by President Maithripala Sirisena to accept blame for the attacks and resign.

Responding to PSC members' questions, he said the President had offered him an ambassadorial position in return for his resignation, and also assured him that a presidential committee investigating the blasts would "clear his name".

He has also petitioned the Supreme Court, against being asked to go on "compul-



Ex-Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando.

sory leave". According to AFP, his 20-page complaint revealed serious communication gaps between intelligence agencies and security arms of the government.

Thursday's sitting was the third held by the PSC, which is expected to obtain testimonies from the Director-SIS and the CID in the coming weeks. President Sirisena, who holds both Defence and Law and Order Ministries, was in Singapore on the day of the attacks, on a private visit. He has said the prior intelligence available with officials had not been passed on to him.

Former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando,

who told the legislators' panel that he was aware of a possible threat on April 21, said he "assumed" that the State Intelligence Service chief would have informed the President, "as was the practice". His testimony, too, disclosed the glaring lapses in intelligence sharing within the security establishment helmed by Mr. Sirisena.

"As Defence Secretary, I struggled to meet my Minister [Mr. Sirisena] even once in two weeks. I was helpless," he told the panel. Asked why, he said: "He didn't have time".

Further, Mr. Fernando's testimony exposed the fissures within the government that appeared to have only deepened since the October 2018 political crisis.

Responding to a question, Mr. Fernando confirmed that the President had specifically told him not to invite Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, the IGP and the State Minister for Defence to the National Security Council meetings since November 13, 2018. At least four meetings took place from then until April 25, 2019, the day Mr. Fernando resigned.

# Russia willing to drop New START pact: Putin

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ST. PETERSBURG

President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russia was prepared to drop a nuclear weapons agreement treaty with the U.S. and warned of "global catastrophe" if Washington keeps dismantling a global arms control regime.

Speaking to heads of global news agencies at an economic forum, Mr. Putin said Washington showed no genuine interest in conducting talks on extending the New START treaty, which caps the number of nuclear war-

heads well below Cold War limits. "If no-one feels like extending the agreement - New START - well, we won't do it then," said Mr. Putin. "We have said a hundred times that we are ready to extend it," Mr. Putin said.

Mr. Putin said the potential implications of letting New START treaty expire would be huge, suggesting its demise could fuel a nuclear arms race. "If we don't keep this 'fiery dragon' under control, if we let it out of the bottle - God forbid - this could lead to global catastrophe," Mr. Putin said.

# Ban on photos of mosque gunman lifted

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WELLINGTON

A New Zealand judge ruled on Thursday that media outlets can now show the face of the man accused of killing 51 people at two Christchurch mosques.

Two New Zealand courts had previously ruled that television stations, websites, newspapers and other media could only publish images which pixelated the face of Brenton Harrison Tarrant.

But High Court Judge Cameron Mander wrote in a court note on Thursday that prosecutors had advised him that there was no longer any need to suppress images of his face and he was lifting the order. The previous rulings hadn't stopped images of Tarrant from circulating on the Internet.

# Egypt kills 14 'militants' in Sinai

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
CAIRO

Egyptian security forces have killed 14 suspected militants during a raid carried out in the restive Sinai Peninsula in response to a deadly checkpoint attack, the authorities said. Wednesday's at-

tack, claimed by the Islamic State group, left dead eight policemen southwest of El-Arish, capital of North Sinai, and five militants were killed in exchanges of fire that ensued.

Some other suspected militants fled the scene be-

fore security forces tracked down and killed 14 of them in the raid, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The security forces surrounded the suspected militants before engaging "in a heavy shootout" which killed 14 of them, it added.

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**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SALE OF EXPORT QUALITY CASHEW KERNELS**  
Tender No: 1/19-20 Dated 06.06.19  
Competitive sealed tenders are invited from reputed firms for sale of above, tenders along with emd to reach our office on or before 12 noon on 13.06.19 and the same will be opened at 12.30 pm on same day. Please check our web site and Capex HO for quantity and other details.  
Kollam 06.06.2019 Managing Director

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Tender No	Description	Due Date
192013/000159	Fabrication, Erection & Dismantling of Light Structural / Tankages / Conveyors / Erection of equipments & machineries etc at TNPL Unit 1 for 2019 - 20	22.06.2019
192023/000424	Coal Handling works at TNPL Unit 2	20.06.2019
192023/000425	Maintenance of Drip Irrigation system at Plantation area in TNPL Unit 2	20.06.2019

Terms & conditions, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available in Tender document at our Websites: [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) & [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com)  
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192013/001624	Transportation of Coal/ Bagasse to / from M/s. Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd, Sathyamangalam in favour of TNPL Unit 2	20.06.19
192013/001628	Transportation of Undepithed Loose Bagasse/ Depithed Compacted Bagasse from M/s. Ponnai Sugars Ltd. Erode to TNPL Unit 1, Kagithapuram	24.06.19
192013/001630	Transportation of Undepithed Loose Bagasse from various Co.Op Sugar Mills within Tamil Nadu to TNPL Unit 1, Kagithapuram	26.06.19

Terms & conditions, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available in tender documents at our websites: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)  
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**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROJECT) WATER-II**  
ROOM NO. 501, VARUNALAYA PHASE: I, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005,  
Telephone No.: 011-23554573; E-mail address: [eeppw2.djb@nic.in](mailto:eeppw2.djb@nic.in)  
NIT No. 01 & 02 (2019-20) / EE (Project) W-II  
(For Press Publication)

NIT No	Name of the Work	Type of Contract	Bid Security / Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion Period	Date of issue of NIT & Last date and time for Submission of Bid Documents
01	Improvement of Water Supply System including Operation and Maintenance of Transmission and Distribution pipes, Pumping Stations, Service Connections, and Consumer Meters with DMA formation and NRW Reduction in Chandrawal WTP Command Area (East Zone)- Package-4.	Bill of Quantity (BOQ)	Rs. 2.10 crore (in form of BG) in favour of Delhi Jal Board	i) Construction period : 4 years ii) Preparatory period : 6 months iii) O&M during construction period : 3.5 years iv) O&M after construction period : 5 years	03/06/2019 & 02/08/2019 at 15:00 Hours
02	Improvement of Water Supply System including Operation and Maintenance of Transmission and Distribution pipes, Pumping Stations, Service Connections, and Consumer Meters with DMA formation and NRW Reduction in Chandrawal WTP Command Area (West Zone)- Package-2.	Bill of Quantity (BOQ)	Rs. 5.20 crore (in form of BG) in favour of Delhi Jal Board	i) Construction period : 5 years ii) Preparatory period : 6 months iii) O&M during construction period : 4.5 years iv) O&M after construction period : 5 years	-do-

The cost of work will be financed out of the proceed of the ODA loan extended for the project by JICA and bidding procedure shall be in accordance with the guidelines for procurement under JICA ODA Loans.  
Further details in this regard can be seen at "www.delhijalboard.nic.in" under "Expression of Interest"  
**ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)** (B.S. Rawat)  
Adv. No. J.S.V. 54/2019-20 **EE (Project) Water-II**

MARKET WATCH

	06-06-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,530	-1.38
US Dollar	69.28	-0.03
Gold	33,490	0.36
Brent oil	60.64	-1.75

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	426.30	0.75
Asian Paints	1428.55	7.05
Axis Bank	807.70	-15.10
Bajaj Auto	2991.65	7.75
Bajaj Finserv	8125.20	-187.65
Bajaj Finance	3452.95	-78.20
Bharti Airtel	353.80	1.40
BPCIL	397.05	-11.30
Britannia Ind	2901.35	-61.75
Cipla	559.80	-2.85
Coal India	269.15	5.75
Dr Reddys Lab	2657.30	-8.05
Eicher Motors	20083.80	40.35
GAIL (India)	316.30	-41.95
Grasim Ind	869.55	-16.95
HCL Tech	1079.20	-6.65
HDFC	2183.45	-40.50
HDFC Bank	2423.35	-28.95
Hero MotoCorp	2788.75	36.05
Hindalco	194.85	-2.95
Hind Unilever	1837.75	22.15
Indiabulls HFL	735.80	-60.65
ICICI Bank	411.55	-7.55
IndusInd Bank	1522.65	-115.35
Bharti Infratel	273.50	-0.50
Infosys	735.60	0.30
Indian OilCorp	163.55	-1.80
ITC	275.75	-3.50
JSW Steel	266.70	-7.50
Kotak Bank	1514.25	-17.10
L&T	1515.90	-53.90
M&M	634.10	-16.65
Mauriti Suzuki	6988.70	-63.10
NTPC	136.55	1.50
ONGC	169.40	-1.20
PowerGrid Corp	195.45	2.50
Reliance Ind	1327.35	-24.30
State Bank	336.90	-15.50
Sun Pharma	404.15	-7.00
Tata Motors	169.70	-3.55
Tata Steel	484.60	-13.05
TCS	2166.10	-17.00
Tech Mahindra	738.00	-10.30
Titan	1269.45	21.45
UltraTech Cement	4571.20	-120.80
UPL	1012.20	1.25
Vedanta	163.10	-2.80
Wipro	291.50	-2.25
YES Bank	143.40	-9.40
Zee Entertainment	341.05	5.00

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	69.07	69.39
Euro	77.97	78.33
British Pound	87.94	88.36
Japanese Yen (100)	63.92	64.22
Chinese Yuan	9.99	10.04
Swiss Franc	69.70	70.02
Singapore Dollar	50.67	50.91
Canadian Dollar	51.55	51.80
Malaysian Ringgit	16.54	16.63

Source: Indian Bank

# Keeping close watch on NBFCs, says Shaktikanta Das

RBI Governor says will ensure NBFC sector remains healthy; draft norms for 'on tap' licence for small finance banks released

**MANOJIT SAHA**  
MUMBAI  
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is closely watching developments unfolding in the NBFC sector, which is facing a liquidity crunch, and is committed to see that the sector remains robust and healthy, Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday during the post monetary policy announcement press conference.

The recent liquidity crisis faced by NBFCs was triggered by mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) as it delayed interest payment to its non-convertible debenture investors, causing it to be downgraded to default grade. "[The] RBI remains committed that we have a ro-

bust, well-functioning NBFC sector. [The] RBI will not hesitate to take whatever steps are required to ensure financial stability is not adversely impacted in any manner by any development," he said.

On Tuesday, DHFL said it had delayed repayment to its investors but said will make the payments in the next seven days to avoid default.

**IL&FS saga**

Post the IL&FS crisis in August last year, which faced cash crunch and had a series of defaults, cost of funds for NBFCs have significantly shot up. Mr. Das said that the RBI was monitoring major NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs). "RBI does not regulate housing fi-



**Under hawk's eye:** The RBI is monitoring major NBFCs and housing finance companies. • V. V. KRISHNAN

nance companies. Nonetheless, banks have significant exposure to the HFCs. The RBI is mandated to look after the financial stability of the entire economy. "Against that background, we have been closely monitoring the activity and the performance

and the developments in the NBFC sector, including the HFCs," he added.

NBFCs have demanded the opening up of funding from banks to tide over the liquidity crisis. "We urge the RBI to open up funding to retail NBFCs through banks

that will stimulate consumer spending," said Umesh Govind Revankar, MD and CEO, Shriram Transport Finance.

Khushru Jijina, MD, Pira-mal Capital and Housing Finance, said the credit crunch in the NBFC sector had witnessed a corresponding decline in manufacturing and construction activities in the last two quarters of 2018-19.

"We anticipate more decisive and proactive policy measures to address the current liquidity crisis, that will enable the NBFCs to restore lending activities, especially to these critical sectors," Mr. Jijina added.

**Draft norms**

In a separate move, the RBI also announced draft norms for 'on tap' licensing for

small finance banks after these entities furthered financial inclusion. "A review of the performance of small finance banks reveals that they have achieved their priority sector targets and thus attained their mandate for furthering financial inclusion.

"Hence, there is a case for more players to be included to enhance access to banking facilities to the small borrowers and to encourage competition," the RBI said. Ten entities have so far been granted small finance bank licences.

However, for payments banks, the RBI said 'more time is needed' to review the performance before considering the licensing of this category of banks to be put 'on tap'.

The decision to change the policy stance to 'accommodative' will help to navigate to a lower term structure of interest rates and also accommodate growth concerns.

**RAJNISH KUMAR**, Chairman, SBI

The combination of the repo rate cut, the change to an accommodative stance and the resolve to provide adequate liquidity, will provide the impetus to counter growth and investment headwinds.

**ZARIN DARUWALA**, CEO, Standard Chartered Bank, India

The cut in rate was in line with expectations. The shift in gear from neutral to accommodative removes ambiguity wrt. the direction of rate action.

The rate cut and shift to accommodative stance will provide further stimulus for growth. The proposed comprehensive review for money market products will further strengthen the financial sector.

**RAJIV SABHARWAL**, MD and CEO, Tata Capital

INTERVIEW | SHAKTIKANTA DAS

## 'We do expect the government to remain fiscally prudent'

Revised circular on stressed assets to be out very shortly, says the Reserve Bank of India Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Excerpts from RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das's interaction with the media post the monetary policy announcement:

**What does the change in stance to accommodative mean?**

■ Accommodative stance would basically mean that rate increase is off the table.

**How does RBI justify such a high real interest rate?**

■ There has been a lot of discussion about real interest rate. So far as we are concerned, our decision at the moment is driven by inflation and growth. The MPC [monetary policy committee] targets a certain level of inflation keeping in mind the

requirements of growth. But while deciding all these things, other factors do come in.

At this point in time, I do not want to spell out what should be the real interest rate because as we take decisions, it is for you to judge how close we are to the real interest rate.

**What is the view on liquidity requirement in the system?**

■ The Reserve Bank of India will ensure adequate liquidity in the system to meet the productive requirements of the economy.

**Is there a concern about borrowing by public sector entities crowding out private investments?**

■ First, the government has broadly followed the fiscal glide path in the last five years. We do expect the government to remain fiscally prudent.

So far as the borrowings by the public sector enterprises and crowding out effect are concerned, the total borrowing requirement of the public sector companies has to be seen from the perspective of two points. One, there are certain public sector companies like the NTPC or NHAI which un-

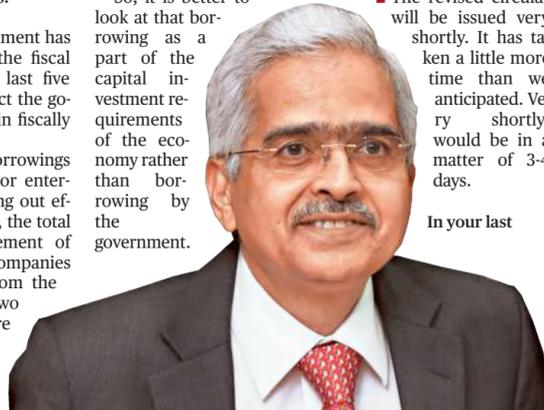
dertake a lot of capital expenditure, which have their own revenue stream to repay their borrowings.

So, it is better to look at that borrowing as a part of the capital investment requirements of the economy rather than borrowing by the government.

**When is the revised circular on stressed assets expected?**

■ The revised circular will be issued very shortly. It has taken a little more time than we anticipated. Very shortly, would be in a matter of 3-4 days.

In your last



## Lower leverage ratio may improve lending activity

Panel to review liquidity management framework

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to bring leverage ratio for banks in line with Basel-III standards will improve the lendable resources, bankers said.

In the second bi-monthly policy review, the central bank has mandated leverage ratio of 3.5% for all the banks except for the domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs), which will have a 4% ratio. "Keeping in mind financial stability and with a view to moving further towards harmonisation with Basel III standards, it has been decided that the minimum LR should be 4% for domestic systemically important banks (DSIBs) and 3.5% for other banks," the RBI said, adding instructions in this regard would be issued before the end of June 2019. The ratio was indicated to be 4.5% earlier.

"On the regulatory front,

Setting up a committee to improve liquidity management is a positive signal

**SUNIL MEHTA**, MD & CEO, PNB

the decision to lower the leverage ratio will augment the lendable resources of the banks," Rajnish Kumar, chairman, SBI said.

The leverage ratio was introduced for banks post the financial crisis of 2008, as one of the underlying features of the crisis was the build-up of excessive on-and off-balance sheet leverage in the banking system.

In many cases, banks built up excessive leverage while still showing strong risk-based capital ratios.

"The easing of the leverage ratio requirement will boost bank lending and should serve as the much needed countercyclical stimulus," Zarin Daruwala,

CEO, Standard Chartered Bank, India, said.

**Working group**

The RBI has also set up an internal working group to review liquidity management framework with a view to simplify the current framework. The RBI said the objective was also to clearly communicate the objectives, quantitative measures and toolkit of liquidity management by the RBI.

"Liquidity is one of the areas where banks pay a lot of attention. Setting up a committee to improve the liquidity management process is indeed a positive signal and aligning the leverage ratio with Basel standards would also help banks considerably," said Sunil Mehta, MD and CEO, Punjab National Bank and chairman, Indian Banks' Association.

The working group is expected to submit its report by mid-July 2019.

## RBI waives NEFT/RTGS fee, to review ATM fees

Move to boost digital fund transfers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

In a move to encourage digital transactions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive off charges for fund transfer via Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) - which is meant for large-value, instantaneous fund transfers and the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) System for other fund transfers.

While the charges are levied on banks, they, in turn, pass it to the customers.

"In order to provide an impetus to digital fund movement, it has been decided to do away with the charges levied by the Reserve Bank for transactions processed in the RTGS and NEFT systems," the RBI said. "Banks will be required, in turn, to pass these benefits to their customers," it added.

**ATM charges review**

Separately, the banking regulator would review the



charges levied on customers while operating automated teller machines (ATMs).

A committee will be set up, under the chairmanship of the chief executive officer, Indian Banks' Association (IBA), 'to examine the entire gamut of ATM charges and fees,' the RBI said.

At present, customers are charged for using other banks' ATMs beyond a particular number of transactions.

The Committee is expected to submit its recommendations within two months of its first meeting.

## DHFL stress factored in, says SBI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Thursday said the estimate given for stressed assets in the current financial year factors in the challenges faced by mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL).

DHFL, which is facing a cash crunch, has delayed interest payment to its non-convertible debenture (NCD) investors and now has to pay in a week's time to avoid default.

"Challenges faced by accounts like DHFL have already been factored in when we had given our estimate for the stress that the bank would have to deal with in FY19-20 and included in our estimates for slippage and loan loss provisioning for the current financial year," SBI said in a statement.

The public sector lender said its overall NBFC portfolio quality continued to be good.

## Retail platform for forex, state loans' trading

Platform to be available from August

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon unveil operating guidelines for a foreign exchange trading platform for retail participants, including individuals, exporters and importers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

As part of its 'Statement on developmental and regulatory policies,' the central bank said the proposed platform would provide transparency of pricing and promote competition among market-makers leading to better pricing for all customers, regardless of order size.

Further, the banking regulator said that the trading platform had been developed by the Clearing Corporation of India (CCIL) and is currently being tested by users and that the platform will be available to users for transactions from August.

The circular on the operational guidelines for the platform will be issued by

the end of June, added an RBI statement.

Meanwhile, the central bank also aims to enhance the retail participation in auctions of State Development Loans (SDLs) by using the current platform of stock exchanges that allow retail participants to bid for government securities.

"It has been decided to also allow the specified stock exchanges to act as aggregators/facilitators to aggregate the bids of their stockbrokers/other retail participants and submit a single consolidated bid under the non-competitive segment of the primary auctions of State Development Loans (SDLs)," the banking regulator said.

Currently, the platform allows stock exchanges to aggregate the bids of stock brokers and other retail participants and submit a single consolidated bid under the non-competitive segment of the primary auctions of government securities.

## Sensex sheds over 500 points on NBFC concerns

Downgrade of Dewan Housing the primary reason behind the sharp correction in the stock markets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Equity markets lost significant ground on Thursday as investors remained wary of the potential contagion impact of the ongoing liquidity issues in the non banking financial companies (NBFCs) segment, with rate-sensitive sectors such as banking and real estate taking the biggest beating.

The benchmark Sensex lost 553.82 points or 1.38% to close at 39,529.72. This was the biggest single-day fall in absolute points for the benchmark in the current calendar year - higher than the 495 points fall registered on April 22.

The fall was primarily led by the financials sector with IndusInd Bank, Yes Bank, State Bank



**Fall season:** The fall was led by the financials sector with IndusInd Bank, SBI and ICICI Bank among the top losers. • PAUL NORONHA

of India, Bajaj Finance and ICICI Bank among the top losers along with auto majors Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra. The broader Nifty lost 177.90

points or 1.48% to close at 11,843.75.

Not surprisingly, sectoral indices Nifty Bank and Nifty PSU Bank were the worst hit, shed-

ding 2.32% and 4.9%, respectively.

Incidentally, the fall came on a day when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut repo rate by 25 basis points, a move in line with market expectations and already factored in.

The recent downgrade of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) has renewed concerns related to liquidity issues in the NBFC space, especially since it has come close on the heels of similar developments in entities belonging to the Essel Group, Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group and the IL&FS.

"The downgrade of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation's commercial paper by rating agencies was the primary reason for the steep correction in

markets today," wrote IIFL Securities analyst Saurabh Rathi, in a note to his clients.

"Amid liquidity crisis, downgrade of DHFL's paper could accentuate contagion risk, which can spread to other financial institutions including banks... banks may also see MTM (mark-to-market) losses on DHFL's bond exposure, which may lower its earnings in coming quarters," he added.

In a similar context, global financial major CLSA said that the default "could also accentuate contagion risk in the financial sector (in the backdrop of IL&FS default last year) leading to higher costs and the polarisation of funds to better-rated NBFCs." Shares of DHFL lost nearly 16% to close at ₹93.90.

**Digital, the way forward**

'Mind your Marketing' is a brand initiative by The Hindu BusinessLine to profile marketing professionals from across India.

What does it take for brands to stay competitive in today's dynamic economy and market? Quite honestly, some of the fundamentals don't change. For a brand to stay competitive, it needs to offer proper value to the consumer.

Any brand that doesn't offer value to their customer or doesn't have a clear purpose will not be able to survive in either a dynamic or stable market. Second is consistency of the quality of customer experience; if you deliver an exceptional experience, you are less likely to lose consumer loyalty.

Even having the best website and social media in the world cannot salvage or compensate for poor product quality or service experience. Once your basics are good, it will really become about whether you are an interesting brand they want to connect with and the platforms you use to form this connect.

**Chandramouli Venkatesan**  
Author & CEO  
(Special Projects)  
Pillilite Industries Ltd.

You can read the full interview in The Hindu BusinessLine today or scan the QR Code.

## IN BRIEF


**IOC, HPCL to contest ₹4,348-cr. tax demand**

**NEW DELHI**  
Oil refiners Indian Oil Corp. (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd. (HPCL) on Thursday said they will contest tax authorities demand for over ₹4,000 crore in excise duty on ethanol used for doping petrol, saying the sugarcane extract for mixing in fuel is exempt from tax. The Director-General of GST in Pune has slapped IOC with a tax demand of ₹4,002 crore and HPCL with over ₹346 crore. IOC, in a filing, denied the allegation. **PTI**

**Fiat withdraws \$35 bn merger offer for Renault**

**PARIS**  
Fiat Chrysler said it has abandoned its \$35 billion merger offer for Renault, blaming French politics for scuttling what would have been a landmark deal to create the world's third-biggest automaker. A source close to the French carmaker's board said Fiat Chrysler made the move after France sought to delay a decision on the deal in order to win the support of Nissan Motor Co., which is Renault's Japanese alliance partner. **REUTERS**

**SAT rejects NSE plea for bank guarantee to SEBI**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Thursday rejected NSE's plea for allowing it to provide bank guarantee instead of transferring ₹687 crore from escrow account to SEBI in the co-location case. The tribunal, however, granted an additional week to the exchange to comply with the May 22 order, which directed NSE to transfer ₹687 crore to the Securities and Exchange Board of India within 2 weeks from the escrow account. **PTI**

## Premji to hand over baton to son

Rishad to be executive chairman of Wipro; CEO Neemuchwala will also be MD

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

After having led the company for 53 years, IT czar and founder of Wipro Ltd. Azim H. Premji will retire as the executive chairman on July 30, 2019.

Rishad Premji, who is the chief strategy officer and member of the Wipro board, will take over as the executive chairman of the company. Wipro's announcement followed a board meeting on Thursday.

However, Mr. Azim Premji will continue to serve on the board as non-executive director and founder-chairman, said the company.

The board has also announced that chief executive officer and executive director Abidali Z. Neemuchwala would be re-designated as chief executive officer and managing director.

All these changes will be effective July 31, 2019.

Mr. Azim Premji trans-



**Order changeth:** Azim Premji shaped a hydrogenated cooking fat-making firm into a global IT powerhouse. **■ RAMESH SHARMA**

formed a small hydrogenated cooking fat-making company into an \$8.5 billion global IT powerhouse while also leading the transformation of Wipro Enterprises Limited into a global FMCG, infrastructure engineering and medical devices leader, with revenue of approximately \$2 billion.

He will remain the chairman of Wipro Enterprises

and continue to chair the board of Wipro-GE Healthcare, said the company.

**'Satisfying journey'**

The senior Premji said, "I wish to thank generations of Wiproites and their families for their contribution towards building our company to what it is today. I am grateful to our clients, partners, and other stakeholders who

have reposed trust and confidence in us.

"It has been a long and satisfying journey for me. As I look into the future, I plan to devote more time to our philanthropic activities. I have great confidence and trust in Rishad's leadership to steer Wipro in its next phase of growth."

Chairman-designate Mr. Rishad Premji said, "I am humbled and honoured to be invited to chair the board of Wipro Limited, a company that has, over decades, demonstrated that success can be built on the foundation of strong values and uncompromising integrity. This is a testament to the spirit and dedication of thousands of Wiproites."

"I am very excited about our future and the opportunity to create value for all our stakeholders in these transformative times for Wipro and the technology industry," he said.

## Third-party premium for cars and bikes to rise from June 16

No change for high-capacity engine cars, premium bikes

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI**

The cost of car and two-wheeler insurance is set to cost more from June 16 with regulator IRDAI increasing the mandatory third party (TP) motor insurance premium by up to 21% for certain category of vehicles.

Normally, the mandatory motor TP insurance cover rates are revised from April 1. However, this time, the new rates for the FY20 will be applicable from June 16.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), in an order, said the new TP insurance for smaller cars (less than 1,000 cc) will cost ₹2,072 or 12% more from the existing ₹1,850.

The insurance premium for cars with engine capacity of 1,000 cc to 1,500 cc has been raised by 12.5% to



150 cc. The maximum hike is for two-wheelers having engine capacity of between 150-350 cc. The new premium will be ₹1,193, up 21.11% from the existing ₹985.

There will be no change in TP insurance premium for super bikes (350 cc plus).

**Goods vehicles**

IRDAI has also increased the TP insurance for public as well as private goods carrying vehicles.

There is no change for rates in case of e-rickshaw. However, the third party insurance premium in case of school buses has been increased.

Also, there is no change in long-term, single premium rates.

In the case of cars, the long-term premium is for three years, and for two-wheelers, it is five years.

₹3,221. However, the TP premium for cars with higher engine capacity (1,500 cc-plus) has been retained at ₹7,890.

The new motor third party liability insurance cover from June 16 would be ₹482, up 12.88% for two-wheelers with engine capacity of less than 75 cc and ₹752 for those with engine capacity of 75-

## Toyota launches Glanza, enters premium hatchback segment

Introductory price across variants starts at ₹7.22 lakh

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

Japanese car maker Toyota on Thursday forayed into premium hatchback segment with the launch of Glanza, which is based on Maruti Suzuki's Baleno, at an introductory price range between ₹7.22 lakh and ₹8.9 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

**Japanese partners**

Glanza is the first product to be launched as a result of partnership between the two Japanese giants - Suzuki and Toyota - to share models and manufacturing capacity in the Indian market.



The launch is the first after Suzuki and Toyota partnered to share manufacturing capacity in India. **■ KAMAL NARANG**

Targeted at millennials, Glanza comes with BS-VI-compliant 1.2 litre petrol engine with automatic trans-

mission and smart hybrid option. The main challenge for Glanza would be from the Baleno.

## DHFL downgrade puts MF assets at risk

Over 200 schemes with combined assets of ₹5,300 crore could be in trouble

**ASHISH RUKHAIYAR  
MUMBAI**

The recent downgrade of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.'s (DHFL) papers could impact mutual fund (MF) assets worth almost ₹5,300 crore, ₹5236.53 crore to be precise, across fund houses with as many as over 200 schemes having an exposure to the troubled housing finance entity.

While in most schemes, the share of DHFL papers constitutes only a minor part, there are a few in which the exposure is over 10% of the overall scheme portfolio, as per data from Value Research, a mutual fund tracking entity.

According to the data, JM

**Illiquid funds?**

- Mutual funds have cumulative exposure of ₹5,237 crore in DHFL paper
- Over 200 schemes are holding debt papers of DHFL
- There are nearly 20 schemes where DHFL exposure accounts for over 10% of scheme assets

- DHFL Pramerica Mutual Fund schemes have large exposure towards DHFL
- DHFL Pramerica Floating Rate Fund, DHFL Pramerica Medium Term Fund have over 25% of scheme assets in DHFL debentures
- As many as 122 schemes with DHFL exposure are scheduled to mature in 2019

Financial Mutual Fund, Tata Mutual Fund, BNP Paribas Mutual Fund, Baroda Mutual Fund, Principal Mutual Fund and UTI Mutual Fund, among others, have schemes that, as on April 30, had an exposure of more than 10% of the scheme's assets to de-

bentures of DHFL. DHFL Pramerica Floating Rate Fund has almost 32% of its assets in DHFL debentures while DHFL Pramerica Medium Term Fund - Regular Plan has an exposure of almost 26% of its total assets to such debentures.

DHFL Pramerica Short Maturity Fund and DHFL Pramerica Low Duration Fund also have a sizeable exposure towards the papers of the entity in the midst of liquidity woes.

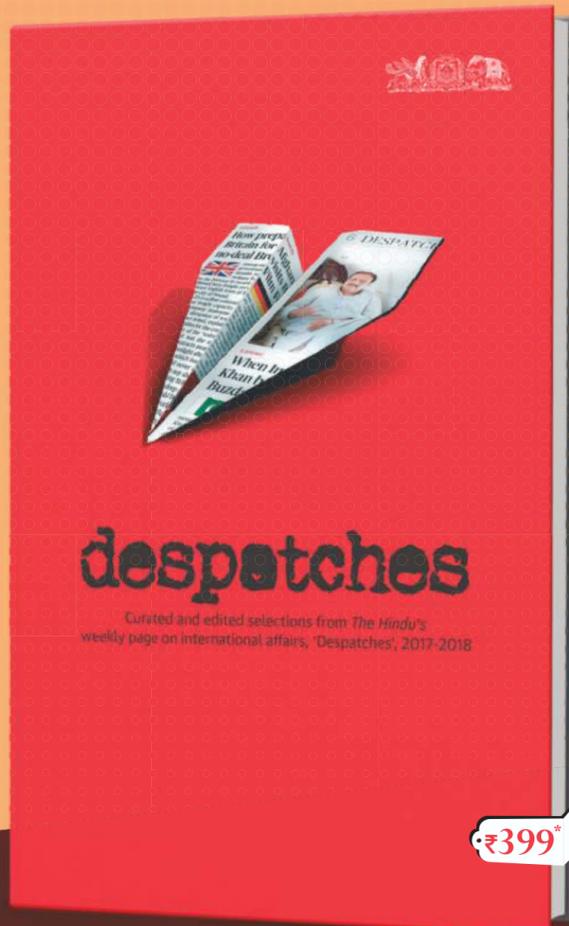
Ratings agency ICRA had downgraded the commercial paper of the lender to junk grade after the housing finance company delayed interest payment to the investors of its non-convertible debentures (NCDs).

Market participants said the recent downgrade, along with the IL&FS issue, would make MFs wary of subscribing to debt papers of NBFCs, thereby leading to higher costs of borrowing and selective lending.

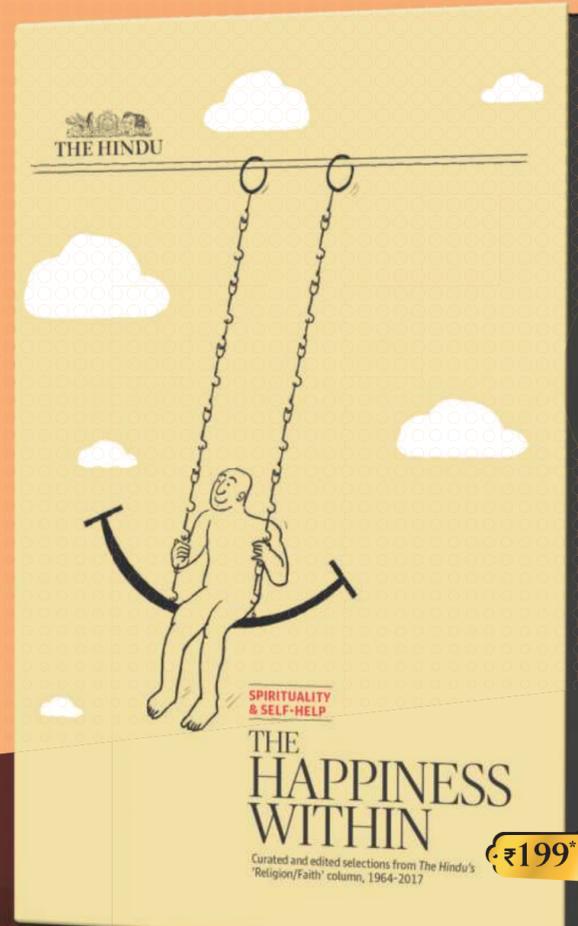
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# Coulter-Nile, Starc excel as Australia puts it past the West Indies

Defending champion survives an aggressive spell of fast bowling to set up a total that the men in maroon fail to overhaul



**REUTERS**  
NOTTINGHAM  
Fast bowler Mitchell Starc's five-wicket haul and a defiant 92 by Nathan Coulter-Nile helped Australia beat West Indies by 15 runs at Trent Bridge on Thursday to secure its second consecutive win.

Chasing 289 for victory, West Indies got off to a poor start before Shai Hope (68) and Nicholas Pooran (40) laid the platform for the power-hitters, but the Starc-led Australian attack kept them on a tight leash, restricting them to 273 for nine.

"You have to keep trying to get wickets, once the West Indies batsmen get set they are so destructive and can hit it to all parts," Australian captain Aaron Finch said.

## Big blow

After leg-spinner Adam Zampa removed Pooran, fast bowler Pat Cummins had Hope caught at mid-on in the 35th over to deliver a body blow to the Windies who never recovered.

Starc claimed Jason Holder (51), Carlos Brathwaite



**Rescue act:** Coming in at No. 8, Nathan Coulter-Nile played audaciously to bail out Australia after it was rattled early by the Windies quicks. ■ AP

and Sheldon Cottrell in the final five overs to finish with five for 46 in his 10 overs.

Earlier, Coulter-Nile struck the highest World Cup score for a No. 8 batsman as he took Australia to a competitive total after it lost its first five wickets for 79 runs.

Having won the toss, the Windies new-ball attack of Cottrell and Oshane Thomas removed Australian openers David Warner and Finch with 26 runs on the board.

All-rounder Andre Russell struck in his first over when a thick edge from Usman Kha-

waja was taken by a brilliant one-handed catch by wicket-keeper Hope, before Glenn Maxwell was snared for a duck.

## Halting the collapse

Smith (73) and wicketkeeper Alex Carey (45) halted a mid-

## SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA VS WEST INDIES

AUSTRALIA	WEST INDIES
David Warner c Hetmyer b Cottrell 3 (8b), Aaron Finch c Hope b Thomas 6 (10b), Usman Khawaja c Hope b Russell 13 (19b, 2x4), Steve Smith c Cottrell b Thomas 73 (103b, 7x4), Glenn Maxwell c Hope b Cottrell 0 (2b), Marcus Stoinis c Pooran b Holder 19 (23b, 4x4), Alex Carey c Hope b Russell 45 (55b, 7x4), Nathan Coulter-Nile c Holder b Brathwaite 92 (60b, 8x4, 4x6), Pat Cummins c Cottrell b Brathwaite 2 (6b), Mitchell Starc c Holder b Brathwaite 8 (9b, 1x4), Adam Zampa (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-24, nb-1): 27; Total (in 49 overs): 288.	Chris Gayle lbw b Starc 21 (17b, 4x4), Evin Lewis c Smith b Cummins 1 (5b), Shai Hope c Khawaja b Cummins 68 (105, 7x4), Nicholas Pooran c Finch b Zampa 40 (36b, 5x4, 1x6), Shimron Hetmyer run out 21 (28b, 3x4), Jason Holder c Zampa b Starc 51 (57b, 7x4, 1x6), Andre Russell c Maxwell b Starc 15 (11b, 2x4, 1x6), Carlos Brathwaite c Finch b Starc 16 (17b, 1x4, 1x6), Ashley Nurse (not out) 19 (18b, 4x4), Sheldon Cottrell b Starc 1 (2b), Oshane Thomas (not out) 0 (4b); Extras (lb-9, w-11): 20; Total for nine wkts. in 50 overs: 273.
<b>FALL OF WICKETS</b> 1-15 (Finch, 2.2 overs), 2-26 (Warner, 3.6), 3-36 (Khawaja, 6.6), 4-38 (Maxwell, 7.4), 5-79 (Stoinis, 16.1), 6-147 (Carey, 30.4), 7-249 (Smith, 44.2), 8-268 (Cummins, 46.1), 9-284 (Coulter-Nile, 48.2).	<b>FALL OF WICKETS</b> 1-7 (Lewis, 1.4 overs), 2-31 (Gayle, 4.5), 3-99 (Pooran, 19.1), 4-149 (Hetmyer, 27.2), 5-190 (Hope, 34.6), 6-216 (Russell, 38.5), 7-252 (Brathwaite, 45.3), 8-252 (Holder, 45.6), 9-256 (Cottrell, 47.3).
<b>WEST INDIES BOWLING</b> Thomas 10-0-63-2, Cottrell 9-0-56-2, Russell 8-0-41-2, Brathwaite 10-0-67-3, Holder 7-2-28-1, Nurse 5-0-31-0.	<b>AUSTRALIA BOWLING</b> Starc 10-0-46-5, Cummins 10-3-41-2, Coulter-Nile 10-0-70-0, Maxwell 6-1-31-0, Zampa 10-0-58-1, Stoinis 4-0-18-0.

## STAT SPHERE

1 Starc has taken the fewest ODI's (77) to reach 150 wickets. He is followed by Sajjan (78), Bolt (81), Lee (82) and Ajanta Mendis (84)	6 Chris Gayle's run of successive 50-plus ODI scores comes to an end. Only Miandad has had a longer run (9)
1 Russell has reached the 1000-run mark in ODIs, and is the quickest in terms of balls taken (767), edging past Ronchi (807)	Most consecutive 50+ scores 9- Miandad, 6- Greenidge, Andrew Jones, Mohd. Yousuf, Mark Waugh, Williamson, Ross Taylor and Gayle
2 Starc's five-wicket hauls in the World Cup equals the most by a bowler. Others who have achieved it are: Gilmour, Ashantha de Mel, Vasbert Drakes, McGrath and Afridi	8 Coulter-Nile's 92 is his highest List-A score. Only once before has a No. 8 posted more in an ODI innings (95*, Woakes vs SL, 2016)

INNINGS SCAN		PROGRESSION	
AUS	WI	AUS	WI
2	Maidens 5	48/4	54/2
29	Fours 33	83/5	102/3
4	Sixes 4	146/5	160/4
102 (7th)	Best stand 68 (3rd)	206/6	221/6
5.87	RR 5.46	--	50 overs 273/9

TOP SHOWS		
For	Batting	Bowling
Australia	Coulter-Nile 92 (60b, 8x4, 4x6)	Starc 5/46 (10)
West Indies	Hope 68 (105b, 7x4)	Brathwaite 3/67 (10)

# India's win was built on hard-work and steely resolve

Gains derived from the South Africa contest will help the team as it gears up for sterner battles

Parachuting from the nail-biting thrills of the Indian Premier League, where they represented various franchises, the Men in Blue had to pause a while before getting used to the rhythms of the ICC World Cup.

The step up from T20s to conventional 50-overs-a-side games might seem an organic one and yet this isn't entirely about rapid runs and inflationary asking-rates.

ODIs are constructed upon fine starts leading to steady consolidation that paves the way for the slog. Add to it the middle overs where teams either gain height or lose their way and you get an idea of how incremental benefits have a larger resonance.

Seen in that light, Virat Kohli's men did remarkably well in their opening fixture against South Africa at Southampton's Hampshire Bowl on Wednesday. The six-wicket triumph may have looked easy but it demanded hard-work and a steely resolve, and India delivered on those counts.

## Struggling side

The Proteas are no longer the force they once were



**Heroes!** Rohit Sharma and Yuzvendra Chahal who conjured up the successful start. ■ AFP

and, to make it worse, key fast bowlers Dale Steyn and Lungi Ngidi have been laid low by injury. Faf du Plessis still had a Kagiso Rabada and a Chris Morris to fall back upon and the batting had bits-and-pieces players deep into the tail. But Kohli found the right men to counter these precise strengths of the rival unit.

Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and even Hardik Pandya revelled on a surface that promised runs

but instead offered more help as the weather turned grim and the clouds hovered.

Spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav, wristy and nagging, kept a tight leash and in restricting South Africa to 227 for nine, half the battle was won.

"It was a low-scoring game and that was because of how the pitch was throughout. We were very professional with the new ball and, in the middle ov-

ers, the spinners picked five wickets between them," Kohli said.

Chahal, who scalped four, varied his air-speed, got his lengths right, had a lovely dip and except when Morris wielded the long-handle, was largely economical.

The former chess player has a ticking brain and he rated his dismissal of du Plessis as "special": "He is their main batsman. I had planned his wicket. My ball was drifting pretty well, so I

thought I can bowl the slider on the off-stump, and it drifted onto middle-stump and he didn't pick that. It hit the pad and went on to the stumps."

Small totals can affect the pacing of the chase. Do you go at break-neck speed and finish the game or hang in for a while, gauge the situation and eventually win?

## Composed knock

India lost Shikhar Dhawan early but with Rohit Sharma remaining unbeaten on 122 (144b, 13x4, 2x6), Kohli's men found a spine that lasted. This wasn't the Rohit who blitzes once he gets past his 50. This was a batsman of pedigree buckling down, silencing his ego and being determined to stay till the end.

"He controlled the game beautifully and allowed the others to display themselves and string in little partnerships. He played the perfect innings on that kind of a pitch and against a bowling attack that was threatening to pick up wickets at any stage," Kohli said.

Rohit's effort and the performance of K.L. Rahul and M.S. Dhoni will bolster the team as it gears up for sterner battles, starting with the contest against Australia at the Oval here on Sunday.

# Dhoni's tribute draws ICC's censure

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
SOUTHAMPTON

M.S. Dhoni sporting an Army insignia on his glove during the India-South Africa clash was well appreciated by his fans but the International Cricket Council on Thursday

requested the BCCI to have the badge removed, saying it is against regulations.

Claire Furlong, ICC general manager - strategic communications, said, "It is against the regulations and we have requested it

to be removed."

When asked if Dhoni, who is an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Parachute Regiment of the Territorial Army, could be penalised, she added: "For first breach no, just a request to remove".

# Kiwis survive Bangladesh scare

**ANI**  
LONDON

New Zealand defeated Bangladesh by two wickets at the Oval on Wednesday. With this win, the Kiwis have won both their matches in the tournament.

Chasing a target of 245, the Kiwis got off to a flying start as openers Martin Gupthill and Colin Munro put on 35 runs in the first five overs, but their stand was cut short as Gupthill (25) was sent back by Shakib Al Hasan in the sixth over.

Munro and skipper Kane Williamson were able to put just 20 runs for the third wicket as Shakib scalped his second wicket, dismissing Munro (24) in the tenth over.

Ross Taylor along with Williamson then added 105 runs to steady the innings for the BlackCaps.

In a see-saw battle and

with the Kiwis requiring seven more runs for the win, Matthew Henry was dismissed by Saifuddin. However, Mitchell Santner and Lockie Ferguson took BlackCaps over the line.

requested the BCCI to have the badge removed, saying it is against regulations.

## Next assignment

**NEW ZEALAND:** June 8 vs Afghanistan, Taunton, 6 p.m.  
**BANGLADESH:** June 8 vs England, Cardiff, 3 p.m.

## SCOREBOARD NEW ZEALAND VS BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH	NEW ZEALAND
244 in 49.2 overs	Martin Gupthill c Tamim b Shakib 25 (14b, 3x4 1x6), Colin Munro c Mehidy b Shakib 24 (34b, 3x4, 1x6), Kane Williamson c Mossadek b Mehidy 40 (72b, 1x4), Ross Taylor c Mushfiqur b Mossadek 82 (91b, 9x4), Tom Latham c Saifuddin b Mehidy 0 (4b), James Neesham c Sarkar b Mossadek 25 (33b, 2x4 1x6), Colin de Grandhomme c Mushfiqur b Saifuddin 15 (13b, 2x4), Mitchell Santner (not out) 17 (12b, 2x4), Matt Henry b Saifuddin 6 (8b, 1x4), Lockie Ferguson (not out) 4 (3b, 1x4); Extras (nb-1, w-9): 10; Total: (for eight wkts. in 47.1 overs): 248.
<b>FALL OF WICKETS</b> 1-35 (Gupthill, 5.1 overs), 2-55 (Munro, 9.6), 3-160 (Williamson, 31.1), 4-162 (Latham, 31.6), 5-191 (Taylor, 38.3), 6-218 (de Grandhomme, 42.5), 7-218 (Neesham, 43.3), 8-238 (Henry, 46.3).	<b>BANGLADESH BOWLING</b> Mortaza 5-0-32-0, Mehidy 10-0-47-2, Mustafizur 71-0-48-0, Shakib 10-0-47-2, Saifuddin 7-0-41-2, Mossadek 8-0-33-2.
<b>MO:</b> Ross Taylor.	<b>MO:</b> Ross Taylor.

# We want to create pressure as a bowling unit: Bumrah

'I just try to keep things simple, focus on the processes'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
SOUTHAMPTON

Long after the dust had settled at the Hampshire Bowl on a heady Wednesday for Indian fans, Jasprit Bumrah drew praise from Virat Kohli and Hashim Amla.

The Indian skipper and South African opener were united in their admiration for the speedster and, Amla, not someone prone to hyperbole, exclaimed: "He is one hell of a bowler!"

The man in the centre of attention, however, remained oblivious to the fast-developing halo around him. Bumrah, who grabbed two wickets and played his part in India's triumph over South Africa in the key World Cup game, spoke to the media on Wednesday evening.

He stressed that the bow-

**CM** If you tick all of the boxes, everything else will fall in place

**BUMRAH**

ling unit wanted to always shackle the batsmen: "We want to create pressure as a bowling unit. Everybody chipped in. Bhuvni (Bhuvneshwar) also took two wickets. Whenever they (Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal) take crucial wickets in the middle overs, it is always helpful, especially when you come back into the attack."

Bumrah reiterated on the need for right preparation and approach: "On a wicket like this (Hampshire Bowl) you get help and then you can sometimes be tempted to try too many things. At that time, you must realise that you don't need to do too

many things, just bowling Test-match type of bowling is enough, be patient when you are getting help.

"That's what we try to adopt and automatically the results will come. I want to do all my preparations before coming into a game. If I have done everything, in the match it is all about execution and keeping a clear head space, and that's very important."

The seamer prefers to stay grounded, taking it one day at a time. "I don't think about expectations. I just think about what the team requires me to do. I don't think I have a reputation to live up to. I just try to keep things simple, focus on the processes. If you tick all of the boxes, everything else will fall in place," Bumrah said and signed off.

# Very disappointed to have lost three in a row, says Amla



**Quick return:** Hashim Amla trudges back to the pavilion after being snared by Jasprit Bumrah in his second over. ■ REUTERS

Still hopes for a turn-around in South Africa's fortunes

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
SOUTHAMPTON

Time's winged chariot seems to be inexorably catching up with the South African squad. And slowly its stalwarts are ebbing away.

If A.B. de Villiers stunned all by retiring from international cricket and opted to stick to domestic T20 leagues, the vagaries of age and the fickle nature of form seem to be plaguing a few others.

## Tipping point

Dale Steyn has been laid low through a shoulder injury and Hashim Amla isn't exactly racking up the runs. At 36, and with previous scores of 6 (against India on Wednesday), 13, 14, 59, 25 and 8 in ODIs, the opener with a zen-like demeanour is at his tipping point. His last limited-over hundred (108 n.o.) was scored against Pakistan at Port Elizabeth in January be-

fore he suffered a slump.

For the Proteas, down with three consecutive defeats, Amla has to fire. Aware of his team's needs and a bit perplexed about the squad's dipping fortunes, Amla, who squared up to the media late on Wednesday evening at the ICC's mixed-zone, still hoped for a turn-around: "Very disappointed to have lost three in a row. In previous World Cups, we have played really well but we haven't won a World Cup. This could be the other way round. Imagine that where you start badly and then find some momentum. Obviously we need to win five or six games in a row."

## Surprised by pitch

Amla expressed surprise over how the pitch at the Hampshire Bowl eventually turned out: "We anticipated it to be a bit more high-scoring. And the guys went in

with the more attacking option with Tabraiz (Shamsi) being a left-arm wrist-spinner. The wicket was a lot more seamer-friendly, nipping throughout the day. Those are things you can't anticipate."

And what about his dismissal to Jasprit Bumrah? "Batting upfront, you have to assess the wicket. Unfortunately I didn't get past the assessment period, it was the first ball I faced off Bumrah. You don't know what to expect, it just comes off the wicket and it can happen. When you look around, I think him and Kagiso Rabada are the two best bowlers in the world. They have got pace, accuracy and can bowl at all stages," Amla replied.

In the days ahead, he has to become the Amla of old - patient, adhesive and etching consistent runs. South Africa needs that from its veteran batsman.



**Team spirit:** Coach Mickey Arthur believes that if Pakistan plays with belief and intensity, it would be a difficult team to beat. ■ LAURENCE GRIFFITHS/GETTY IMAGES

## Stay 'ruthless': Arthur

Urges Pakistan not to let up against Sri Lanka

### WC PREVIEW

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BRISTOL  
Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur has urged his team to "stay ruthless" at the World Cup as it trains its sights on Sri Lanka after shocking England.

The notoriously unpredictable Pakistan side held its nerve to beat the host by 14 runs at Trent Bridge on Monday, just three days after crashing to a seven-wicket defeat against the West Indies at the same venue.

**Resolve**  
Arthur praised his team's resolve after a "shocking" defeat in their tournament opener.

"It was just so good to see us go out and play with the belief and intensity that we had spoken about," Arthur told AFP.

"When we put all three disciplines together we know we can beat anybody. We now need to stay consistent and ruthless."

Pakistan posted an impressive 348 for eight against a potent England bowling at-

THE FACE-OFF					
PAKISTAN VS SRI LANKA BRISTOL					
HEAD-TO-HEAD					
	Matches	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Tie	NR
Overall	153	90	58	1	4
World Cup	7	7	0	0	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

tack, with fifties from veteran Mohammad Hafeez, Babar Azam and Sarfaraz Ahmed.

Pacemen Wahab Riaz and Mohammad Amir, and leg-spinner Shadab Khan, took the wickets to restrict England to 334 for nine in its 50 overs.

"You could see the hunger, the determination and the resolve to do well in batting after a horror show and then the bowlers fought hard, so we need to repeat that in the coming matches as well," said Arthur.

Pakistan will be tempted to bring in fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain for his raw pace, something that New Zealand exploited against Sri Lanka during its 10-wicket rout of its opponent in Car-

diff on Saturday. On Tuesday, Sri Lanka beat Afghanistan in a rain-shortened match, also in Cardiff, to breathe life into its campaign.

**Batting collapse**  
But the 1996 champion will be wary of another middle-order batting collapse after it lost five wickets for 14 runs against New Zealand and seven wickets for 36 against Afghanistan.

Sri Lankan coach Chandika Hathurusingha said he had told his batsmen to up their game.

"I don't give pep talks. I give honest talk, that's all."

"I tell them what has to be done. They have to come and perform," said Hathurusingha.

## CSA rejected de Villiers' comeback offer with 'no regrets'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JOHANNESBURG

A.B. de Villiers wanted to come out of retirement for the World Cup but Cricket South Africa (CSA) refused to accept the offer as the batting great had ignored pleas to not retire last year.

According to ESPNcricinfo, de Villiers made the offer to come back in May, barely 24 hours before the final squad was to be announced by CSA.

CSA selection panel convenor Linda Zondi confirmed that de Villiers did make the offer and that skipper Faf du Plessis and coach Ottis Gibson were quite keen to have him back as well.

However, de Villiers' omission was based on principles, Zondi said.

"I pleaded with A.B. de Villiers not to retire in 2018. Although there was a perception that he was picking and choosing when to play - which was not true - I did give him the option to plan and monitor his season to get him to the World Cup fresh and in a good space," Zondi said in the CSA release. "He turned down the offer and said he was at peace with his decision to retire," he recalled.

"For Faf du Plessis and Ottis Gibson to share AB's desire to be included in the squad on the day we announced our World Cup squad was a shock. AB left a big vacuum when he retired, we had a year to find players at franchise level to fill the gap," he added.

## Teenager Anisimova dethrones Halep

Meets Barty next; Djokovic, Thiem set up a semifinal clash after straight-set wins

### ROLAND GARROS

REUTERS  
PARIS

Teenage sensation Amanda Anisimova blew defending champion Simona Halep out of the French Open with a shock 6-2, 6-4 victory in the quarterfinals on Thursday, and immediately set her sights on winning the Suzanne Lenglen Cup.

Third seed Halep, who had been looking to become the first woman to retain her title at Roland Garros since Belgian Justine Henin won three times in a row from 2005-07, never found a solution to counter the 17-year-old American's beguiling mix of speed and accuracy.

The unseeded Anisimova, the first player born in the 2000s to reach the last eight at a Grand Slam, can become the first teenager to lift the trophy here since Iva Majoli of Croatia prevailed in 1997.

She next faces Australian eighth seed Ashleigh Barty, who beat American Madison Keys 6-3, 7-5 in the day's other rescheduled quarterfinal after Wednesday's complete washout.

### Negating big serves

In the men's section, despite sending mighty serves crashing down from a great height, towering World No. 5 Alexander Zverev could offer only momentary resistance to Novak Djokovic, as the top seed barged into the semifinals in straight sets.

The 6ft 6ins (1.98m) tall German had served for the opening set at 5-4 before Djokovic simply clicked it up a notch to steal that set 7-5 then romped through the next two 6-2, 6-2.

"He was serving very well, it was a big challenge for me to find the right returning position," Djokovic said on court afterwards. "I was 4-5 down, then I played five or six games perfectly, hitting



**Oh, my gosh!** Amanda Anisimova can't control her surprise after dispatching Simona Halep with ease on Thursday. ■ AFP

### Ultimate showdown

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have faced off 38 times. Though the Spaniard leads the head-to-head 23-15, the Swiss has won their last five meetings. Their last encounter was at the final of the ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai in 2017.



### Surface-wise

**Outdoor Clay (15):** Nadal holds a 13-2 advantage.

**Outdoor Grass (3):** Federer leads 2-1.

**Outdoor Hard (14):** Nadal has an 8-6 lead.

**Indoor Hard (6):** Federer leads 5-1.

### At Grand Slams

**Titles:** Federer (20), Nadal (17).

**Head-to-head:** Nadal leads 9-3.

### At Roland Garros

**Titles:** Nadal (11), Federer (1).

**Head-to-head:** Nadal leads 5-0.

Their previous meeting came in the final in 2011. The Spaniard won 7-5, 7-6(3), 5-7, 6-1.

### Round-wise

**Final (four times):** Nadal leads 4-0.

**Semifinals (once):** Nadal won (6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in 2005)



clean balls. It was very windy but it felt good to play (after Wednesday's washout)."

Thursday's victory over Zverev was a 26th consecutive one in Grand Slam action, and it will take a mammoth effort to end that run.

The man tasked next with stopping him is Austrian Dominic Thiem, ranked one

place higher than Thursday's victim.

Thiem was himself ruthless, dispatching Russian Karen Khachanov 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Familiar faces occupy the bottom half of the draw with Roger Federer due to face Rafael Nadal in the first semifinal.

### THE RESULTS

**Quarterfinals: Women:** 8-Ashleigh Barty (Aus) bt 14-Madison Keys (USA) 6-3, 7-5; Amanda Anisimova (USA) bt 3-Simona Halep (Rou) 6-2, 6-4.

**Men:** 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt 5-Alexander Zverev (Ger) 7-5, 6-2, 6-2; 4-Dominic Thiem (Bel) bt 10-Karen Khachanov (Rus) 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

## India starts off with a goal glut against a hapless Russia

The 10-0 scoreline, however, doesn't do justice to the dominance displayed by the hosts

### HSF

UTHRA GANESAN  
BHUBANESWAR

He trapped, turned and flicked in a perfect reverse hit into the net past a hapless Ivan Ozherelev to round off the tally. India's 10th goal of the game by Akashdeep Singh was a perfect display of what the Indian men's hockey team is capable of, when on song. It took time to get into that rhythm though, in its opening game of the Hockey Series Finals against Russia at the Kalinga Stadium here on Thursday.

### Below par

The 10-0 scoreline though was below par for the complete dominance the team displayed and the number of

chances it created. To be fair, the Indians hardly exerted themselves through the game. It was still a walk in the park.

The last time the two teams faced off was 11 years ago, at the Olympic qualifying tournament for the 2008 Games, when India won 8-0. But that was also the beginning of the darkest period for Indian hockey with the team failing to travel to Beijing for the first time ever in the Games' history.

The first half showed glimpses of one of Indian hockey's longest running malaise - too much keenness on showing off skills.

The team went into half time with a 3-0 lead but had missed half a dozen chances, both open and through pe-



**In control:** Akashdeep Singh, who scored a brace, makes his way into Russian territory. ■ BISWARNAJAN ROUT

nal corners, in those 30 minutes, getting the passes and the shots at goal too late or too wayward.

Captain Manpreet Singh had said the team had worked on its finishing but

the rough edges were evident. Russia is no tricky customer but it did manage to keep a semblance of discipline in its defence despite India dominating every aspect of the game including

possession.

Coach Graham Reid was visibly dissatisfied at half time walking into the dressing room. The team that walked out in the 3rd quarter was different. There was more structure, less holding on and more purpose. Practice was over and it was time to get down to business. And the team began playing like World No. 5.

### Aberration

Sumit, Nilakanta Sharma and Manpreet kept feeding high, Simranjit and Mandeep kept getting into position and Gursahibjit continued to impress even as Russia was reduced to a spectator, chasing the ball and the Indians across the field, without success. It did earn a penalty corner in

the 42nd minute but that was an aberration.

India coach Graham Reid, meanwhile, admitted he wasn't too happy with the way the team began. "We could have scored more in that first quarter and we did give away a few loose space to them at that time. It was something I spoke about at quarter time but it is also very difficult to judge a game against a team like Russia," said Reid.

"You don't play against them too often at the national level and so you prepare well for them and do your best. But it isn't easy to plan."

Manpreet, playing his 250th game, agreed that the team would look to shore up its finishing in the upcoming games. "We know Poland is a

very defensive team. We started off with a few missed chances but improved as the game progressed," he said.

In another Pool A match, Poland had an easy 4-0 victory against minnows Uzbekistan. The tournament opener in the morning, though, produced the first upset of the competition with USA winning 2-0 against a higher ranked and more experienced South Africa in Pool B.

**The results:** USA 2 (Christian D. Angelis, Paul Singh) bt South Africa 0; Poland 4 (Mateusz Hulboj 2, Pawel Bratkowski 2) bt Uzbekistan 0; India 10 (Harmanpreet Singh 2, Akashdeep Singh 2, Simranjit Singh, Amit Rohidas, Varun Kumar, Nilakanta Sharma, Gursahibjit Singh, Vivek Prasad) bt Russia 0.

## Raptors take a 2-1 lead

### NBA FINALS

REUTERS  
OAKLAND

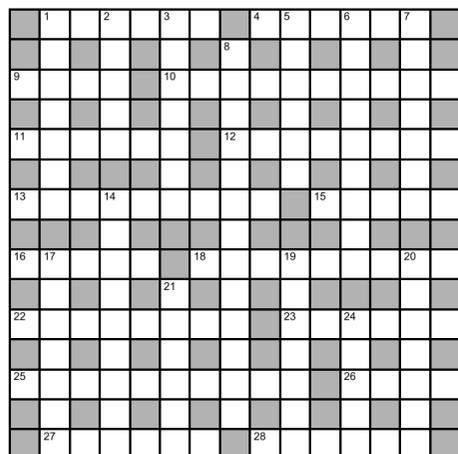
Raptors defeated a short-handed Golden State Warriors 123-109 here on Wednesday to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals. The Raptors won behind 30 points from Kawhi Leonard and a balanced attack that saw five others score in double digits.

Warriors were able to cut the lead to as little as seven points at some stages but Raptors always had an answer.

**The result:** Toronto Raptors 123 (Kawhi Leonard 30, Kyle Lowry 23, Danny Green 18) bt Golden State Warriors 109 (Stephen Curry 47, Draymond Green 17, Andre Iguodala 11). *Raptors lead series 2-1.*

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12646

(set by Anon)



- Remove reversing bus from land (8)
- Are suites renovated on water bodies? (9)
- Starts soothing patiently, a sore muscle cramp (5)
- Tolerate assistant without first book (5)
- Honourees steal urea? Ridiculous! (9)
- Slit tote crudely with spike (8)
- Sickly bird loses warmth at first (6)
- Regulated variety in musical instrument (10)
- Crave for press reportedly (4)
- Pervert in USA district (6)
- Tyrants miss last buses at stations (6)

- Enforcer extracts bit of truth from fraud (7)
- Cut regular diet, portray clerk (6)
- Weird operations to remove new cross-eye (9)
- Pays attention to advertisements (7)
- Widest rotunda weird, convoluted (7,6)
- In a riot, nude adult rose and fell (9)
- Annoys siblings, not last sister (7)
- Remains at lodge around Utah boundary (7)
- Extricate device partly from programmers who run away (7)
- Roams with receptacle in St. Kitts' borders (6)
- Slow 40 day period of love (5)

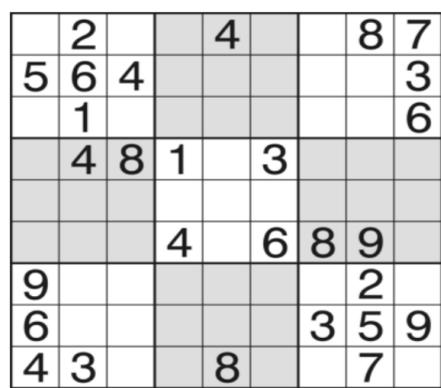
### ACROSS

- Staff in charge of gum (6)
- Behind a small sea bird (6)
- Boy almost starts debate in African country (4)
- Placed bowlers atop sea vessels (10)
- Force rude doctor on ship (6)

### DOWN

- Mother to scream, from first to last, at drivers (8)
- Son unemployed? Creep! (5)

## SUDOKU



### Solution to puzzle 12645

C	O	N	T	E	M	P	T	A	F	F	A	I	R
L	O	P	R	O	P	H							
O	R	T	H	O	D	O	X	B	R	O	N	Z	E
T	O	C	V	L	E	E	O						
H	A	R	S	H	O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L	S
E	I		K	M	G	A	N	C	E	T			
B	O	U	N	C	E	P	A	N	A	C	E	A	
A	U	O											
R	E	S	E	R	V	E	A	D	R	O	I	T	
G	A	T	T	L	E	L	L	J					
U	N	E	T	H	I	C	A	L	S	E	D	G	E
M	L	S	H	E	W	H	S						
E	Q	U	I	T	B	R	E	A	K	O	U	T	
N	D	A											
T	H	E	O	R	Y	C	Y	L	I	N	D	E	R

### Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	3	8	5	1	2	6	9	7
6	9	2	4	7	8	5	3	1
7	1	5	6	9	3	4	2	8
3	5	4	7	2	1	8	6	9
1	8	6	9	4	5	2	7	3
9	2	7	3	8	6	1	5	4
5	7	9	1	6	4	3	8	2
2	4	3	8	5	9	7	1	6
8	6	1	2	3	7	9	4	5

## FAITH

### Vedas speak about Him

How does one know the Supreme One? There are problems in using inference to know Him, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. We may argue that since there is a world, then it naturally follows that there must be someone behind it, and that that someone is the Supreme One. But this can lead to some wrong inferences. If there is a product, it is quite possible that it was made through team effort. So, we may conclude that several powers are behind the Universe.

However, this is not correct, for there is only One Supreme power that creates, sustains and dissolves. For making any product, we need raw materials, a person to make it, but in the case of the Lord, He needs just His will to bring into existence everything. So clearly, He cannot be understood through the usual means we resort to understand something. He is unique and cannot be understood through inference. And yet, Krishna while talking about bhakti yoga, suggests inference as a possible means. He asks how does the air move freely? What supports it? The Lord answers that He supports it.

But if inference is wrong, why does the Lord ask Arjuna to infer His greatness through the analogy of freely moving air? What is wrong in to infer Him through analogies alone. We must understand Him through Vedic statements. But once you understand the meaning of what the Vedas say, you can enjoy those meanings through analogies. Once we have got an idea of His qualities from the Vedas, we can then enjoy His greatness through examples. How is it that waves keep coming to the shore and receding? How is it that eclipses can be predicted years ahead? All this is due to the Lord. But we can understand such wonders, only after we understand Him through the Vedas.

TV PICKS

**Hockey Series Final:** Star Sports 3, 8.45 a.m., 5 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
**ICC World Cup:** Pakistan vs Sri Lanka, Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.  
**Roland Garros:** SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 4 p.m.  
**FIFA U-20 WC:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.

IN BRIEF



**Bhulia congratulates Chhetri**

**NEW DELHI**  
Former captain Bhaichung Bhulia congratulated his successor Sunil Chhetri for surpassing his record and becoming India's most capped international player. Chhetri on Wednesday made his 108th appearance for India, eclipsing Bhulia's record of 107 matches, when he walked out to lead the side against Curacao in the opening match of the King's Cup. "I am extremely proud of him. Big congratulations to you Sunil," Bhulia said. PTI

**Man City launches legal bid to stop potential CL ban**

**LONDON**  
Manchester City has launched a legal bid to stop UEFA banning it from the Champions League over alleged financial misconduct, according to British media reports on Thursday. City, is in danger of being kicked out of future editions of the Champions League after UEFA probed reported Financial Fair Play breaches. AFP

**Kashvi to meet Samaira in final**

**NEW DELHI**  
Kashvi Shula beat Katyayani Singh 7-5, 6-1 to set up a title clash with Samaira Malik in the girls section of the AITA Talent series under-16 tennis tournament at the Modern School courts, Barakhamba Road, on Thursday.  
**The results (semifinals):**  
**Boys:** Anish Pahuja w/o Samsher Sehrawat; Raunak Malik bt Sanit Austin Adhikari 6-3, 6-2. **Girls:** Kashvi Shukla bt Katyayani Singh 7-5, 6-1; Samaira Malik bt Mrinalika Swami 6-3, 6-0.

**Shruti and Chandini advance**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Fifth seed Shruti Ahlawat and eighth seed Chandini Srinivasan set up a semifinal by blanketing their opponents Anya Jacob and Maisha Rao in the girls' section of the Sports Boulevard Asian under-14 tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Thursday.

The other semifinal in the girls' event will be between Saumritra Verma and Nandini Dixit.

In the boys' section, top seed Rushil Khosla had a tough fight against Aryan Nanda as he pulled through to a 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-3 victory. Manas Dhamne, Omaansh Chaudhary Saharia and Arunava Majumder were the others to reach the semifinals.

**The results: Boys (quarterfinals):** Rushil Khosla bt Aryan Nanda 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-3; Manas Dhamne bt Samar Malhotra 6-3, 6-4; Omaansh Chaudhary Saharia bt Manan Nath 6-4, 6-1; Arunava Majumder bt Cahir Warik 6-3, 6-1.

**Girls (quarterfinals):** Shruti Ahlawat bt Anya Jacob 6-0, 6-0; Chandini Srinivasan bt Maisha Rao 6-0, 6-0; Saumritra Verma bt Shatakshi Chaudhary 6-3, 7-6(0); Nandini Dixit bt Anannya Bhatia 6-0, 6-2.

**Gursimar in the van**

SPORTS REPORTER  
BENGALURU

Gursimar Badwal grabbed a four-shot lead in the second round of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour 2019-Leg 7, at Clover Greens near here.

**The scores (top-four):** 137: Gursimar Badwal (71, 66); 141: Gaurika Bishnoi (71, 70); 142: Amandeep Drall (71, 71); 144: Tvesa Malik (74, 70), Millie Saroha (73, 71).

# Gaikwad's century powers India-A to victory

Shehan Jaysuriya century goes in vain for Sri Lanka-A

SL-A IN INDIA

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA BELAGAVI

A brilliant, unbeaten 187 from Rituraj Gaikwad powered India-A to an emphatic victory over Sri Lanka-A in the first one-day match here on Thursday.

The Maharashtra batsman relied on timing and deftness of touch to take the touring bowlers apart, his 136-ball knock steering India-A to a mammoth 317 for four in 42 overs. In reply, the Sri Lankans fell 48 runs short, Shehan Jaysuriya's century going in vain.

The home side never truly allowed the run chase to assume threatening proportions. The new ball pair of Tushar Deshpande and Sandeep Warrier accounted for Sri Lanka's openers, Niroshan Dickwella sparking briefly before spooning a catch to mid-wicket. Jaysuriya dropped anchor, but India's bowlers chipped away at the other end, removing Ashan Priyanjan and Bhanuka Rajapaksa just when there was the whiff of a good partnership.

All-rounder Dasun Shanaka launched a late assault, clobbering a 31-ball-44 as he and Jaysuriya added 92



**Commanding knock:** Gaikwad relied on timing and deft touch to take the Sri Lanka-A bowlers apart. PHOTO COURTESY: BCCI

runs (69b) in quick time for the sixth wicket. But the asking rate, 16 at that stage, was always going to be too steep.

**Delayed start**

Earlier, overnight rain delayed the start of proceedings by an hour and a half, reducing the fixture to a 42-overs-a-side affair. Shubman

Bill fell early, but Gaikwad was simply unstoppable. The 22-year-old played some delightful short-arm pulls and back-foot punches, judging the length in a flash.

He raised his fourth List A hundred, off 94 balls, with a firm pull through mid-wicket. Getting to three figures only emboldened Gaikwad,

who not long after went down on one knee to thrash Lahiru Kumara over long-on for six: it was arguably the shot of the match. In all, he struck 26 fours and two sixes in the course of his three-hour effort.

"These days, a hundred is not enough in one-day cricket; batsmen are targeting double hundreds. So I didn't want to stop after reaching three figures," Gaikwad said after notching up a career-best List A score.

The Pune man may not have played any top-level cricket since the end of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in March, having warmed the bench for CSK in the IPL, but he was not short of match practice, he revealed.

"I competed in a local tournament in Pune called the Manake Trophy, where the first innings is limited to 40 overs and the second to 20," said Gaikwad. "I scored four hundreds there. It gave me confidence."

**The scores:**

India-A 317 for four in 42 overs (Rituraj Gaikwad 187 n.o., Anmolpreet Singh 65, Ishan Kishan 45, Lahiru Kumara three for 62) bt Sri Lanka-A 269 for six in 42 overs (Shehan Jaysuriya 108 n.o., Dasun Shanaka 44, Bhanuka Rajapaksa 29, Ashan Priyanjan 29).

# Portugal downs Switzerland; enters final

NATIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE PORTO

Cristiano Ronaldo hit a hat-trick as Portugal withstood a huge moment of VAR controversy to beat Switzerland 3-1 and reach the Nations League final on home soil here.

Ronaldo's free-kick opened the scoring midway through the first half, but the Swiss levelled when the referee overturned his decision to award Portugal a penalty to give a spot-kick at the other end after a VAR review, and Ricardo Rodriguez levelled.

The game seemed destined to head for extra time, but as ever Ronaldo stepped up to be the hero with two expert finishes in the final two minutes. It will now face England or the Netherlands in Sunday's final.

Portugal made it to the last four without its all-time record goalscorer as Ronaldo took a hiatus from international football to concentrate on his first season at Juventus.

However, the five-time world player of the year returned to the national team in March and was always likely to be the centre of attention on a day when it was reported a rape lawsuit against him had been dropped.

A lawyer for the American woman who claimed she was sexually assaulted by Ronaldo -accusations he has strongly denied -later dismissed that report, saying



**Unstoppable:** Cristiano Ronaldo's hat-trick helped Portugal beat Switzerland 3-1. REUTERS

the lawsuit had not been dropped.

In Porto, Ronaldo pulled his first big chance wide early on, but made the breakthrough on 25 minutes.

Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer was fooled by the wicked swerve as Ronaldo's free-kick from the edge of the area flew into his bottom left-hand corner.

The Portugal captain is, though, no longer his country's only star name with Bernardo Silva starring for Manchester City where he could soon be joined by Joao Felix.

City is reportedly set to pay Felix's €120-million (\$135 million) buyout clause from Benfica, but the 19-year-old missed a glaring chance to mark his international debut

with a goal just before the break as he blasted over from Ronaldo's pass.

Switzerland had posed a threat in the first half with Xherdan Shaqiri, fresh from winning the Champions League with Liverpool, particularly lively.

However, it took the help of VAR to get it back in the game in a moment of huge controversy just before the hour mark.

Portugal thought it was the one with the chance to extend their lead from the penalty spot when referee Felix Brych pointed to the spot.

However, the German referee then reviewed a Swiss penalty appeal he had waved away for a foul by Nelson Semedo on Steven Zuber

and overturned his initial decision.

Rodriguez drilled home the resultant spot-kick much to the fury of the home supporters at the Estadio do Dragao.

The Swiss could then have gone in front when Benfica forward Haris Seferovic headed just wide.

But Portugal's greater star power eventually shone through as Silva squared for Ronaldo to drill home his second of the night.

Moments later the host sealed its place in the final on the counter-attack as Ronaldo curled into the far corner to take his tally of international goals to 88.

**The result:** Portugal 3 (Ronaldo 25, 88, 90) bt Switzerland 1 (Rodriguez 57-pen).

# Want to mentor people from humble backgrounds: Mary Kom

The champion hints at retirement post 2020 Olympics

BOXING

BHRIGU BAGGA NEW DELHI

India's boxing champion Mary Kom admitted that she wants to retire post the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Mary, when asked about her future after the Olympics next year, replied: "Maybe after 2020 I want to retire, I really want to give gold to the nation."

The Indian boxer is a part of Colgate's panel for its newly-launched Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship, which offers financial support to and mentors people across India to help them realise their dreams.

The six-time world champion told *The Hindu* that she wants to guide the needy to successfully pursue their dreams. "Obviously there is scholarship money, but that's not enough. People from humble backgrounds



Mary Kom. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

like me need guidance and mentors too, that's how I want to support Colgate in their mission," she said.

Mary agreed that a lot of effort was being put in by various institutions to promote sporting culture, infrastruc-

ture and facilities in the country, but her goal was to inspire people to keep smiling, citing happiness as the key to holistic success.

India's first-ever wheelchair-body builder Anand Arnold's inspiring story was also played on the big screen.

Anand narrated with pride his journey from being Mr. Punjab in 2013 to Mr. Olympia in 2018.

"Everyone Deserves A Future They Can Smile About," Colgate managing director Issam Bachaalani said of the reason behind introducing this scholarship.

The scholarship program has been launched in partnership with ShikshaDaan Foundation, a non-profit organisation that specialises in providing education and development to the underprivileged and Buddy4Study, India's largest scholarship platform.

# Carlsen bests Anand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA STAVANGER (NORWAY)

Viswanthan Anand put up a good show in the classical game but lost to World champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway in the Armageddon game to score half-a-point out of a possible two in the first game of Altibox Norway chess tournament here.

It turned out to be a difficult day at office as Anand survived an inferior middle game and then a subsequent endgame against Carlsen for a long time in what was the most exciting classical game of the day but then fell prey to some finely disguised manoeuvres in the Armageddon game where the Indian played another black.

Anand could have done better but Carlsen pressed harder in the Armageddon game. The middle game was fierce when Carlsen launched an attack but the World champion missed a checkmate on his way to victory.

**The results (first round):** Magnus Carlsen bt V. Anand 1.5-0.5; Shakhriyar Mamedyarov bt Fabio Caruana 1.5-0.5; Levon Aronian bt Alexander Grischuk 1.5-0.5; Maxime Vachier-Lagrave lost to Yu Yangyi 0.5-1.5; Ding Liren bt Wesley So 1.5-0.5.

# Neymar ruled out of Copa America

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BRASILIA

Neymar was ruled out of Copa America on Thursday after tearing his right ankle ligament during Brazil's 2-0 friendly win over Qatar.

**The results: International friendlies:** Brazil 2 (Richardson 17, Gabriel Jesus 23) bt Qatar 0; USA 0 lost to Jamaica 1 (Nicholson 60).

# Indian challenge comes to an end

AUS OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SYDNEY

P.V. Sindhu made a second round exit from the Australian Open, suffering a straight-game loss in what turned out to be a dismal day for Indian shuttlers here on Thursday.

Sindhu was the last to fall, following the ouster of the men's sixth-seed Sameer Verma, B. Sai Praneeth and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. Later in the day, P. Kashyap's gallant loss against Lin Dan ended India's campaign here.

World No. 5 Sindhu could

not get past Nitchaon Jindapol, ranked 29th, and lost 21-19, 21-18 in 49 minutes.

Earlier, World No. 12 Sameer went down 21-16, 7-21, 21-13 to Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei, while Praneeth put up a brave fought in the opening game before surrendering 25-23, 21-9 to second seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting.

**The results: Men:** Wang Tzu Wei (Tpe) bt Sameer Verma 21-16, 7-21, 21-13; Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Ina) bt B. Sai Praneeth 25-23, 21-9; Lin Dan (Chn) bt P. Kashyap 21-17, 20-22, 21-14. **Doubles:** Li Junhui & Liu Yuchen (Chn) bt Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty 21-19, 21-18. **Women:** Nitchaon Jindapol (Tha) bt P.V. Sindhu 21-19, 21-18.

# Divij exits in doubles

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU SURBITON

Divij Sharan and Marcelo Demoliner were beaten 7-5, 6-7(5), 10-8 by wild card entrants Daniel Evans and Lloyd Glasspool of Britain in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €137,560 Challenger tennis tournament here.

Sriram Balaji and Jamie Cerretani of the US ran into the top seeds Marcel Granollers and Ben McLachlan and managed to win four games.

In the Challenger in Poland, Sumit Nagal went down in three sets to Alessandro Giannessi of Italy.

In the ITF women's event in Fergana, Uzbekistan, Riya Bhatia beat the fifth seed Ekaterina Yashina of Russia 7-6(3), 6-3 to make the semifinals.

**The results: € 137,560 Challenger, Surbiton, England: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Marcel Granollers (Esp) & Ben McLachlan (Jpn) bt Jamie Cerre-

tani (US) & Sriram Balaji 6-3, 6-1; Daniel Evans & Lloyd Glasspool (GBR) bt Marcelo Demoliner (Bra) & Divij Sharan 7-5, 6-7(5), [10-8].

**€ 69,280 Challenger, Poznan, Poland: Singles (second round):** Alessandro Giannessi (Ita) bt Sumit Nagal 7-5, 3-6, 6-3. **\$25,000 ITF men, Hong Kong: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Shintaro Imai & Yuta Shimizu (Jpn) bt Jose Fco. Vidal Azorin (Esp) & Sidharth Rawat 7-6(3), 6-3.

**\$15,000 ITF men, Tumon, Guam: Singles (pre-quarterfinals):** Ko Suzuki (Jpn) bt Karunoday Singh 3-6, 7-6(7), 6-3. **Doubles (quarterfinals):** Palaphoom Kovapitukted (Tha) & Karunoday Singh bt Jurence Zosimo Mendoza (Phi) & Hugo Pontico (Fra) 7-6(3), 1-6, [10-8].

**\$15,000 ITF men, Singapore: Singles (pre-quarterfinals):** Manish Sureshkumar bt Mohd. Adam Das Shamirul Shahri (Mas) 6-1, 6-0; Kunal Anand bt Cameron Green (Aus) 7-6(3), 6-4; Ryota Tanuma (Jpn) bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

**\$25,000 ITF women, Fergana, Uzbekistan: Singles (pre-quarterfinals):** Riya Bhatia bt Ekaterina Yashina (Rus) 7-6(3), 6-3.

# Hamilton seeks magnificent seven for himself and Mercedes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MONTREAL

Lewis Hamilton will seek to complete a magnificent seven for himself and his record-breaking Mercedes team with another victory at this weekend's Canadian Grand Prix.

The defending five-time World champion can equal Michael Schumacher's record total of triumphs at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve and extend his team's record season-opening run to seven straight wins with his 78th career success.

But even with the likely boost of an upgraded Mercedes power-unit, he and his team are wary of any hint of over-confidence after the Briton's stirring triumph under severe pressure at last month's Monaco Grand Prix.

"We need to learn from that," said Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff, referring to a strategic error that left Hamilton defending grimly on worn 'medium' tyres, not 'hard'.

**Individual brilliance**

Hamilton's individual brilliance salvaged victory in Monte Carlo, but Wolff is aware that he cannot do the same again in Montreal.

"If we have this situation again, in Montreal, we lose the race," he added.

"It will be a huge challenge for us as the track characteristics could favour our opponents. There are long straights and fewer corners... But, we're looking forward to the challenge."

Hamilton need only recall his plight last year to serve as

a reminder against any kind of complacency.

Then he was aiming to be the first driver to take four successive poles and wins on one of his favourite circuits, where he won his maiden race and has claimed six wins from 11 starts, including nine from the front row.

Instead, he finished fifth with engine problems as four-time champion Sebastian Vettel dominated, taking pole and victory for Ferrari. Team principal Mattia Binotto does not appear optimistic for a repeat.

"I think we will be in better shape, but the best car is still the Mercedes... Maybe the gap will close," he said.

After his emotional feat in Monaco, where his triumph was dedicated to the late Niki Lauda, a three-time former

world champion and Mercedes' former non-executive chairman, Hamilton arrives in Canada with a 17-point lead ahead of team-mate Valtteri Bottas.

He suggested that the team would have a new engine for the power-hungry Montreal contest, following Ferrari, Honda -- for Red Bull -- and Renault in introducing their upgrades already.

He may need it as Vettel and Ferrari seek to end a run of 14 races without a win, stretching back to last August. The 'Scarlet Scuderia', who are seeking to recruit technical staff from rival teams, may also gain from a fired-up show from Charles Leclerc following his troubled early exit in his hometown race last time out.



**Milestone beckons:** Lewis Hamilton can equal Michael Schumacher's record total of triumphs at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve and extend his team's record season-opening run to seven straight wins with his 78th career success. REUTERS

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

Enormous plumes of brown, dusty smoke billow across a stubbed out field, as a man, as tiny as a duck in comparison, waddles by. The photo and its scale – still a room away, but visible through a door that lies open – catches your eye, and sets the tone for what's to follow.

An introductory note at this narrow corridor snaps the viewer into the context of Breathless: "Here we are, in our air-cooled gallery in the capital, wondering how we came to be environmental refugees in our own cities, wondering when this came to be the new normal," writes journalist Aruna Chandrasekhar. She and photojournalist Ishan Tankha have brought out stories of an air-pollution crisis. And this isn't, as we're used to hearing, just from northern India. It is from Mumbai, Ennore near Chennai, and Korba in Chhatisgarh too.

The Clean Air Collective, a collaborative network of individuals and organisations working towards our right to breathe, had reached out to Takha and Chandrasekhar around August last year, to do this series. Since then, the photos, along with the researched stories have been published in newspapers and magazines periodically.

When they're all together now, and designed in exhibit form, they take on a new life. Already, Chandrasekhar's aim with the original, published stories was to experiment with environmental reporting "These stories are usually done in a certain way, with debates over death tolls dominating the narrative. Ishan and I wanted to instead have a character-driven approach to it," she says, adding how putting a face to a problem and telling compelling stories is how readers can understand its gravity.

Her vignettes are short, effective spotlights on the lives of people you might ordinarily never come in contact with: a displaced adivasi woman in Korba who has fought for her right to be employed by the coal company that affected her domicile; or the Delhi-based man who never smoked a cigarette but was diagnosed with lung cancer; or a fisherman-Kabbadi coach in Ennore whose livelihood and sport are affected because of pollution.

Tankha's frames, smart in their varied sizes, are evocative – with



# Fields of smoke

A photo-journalistic exhibit in Bikaner House is an eye-opener on India's air pollution crisis

**Air crisis** One of the photos at the exhibit; (below) a view of the show's layout

• ISHAN TANKHA AND VANGMAYI PARAKALA



**A TACTILE AND VR NOOK**

• Write a message to your policymakers with the "air ink" markers available here. Their ink is made out of 50,000 m3 of Delhi's air pollution by Bengaluru-based Graviky Labs. The sheets, say the organisers, will travel across India, appealing for air pollution to be declared a public health emergency.

• View the landscape of Korba in Chhatisgarh, (almost) firsthand, with one of exhibit's characters, Nirupabai Kawar taking you around in the VR film, *The Cost of Coal*. There are special Oculus devices here for your phone to wedge into.

each, you're walking into a scene of disaster or dystopia and the tragic beauty of it will move you.

For the exhibit's opening on World Environment Day on 5th June, the organisers held a panel discussion, moderated by Siddharth Singh, author of *The Great Smog of India*. The panellists included three political representatives, brought together to have a two-way discourse on policy-level action and awareness of air pollution. "We wanted to ask if the par-

ties can put aside their differences to pledge to work on the issue of air pollution, and view it as a national health crisis," says Chandrasekhar. "But the responses were wavering."

The stories speak of the crisis as a fallout of booming industry, especially coal. To provide energy and electricity to the farthest corners of the country is not an option. "But perhaps the way forward is through decentralised renewable energy," says Brikesh Singh of Asar, a development start-up

based in Bengaluru. A part of the Clean Air Collective, Singh is also one of the organisers of Breathless.

"We are on a confusing footing," says Chandrasekhar. "We can state geo-politics and our right as a country to develop, but we also have the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change) that's saying we have 12 years to fundamentally change the world we live in and that needs to start now" she adds. "The lands, lungs, and livelihoods of people in India's coal belt can't wait."

In 2016, when photographer and filmmaker Ronny Sen's project *Jharia* won the Getty Images Instagram Grant, it opened up to the possibility of using the photo-blogging site for independent photojournalism from India. Breathless has opened the art gallery as a space for well-researched, and collaborative journalism, yet again.

*Breathless: An Artistic Call to India's Air Pollution Crisis, until June 9th, Bikaner House, Pandara Road*

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Much like the title of the first track, 'Lingering Wine', from her album *Queerism*, Pragma Pallavi's voice is all rich and dark tones. The R&B/Soul number with Latino undercurrents is a earworm. The album art itself is one of Warhol-esque aesthetics complete with neon technicolour, designed by the artiste herself.

Pragma's diverse musical background translates well into *Queerism*, with EDM, tropical, jazz and ballad-like melodies flowing through all nine tracks, reflecting the mosaic-al nature of the world.

She admits it took about three and a half years to bring out the album, explaining she was running a business in Goa in between. Last September, when Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code was struck down, it seemed like the right time to get things back in gear. The album, which has nine tracks, was released on May 17, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, and also features a spectrum of musical genres. Pragma wrote most of the lyrics with Deepa Vasudevan, a queer activist and founder of Kerala-based NGO Sahayatrika, whom she prais.

The video for 'Lingering Wine' was shot in Kerala in Fort Kochi, and was released two days before Valentine's Day, now accumulating over 1,31,000 views. "It's hot, right?" asks Pragma, about the video, which narrates a steamy relationship between herself and Malayalam actress Kani Kusruti. But what really makes Pragma proud is the LGBTQIA+ diversity of the crew. "It's one of the most important parts of that video, for me."

A month after the album release, the power of hindsight is real. Had she lived elsewhere, how would the album have been undertaken? She pauses then chuckles. "Honestly, the album would have been released 10 years ago anywhere else, right? Our community



A month after releasing India's first openly queer music album, Pragma Pallavi urges everyone in every marginalised community to make their voices heard

## Reverberate without apology

here faces so much dissent." Pragma explains that it's almost a blessing that she's not attached to a record label.

She came out in 2011 and it was a difficult assimilation into a society not ready for her authenticity. She was treated differently, given odd looks and she overheard people bet-

ting on whether she was a girl or a boy. She found that the Internet to be her main resource for information about sexual minorities. Even after Section 377 was struck down, she knew some mindsets would not change or adjust so easily, and it certainly reflects in the music industry.



**Deep dives** (left) Pragma Pallavi, (above) the album COVER • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Looking back, she shares that she's faced a lot of roadblocks in the form of occasional support withdrawal because of a community bias, but insists that these challenges actually add fuel to her fire. *Queerism* features lyrics in both Hindi and English, so we ask Pragma if she'd ever be down to have more regional diversity in future music projects. She exclaims, "Why not? Having shot 'Lingering Wine' in Kerala where most of the crew was local, I would love to broaden my collaborations across different languages."

Streaming services such as Spotify, Napster and Tidal democratically house *Queerism* and other queer music projects, as they should. But Pragma isn't worried about the support from streaming platforms.

To this day, funding for LGBTQIA+ artistes is non-existent. "It's tough enough as a woman in this world. You never know someone's true views – no matter their fame – about the community. But we can't let that stop us from creating our art."

In fact, she's excited about her next project that she's hoping to begin work on soon: "I think that's natural for creators, they have a drive like that."

**INDULGENCE**

### Flowers for many seasons

Champ Fleur, the preserved-flower boutique, launches its Delhi delivery



If you're planning to get married and want a little part of it preserved for a few years, Champ Fleur helps you do just that. But they also have readymade flowers, whether for your hair (mounted on a comb) or in a vase that you don't need to fuss over with water and plant food. Their arrangements can last for upto two years, provided they're not exposed to the heat, moisture, and oil.

Champ Fleur was founded in 2017 by Chitra Das, in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills, with a boutique that offered both off-the-shelf and customised preserved flowers. The organic flowers are sourced from across the world. Picked at peak bloom (when they lend themselves best to preservation depending on the size of the flower) they're then sent to their lab in Japan. Here, they are put through a four-step process of preservation (dehydrating, rehydrating, drying, colouring), with one process involving submerging the flower in a solution for upto six weeks. Everything, including the dying is with natural ingredients, says the company.

The most popular creations are long-stemmed black rose; a rose-gold mirror box containing hydrangeas, roses, baby's breath (also customisable); and envelope-shaped vases for offices. Colours range from jet black and purple to sun yellow, ruby red and pastels. It's the whole flower that's coloured, so the sepals are the same hue as the petals. "Delhi prefers the classics: reds, whites, pinks, while Mumbai we see lots of blues and blacks," says Chitra. Hairpieces are popular too.

From July onwards, they'll do workshops across the city, as they've been doing in Hyderabad. These will range from flower-arranging to sustainability, when it comes to flowers. There's also a fresh-flower subscription service.

Expect same-day delivery for stock orders; champsfleur.com; ₹1,299 upward

**READ**

### Going the green mile



It's a pity that even the youngest school-going children today have words like pollution and climate change in their vocabulary. On the bright side, conservation and environmentally-friendly have also found their many-syllabled way into their lives. The 101 Things to Know and Do is a fact-filled series that gives children the tools to do something about changing the future of the earth. The books have DIY projects and tips to spark action. They also introduce children to Indian and international environmentalists.

*101 Things to Know and Do to Save the Earth, 101 Things to Know and Do to Clean Up the Air, 101 Things to Know and Do to Save Water, 101 Things to Know and Do to Save the Animals, 101 Things to Know and Do to Save the Plants; Puffin, ₹299 each, Penguinrandomhouse.in*

For a listing or to be featured here, email us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

**5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE**



**EXPO**  
**Environment**  
Green Society of India has organised a three-day fair, World Environment Expo 2019, with the aim to raise awareness about environmental issues. The expo will also serve as a platform for the environment technology and equipment manufacturers to explore new business opportunities.  
**VENUE:** Hall no.7 Pragati Maidan  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



**F&B**  
**Summer coolers**  
All-day café, Smoke House Deli, has introduced a special summer menu. Guests can choose from an array of green salads, like the zesty grapefruit and stewed orange salad or the safeda and crispy quinoa salad. The summer menu has coolers like cotton mouth sauvignon blanc infused with jamun, cantaloupe, cranberry juice, and more.  
**VENUE:** Smoke House Deli, Khan Market  
**TIME:** 8 a.m. - 12 midnight



**WORKSHOP**  
**Electronics**  
IHC is hosting a three-day electronics workshop by electronics engineer Pranav Budhiraja. Students between 13 and 16 can learn the basics of electronics using the Arduino platform. Over the course of three days, participants will be trained to build various projects such as, blinking lights and light patterns.  
**VENUE:** Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre  
**TIME:** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



**MUSIC**  
**Funk**  
*The Revisit Project* will go live tonight in Gurugram. The six-member band un.masks a new rendition of older hits. Their line-up includes Kanu Gangahar on guitar, Karan Wadhwa on bass, Birraj Taneja on keyboard, Abhay Sharma on saxophone Varun Rajasekharan on percussions, Aditya Bhagavatula on drums.  
**VENUE:** The Piano Man Jazz Club, Sector-15  
**TIME:** 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.



**FILM**  
**Pride month**  
This evening, the American Center, will screen, *Milk*, a biographical film, directed by Gus Van Sant. This 2008 film, based on the life of Harvey Milk, and his struggles as the first openly American gay activist. He fought for gay rights and became California's first openly gay official elected to public office.  
**VENUE:** American Center, 24, KG Marg  
**TIME:** 6 p.m.



## IN BRIEF


**Vatican launches weekly news bulletin in Latin**

Vatican Radio is to start broadcasting a weekly news bulletin and podcast in Latin, the Holy See's official language. The five-minute "Hebdomada Papae" (Pope's Week) will be first broadcast on Saturday, with transcripts in different languages to accompany the podcast version to help budding Latin lovers. "It will be a proper radio news programme, with reportages and briefs," said Vatican News' editorial director Andrea Tornielli. AFP


**Why dragonfishes have transparent teeth**

The dragonfish has virtually transparent teeth that help it thrive in the deep, dark ocean. Scientists have found that the teeth are made of the same materials as human teeth, but their microscopic structure is so different that light doesn't reflect off them. Hence, its mouth seems almost invisible. Some other predatory deep-sea fish also have transparent teeth, so this might be a common strategy. REUTERS

# Artists unite to make music for the planet

Multi-cultural production for climate action launched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

As part of Environment Day celebrations, an 8-minute long, 12-part Climatrix Symphony – an anthem for the planet, and a multinational, multi-cultural production for climate action, was released by the Planet Symphony Orchestra (PSO) on Wednesday.

International artists, including many Grammy winners, as well as students of different genres of music including classical, jazz, Carnatic, Hindustani, African, South American, film and folk have performed in the symphony using an array of over 50 instruments.

Chitravina N. Ravikiran, initiator of the PSO Movement, said the PSO was a symphony of people for the planet more than merely a symphony of artists for music. "This recording is our unified voice in artistic solidarity with billions all over the world, including millions of students who have been deeply anguished by the climate change crisis," he said.

The PSO aims to promote science using art. It is planning a series of events on the theme of environment protection in various parts of the world in collaboration with cultural and corporate houses and NGOs to bring



N. Ravikiran

scientists, artists, business and social leaders to the same platform.

The orchestra called for stepping up green initiatives, bringing down greenhouse gas emissions, investing in research and implementation of climate solutions, reduction in use of plastics and other non-sustainable products by the consumer and airline industries and the support of populations most vulnerable to climate change.

U.K.-based percussionist Pete Lockett said it was an honour to be involved with the PSO. "... All these great musicians have spent time to come together in reaction to the realisation that slowly but surely, life and the planet's environment is under threat; greed and selfishness is forcing existence into a corner and all possible solutions are seemingly ignored

because they are deemed as either not cost-effective or not in keeping with the bonafide of ever expanding profits. What can we humble musicians of the world do apart from crying out with music, hoping to enforce some sort of rational change," he said.

Violinist A. Kanyakumari, who is part of the initiative, said, "I think more artists should join the effort. In Carnatic music the ragas have their own power and they could be used for the cause," she said.

**Diverse traditions**

Saxophonist Phil Scraff from Boston, who has lent his notes to the 72 *Mela Kartha* based symphony, said it was wonderful how so many musicians from different cultures and diverse musical traditions from all over the globe have united.

"We have all participated in recording Ravikiran's landmark work, Climatrix Symphony. Musicians have come together in solidarity and resolve to bring attention to the urgent issues around climate change. The world is already experiencing so many negative effects of climate change - it's imperative that we ramp up climate action quickly," he said.

# Ecologists have 596 reasons to cheer

224 new species of plants and 372 animal species discovered in India last year

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

Scientists and taxonomists have documented 596 new species of flora and fauna from India in the year 2018. The details of the discoveries were made public on Thursday by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in the publications *Plant Discoveries 2018* and *Animal Discoveries 2018*.

Of the 596 species, 372 come under fauna (311 invertebrates and 61 vertebrates). The newly identified 224 plant species include seed plants, pteridophytes, bryophytes, fungi and lichen.

About 31% of the plant species were discovered in the Himalayas. In the case of animals, the Western Ghats remained a biological hotspot from where about 50% of the species were found.

"The plants discovered this year includes close wild



**Teeming biodiversity:** (Clockwise from left) *Sitana gokakensis*, *Brachystelma ananthapuramense* and *Uropeltis bhupathyi*.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

relatives of many potential horticulture, agriculture, medicinal and ornamental plants. The discoveries include plants belonging to groups Amomum (wild cardamom), Cycads, Rubus (raspberry), Syzygium (wild jamun), Terminalia, Balsams, Zingibers and also seven trees and 10 orchids,"



(Clockwise from left) *Sitana gokakensis*, *Brachystelma ananthapuramense* and *Uropeltis bhupathyi*.

said A.A. Mao, director of BSI. He added that the BSI has placed emphasis on molecular DNA technology and phylogeny to confirm the discoveries.

Kailash Chandra, director of ZSI, said that modern taxonomic tools, like DNA analysis, helped in the discovery of frogs and reptiles

"Of the 61 species of vertebrates discovered this year, reptiles dominate (30 species)," Mr. Chandra said. 21 species of fishes, nine species of amphibians, and one mammalian sub-species were also found.

Kerala recorded the highest number of discoveries with 59 species. West Bengal, a state with both Himalayan and coastal ecosystems, recorded 38 and Tamil Nadu recorded 26.

With these new discoveries, the updated list of animal species in India has risen to 1,01,681 which is about 6.49% of all the species in the world, Mr. Chandra said.

S.S. Dash, head of the publication of BSI, said that the number of plant species in the country has been updated to 49,441 which is 11.5% of all flora in the world. "Over the past ten years, BSI has recorded discovery of 3,225 plant species," he said.

# Clues awaited to identify bodies found on Everest

DNA tests to be done if families provide samples

REUTERS  
KATHMANDU

Nepal on Thursday urged friends and families of missing climbers to come forward to identify four bodies brought down from Mount

Everest. The corpses, retrieved during a cleaning drive on the world's tallest mountain, lie unclaimed in a hospital morgue in Nepal's capital, Kathmandu.

It was not known who the four climbers are or when they died.

About 300 people have died over the years on Everest's treacherous slopes and

many remain there, some for decades.

The government said on Wednesday that a team of sherpa climbers picked up the bodies between the base camp and the South Col, the point from where climbers launch their summit attempts.

"We're waiting for families to come and claim the

bodies," said Dandu Raj Ghimire, director general of the Department of Tourism.

A doctor at the state-run Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, where the bodies have been kept, said DNA tests would be carried out if possible relatives provided matching samples but that no one had come forward yet.

## When it rains



**All in a day's work:** A farmer using his boat to collect wet grass from his field to feed cows on the outskirts of Guwahati on Thursday. The monsoon has left fields inundated in the last two weeks. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

# Ai-Da, the robot, charms viewers with her sketches

The humanoid uses artificial intelligence to make images

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
OXFORD

Billed as "one of the most exciting artists of our time", Ai-Da differs from generations of past masters in one inescapable way: she is a robot.

Ai-Da is the brainchild of Aidan Meller, who claims she is the world's first ultra-realistic humanoid artist, able to draw creatively thanks to in-built artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

The 46-year-old art dealer recently unveiled Ai-Da – dressed in a brown wig and period-style painter's blouse – in Oxford, ahead of an exhibition of her first works opening next week in the English university city. "She is fully algorithmic... fully creative," Mr. Meller said.

As he spoke, an occasionally blinking Ai-Da, built with cameras for eyes and a robotic arm to draw with, worked on a sketch of him from behind a desk.

Forty-five minutes later, a delicate expressionist drawing of Mr. Meller, comprising deft pencil strokes, emerged.

Several dozen of Ai-Da's other works adorned the nearby walls. They include similarly styled pencil sketches of historical figures from Leonardo da Vinci to Alan Turing.



**Machine learning:** Ai-Da drawing with a robotic arm. • REUTERS

There are also colourful paintings and sculptures based on her initial sketches, completed by human assistants.

Ai-Da can currently only hold certain hard tools like pencils, not brushes.

AI has already been deployed by art pioneers elsewhere to create new work, but Mr. Meller said that his project represented "genuine innovation".

**Tribute to Lovelace**

Mr. Meller, also an art gallery director, first dreamed up Ai-Da – named after Ada Lovelace, the English mathematician and writer often called the world's first computer coder – eight years ago. With the help of British robotics company Engineered Arts, and researchers at both Leeds and Oxford

universities, Ai-Da was finally completed in April.

Mr. Meller was eager for her to adopt a female persona because he argued the art and coding worlds need more women represented.

"She's got a persona, she's an avatar, she's fiction, she's real," he said. The avatar uses her camera "eyes" to capture what is in front of her, which an internal computer – and its machine-learning technology – translates into the coordinates of a corresponding image to be plotted on a page.

**Can even move**

She can move, allowing what Mr. Meller calls "performance art" which features in several videos at the upcoming exhibition.

Despite technology's paramount role in the work produced by Ai-Da, Mr. Meller is adamant it is also the fruit of a "highly creative" process.

"She has the incredible technologies and abilities to produce remarkable, innovative, creative artwork," he said, noting no two works are ever the same.

Mr. Meller said that art work created by Ai-Da for her first exhibition had already sold, for over £1 million.

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