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# THE HINDU

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Rajnath Singh visits naval ships, reviews projects with AP CM
page 8

BJP MLA Vijayvargiya in fresh row as supporters fire in the air
page 13

Federer looking for ninth title as Wimbledon begins today
page 18

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## NEARBY

**Summer vacation extended by a week**

NEW DELHI

Due to the sweltering heat, the Delhi government has extended the summer vacation for students up to Class VIII till July 8.

CITY ▸ PAGE 2

**Now and Then**

Starting Monday, we begin a weekly series 'Now and Then' on what sportspersons of yesteryear, with a Delhi connect, are doing today. In the first part, former cricketer Kapil Dev tells us: "I also have to run a house." ▸ PAGE 2

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EDGE ▸ 4 PAGES

# After surprise Trump-Kim meeting, n-talks to resume

## Both leaders express hopes for peace, meeting for the third time in over a year

REUTERS
PANMUNJOM/SEOUL

U.S. President Donald Trump became the first sitting U.S. President to set foot in North Korea on Sunday when he met its leader, Kim Jong-un in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas and agreed to resume stalled nuclear talks.

The meeting, initiated by a spur-of-the-moment tweet by Mr. Trump that Mr. Kim said took him by surprise, once again displayed the rapport between the two. But they are no closer to narrowing the gap between their positions since they walked away from their summit in February in Vietnam.

The two men shook hands warmly and expressed hopes for peace when they met for the third time in just over a year on the old Cold War frontier that for decades has symbolised the hostility between their countries, which are technically still at war.

Mr. Trump, escorted by Mr. Kim, briefly crossed a military demarcation line into the North side of the Joint Security Area (JSA), patrolled by soldiers from both Koreas.

**For peace:** Donald Trump meets North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Panmunjom, South Korea, on Sunday. ▪REUTERS

### Three-way gathering

Moments later, they returned to the southern side and joined South Korea's President Moon Jae-in for a brief chat, marking an unprecedented three-way gathering. Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim then held a closed-door meeting for nearly an hour.

"We just had a very, very good meeting," Mr. Trump said after the talks. "We'll see what can happen."

KIM CAN VISIT WHITE HOUSE ANY TIME, SAYS TRUMP ▸ PAGE 14
AMONG MEMBERS ▸ EDITORIAL

# Nagaland to initiate its own version of NRC from July 10

## The drive for collecting information has a 60-day deadline

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Nagaland has decided to start a variant of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) that neighbouring Assam is updating.

On Saturday, Nagaland Home Commissioner R. Ramakrishnan issued a notification for the setting up of the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN).

### Master list

It is aimed at preparing a master list of all indigenous peoples and checking the issuance of fake indigenous inhabitant certificates.

Designated teams will fan out to each village and urban ward from July 10, less than a month before Assam is to publish the final NRC.

**Citizen check**

A look at some key statistics of Nagaland, which is setting up a register of indigenous inhabitants

- Population*: **1,988,636**
- No. of tribal and non-tribal communities: **25**
- Population of 16 recognised tribes: **90%**
- Unlike other States, Nagaland's decadal population dropped by **0.47%** between 2001 and 2011
- Decadal growth in the 1980s: **56%**
- Decadal growth in the 1990s: **65%**

* Census 2011

A Konyak Naga tribesman in traditional attire

To be monitored by the Home Commissioner, Nagaland's exercise for collecting information on locals and non-locals has a 60-day deadline. The RIIN, according to Mr. Ramakrishnan, will be prepared after an extensive survey with the help of a village-wise and ward-wise list of indigenous inhabitants based on official records.

It will be prepared under the supervision of each district administration.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12
GURKHAS CRY FOUL ▸ PAGE 12

# India loses to England, tastes first defeat of the tournament

## Despite Rohit Sharma's third hundred in this World Cup, Kohli's men fall short by 31 runs

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

India suffered its maiden reverse in the current World Cup as England rode high on its 337 for seven and paused India at 306 for five.

### Productive phase

Pursuing the host's steep total, India lost its opener K.L. Rahul for a duck and then found stability through a 138-run second-wicket partnership between Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

The former etched a third hundred (102) in this World Cup and Kohli registered his fifth consecutive 50. But an asking rate that hovered around 10 proved tough to counter and despite some big hits from Hardik Pandya, Kohli's men stumbled to a 31-run loss.

England's 300-plus score was mounted upon the rousing knocks of Man-of-the-Match Jonny Bairstow (111), Jason Roy (66) and Ben Stokes (79).

Host captain Eoin Morgan won the toss, elected to bat and found validation through his openers Bairstow and Roy, who added 160 for the first wicket, while Stokes flourished in the final stretch.

India did exert some control in the middle overs and Mohammed Shami bagged five wickets, but in the end England prevailed.

England is now fourth in the table, with 10 points.

MAMMOTH SCORE PROVES BEYOND INDIA'S REACH ▸ PAGE 17

**Flying high:** Jonny Bairstow rose to the occasion as England defeated India in a key clash. ▪AP

# Mob thrashes woman forest officer in Telangana

## TRS civic leader headed attackers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD

Kagaznagar Forest Officer Chole Anitha and her staff were attacked with bamboo sticks by Zilla Parishad vice-chairperson Koneru Krishna and his supporters at Sarasala village in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district of Telangana on Sunday.

According to a Forest Department official, Ms. Anitha had gone to Sarasala to plant saplings as part of the government's 'Haritha Haram' green initiative when some people, led by Krishna, attacked them, claiming that the land belonged to them.

Ms. Anitha had her hand fractured, while a Forest Beat Officer was injured. Both were being treated at a private hospital in Kagaznagar. Krishna is the younger brother of Sirpur MLA Koneru Konappa, and both belong to the ruling TRS.

Chole Anitha undergoing treatment in Kagaznagar. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12
OFFICIALS SUSPENDED ▸ PAGE 8

# Muslim youth lynched in West Bengal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

A Muslim youth, who was beaten up by a "few of his acquaintances" in Malda district of West Bengal on Friday, died of his injuries later. The incident was reported on Sunday. Sanaullah Sheikh, in his early twenties, was called to the Baishnabnagar market, about a kilometre from his village Chak Meherdi.

"He was asked to start a bike so that he could be framed as the one stealing it," an official told *The Hindu*. "He was then thrashed by five or six persons, who could be identified from a video," the official said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

# Centre to celebrate two years of GST today

## Anurag Thakur to preside over event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre will celebrate two years of the Goods and Services Tax on Monday. Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur will preside over the event, the government said on Sunday.

Monday also marks the first day of the trial run of the new return-filing system, announced by the GST Council at its latest meeting. It is expected to simplify the process.

It will increase the information available with the government to curb leakages.

The Centre will also introduce a cash ledger system that will merge the earlier 20 heads into five major heads. There will be only one cash ledger for tax, interest, penalty, fee and others, the government said in a statement.

"The introduction of the GST is a game changer for the Indian economy as it has replaced a multi-layered, complex indirect tax structure with a simple, transparent and technology-driven tax regime," the government said.

PROCEDURAL ISSUES ▸ PAGE 13

# Two doctors assaulted after patient dies in hospital

## Suffer minor injuries, FIR registered; patient died due to negligence, allege kin

SAURABH TRVEDI
NEW DELHI

Two doctors at Bara Hindu Rao Hospital in north Delhi were assaulted by the attendants of a patient who died during treatment on Saturday, the police said.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Nupur Prasad, a kidney failure patient Rajbala, a resident of Roop Nagar, was admitted to the hospital in a critical condition around 11.40 p.m. on Saturday. Rajbala died during treatment, she said.

Things soon went out of hand after the patient's attendants, including her husband and son, started quarrelling with the doctors on duty. Her son allegedly slapped a doctor and got into a scuffle with the others present. Two doctor – Rajesh Kumar and Pranay – suffered minor injuries.

Guards at the casualty of Bara Hindu Rao Hospital.

"An FIR has been registered under IPC Sections 353 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of his duty), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter a public servant from his duty) and sections of the Delhi Medicare Service Personnel and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2008," Ms. Prasad said.

Rajbala's relatives, however, gave a written complaint alleging that she died due to negligence because of delay in treatment by the doctors.

"We have sent the body to the mortuary. The post-mortem will be conducted by a medical board to find out if there was any negligence on the part of the doctors. And action, whatsoever, will be taken accordingly. A request for constitution of the medical board is being sent to the Director (Health)," said Ms. Prasad.

She said policemen have been deployed at the hospital and the situation was now normal.

In June, doctors across the country had gone on strike after a junior doctor was assaulted at a hospital in West Bengal.

# AAP MLA Som Dutt convicted in assault case

## Quantum of sentence on July 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has convicted AAP MLA Som Dutt for beating and assaulting a man during the 2015 Assembly election campaign.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal held Mr. Dutt, a legislator from the Sadar Bazar constituency here, guilty under Section 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt without provocation), 341 (wrongful restraint), 147 (rioting) and Section 149 (unlawful assembly) of the Indian Penal Code.

"There is no doubt that on January 10, 2015, around 8 p.m., Som Dutt, along with his 50 supporters, went to flat no. 13 where the complainant was present. The complainant was beaten and assaulted by the accused and his associates due to which he suffered grievous injury," the court said.

### Grievous injury

The maximum punishment for causing grievous injury is seven years. The court will pronounce the quantum of sentence on July 4.

The court, however, said the offence of wrongful restraint (Section 341 IPC) is not made out in this case as the complainant was not going anywhere and he was not restrained from proceeding in any direction.

"Further, Section 147 of the IPC, which punishes the offence of rioting, is also not made out considering that the intention of the accused was only to beat the complainant and no further.

> **"It is not clear how many persons, apart from the accused, had assaulted the complainant and what was their common object, if any.**
>
> SAMAR VISHAL
> Additional CMM

"It is not clear how many persons, apart from the accused, had assaulted the complainant and what was their common object, if any," the court said.

An FIR was lodged against Mr. Dutt in 2015 at the Gulabi Bagh police station in North Delhi on the allegation that the MLA and around 50 of his supporters, while campaigning in the locality, had come to the house of complainant Sanjeev Rana.

The prosecutor had alleged that when the complainant objected, the MLA allegedly hit him on his legs with a baseball bat and his supporters dragged him out on the road and started beating him, causing grievous injury.

Mr. Dutt's counsel had refuted the arguments, saying the MLA and his supporters were peacefully campaigning in the society and it was the complainant who started quarrelling with Mr. Dutt in an inebriated state, on which a cross FIR was also registered by the legislator.

# *Citing clash with faith, Dangal star Zaira Wasim quits Bollywood*

## *Bout of depression had forced the young artiste from Kashmir to take the help of counsellors and stay away from media glare*

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Facing trolls and earning accolades simultaneously for the past five years, Zaira Wasim, 18, of *Dangal* fame on Sunday announced she was quitting Bollywood, citing "clash with *imaan* (faith)" as a reason. Her decision saw netizens divided in their opinion.

Living a life away from stardom since May last year following a bout of depression that forced the teen artiste from Kashmir to take the help of counsellors, Ms. Wasim took to social media to dissociate herself from the film industry.

"I want to confess that I am not truly happy with this [actress] identity. For a very long time now, it has felt like I have struggled to become someone else... I silently and unconsciously transitioned out of *imaan* (faith)," she said.

### Cites verses

Citing verses from the Koran and talking about her renewed focus on Islam, she wrote in a social media post: "Quran defines and sets the tone of our relationship with Allah. I arrive at this well-grounded decision and I officially declare my disassociation with this field." She said her journey was "exhausting and the life was too short yet too long to be at war with oneself."

Zaira Wasim

A close relative of the actor told *The Hindu* that she talked about "her incompatibility with the Bollywood lifestyle last year, poor social acceptance in Kashmir and growing depression due to conflicting ideas."

She also discussed her state of mind and its clash with her religious and cultural values with the doctors and friends in Srinagar last year.

It was in 2015, Ms. Wasim, who belonged to a middle class family from Srinagar's Hawal area in the old city, was spotted by actor Aamir Khan for *Dangal*, which became an instant hit and put a sharp spotlight on the first-ever celebrity actor from the Valley.

Her father is a banker and mother a housewife, who supported her Bollywood pursuits unlike the former. The family remained at loggerheads with the relatives over Ms. Wasim's decision to do films, a relative said.

She also became a centre of controversies, first for clicking a picture with Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and later for taking potshots at Union Minister Vijay Goel for remarks on the veil.

She earned a national award for her acting in *Secret Superstar*, which dealt with the subject of conservatism. Ms. Wasim's new movie *The Sky is Pink*, starring Priyanka Chopra and Farhan Akhtar, is likely to be released later this year.

Former Chief Minister and National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah and J&K Peoples Movement chief and IAS topper Shah Faesal asked netizens to "respect the actor's decision", while many welcomed her decision online.

NOW AND THEN

# 'I also have to run a house'

## Kapil Dev on his floodlights business, golf and why cricket is still his first love

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

You'd imagine Kapil Dev relaxing on a swing on a lawn, sipping a drink or two, listening to music, watching the world around earn its livelihood. "But I also have to run a house," he smiles. So while cricket is an integral part of his life – "It is my first love" – he reminds us, he earns a living through public appearances, product endorsements, and giving motivational lectures. Just last week, he led an approximately ₹1 crore angel-funding round for WizCounsel, a finance-legal-tech startup.

He continues to write columns and undertake commentary assignments, while also running a business, Dev Musco Lighting Pvt Ltd, involved in installing floodlights at sporting venues, with technical support from a U.S. company.

During his playing days, he saw a former India captain waiting to collect his allowances outside the BCCI secretary's room.

"The secretary was sleeping and could not be disturbed. I was disturbed and decided that day that I will not depend on the BCCI for financial support after my retirement."

True to his word, the pension he receives from the BCCI is set aside for a charity home (Khushi). "I have not taken a penny from the pension; not a penny," he says, proudly.

### 'Grand life'

"Cricket gave me a grand life and I got used to it. There was a certain standard of living I had developed and did not want to miss it when I stopped playing. I wanted to give the best to my near and dear ones," said Kapil. He invested well, set up his business in floodlights, which today provides employment to a staff of 40. "They are family," he adds.

Kapil is assisted at work by wife Romi, who says he's as down to earth today as he was almost 40 years ago, when she met him. "He is a lovable father (to Amiya), a wonderful husband, and a reliable friend. He loves his cricket, his family, and his golf. If he has a crowded schedule for the day, his golf with friends will happen at 5 in the morning," she says.

The Delhi Golf Club is walking distance from home. "I would love to walk to Ferozeshah Kotla," he says. Bengali Market and Khan Market are places he can be spotted at, even though the fans throng. "I could not visit theatres for movies, but I gave my family a lot of time and vacations when off cricket," Kapil adds.

For him, Delhi has become home, never mind the insane traffic and the growing incidence of road rage.

His Mercedes GLE 350 makes way past screaming vehicles even as he instructs the chauffeur not to change lanes or honk. Nothing puts him off more than people showing utter disregard for each other. "There is space for everyone. Why have we become so impatient? I sometimes wonder if this race to out-pace the other is worth the effort."

### Match-winner

For a generation which was fortunate to watch live coverage of cricket matches, Kapil was a match-winner, an all-rounder who strove to be in the thick of action, an icon who complemented the batting exploits of Sunil Gavaskar.

"Sunny was big, and GRV (G.R. Viswanath) was my hero. Learnt so much from them." What about his contribution? "I was there to do my job and I was lucky to have some fantastic colleagues. It was a privilege to play and travel with them because, for a Chandigarh boy, it was an intimidating world outside my town."

Why did the Chandigarh boy then settle in Delhi? "There is a story. I had begun to travel a lot because of my cricket and it soon became an arduous exercise. There was just one flight out of Chandigarh to Delhi and I would often end up going through the ordeal of reaching the Capital by road. It was tiring. Sometime in 1984 I took the decision to make Delhi my home."

It was not easy though. The property in Central Delhi had been rented to a government organisation and Kapil was unable to get the place vacated.

"I shall remain indebted to (late) N.K.P. Salve. He was a Union Minister and took personal interest to help me get the house back. Of course, I was not really happy to leave Chandigarh and managed to convince my family. Over the years, it has become so convenient to reach my lovely home town by train, air, road. Delhi is my proud home now," he says, while adding that he's not a Dilliwalla.

"I tell people that I, as a proud Indian, love every city and every little town. I am as much a Mumbaikar as Sunny. He is as much a Dilliwalla as I am. Why categorise? I tell people I am a Punjabi who played for Haryana and represented India. I don't really belong to one city or State or region. But yes, I am proud to be a part of Delhi and its culture."

If only Delhi could be greener and calmer is his only lament.

"I want to take one ride on the Metro. I want the traffic to be disciplined, less honking. And I want the VIP system to be abolished. Stopping everyone for one VIP to pass! I know it is not just restricted to Delhi, which, to me, is the most liveable city of the country."

(Left to right) Kapil Dev at his office in New Delhi; flanked by his wife Romi and daughter Amiya; with the trophy after winning the 1983 Prudential World Cup final against the West Indies at Lord's. ▪PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, GETTY IMAGES

**KAPIL DEV**
**60**, middle-order batsman and fast bowler

**CAREER SPAN:** **1978 to 1994**

**PLAYED:** **131 Tests, 225 ODIs**

**HONOURS:** Once world record holder of highest Test wickets **(434)**

**KNOWN FOR:** His ability to take wickets on unresponsive pitches

**FOR THE RECORD:** Was never run out in **184 Test** innings

**Air quality of Delhi-NCR**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Delhi | 237 | Gurugram | 208 |
| Ghaziabad | 285 | Faridabad | - |
| Noida | 289 | Greater Noida | 314 |

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

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

## IN BRIEF

### 5,000 additional CISF personnel for Metro

NEW DELHI

The Centre has given its final sanction for deployment of an additional 5,000 CISF personnel to better guard the growing network and burgeoning passenger load on the Delhi Metro, officials said on Sunday. The Home Ministry has also sanctioned creation of one more supervisory post in the rank of DIG. Currently, there are 9,000 CISF personnel deployed at 270 stations over the 370-km network spread over Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad.

### DU releases admit cards for entrance test

NEW DELHI

Admit cards for the Delhi University Entrance Test 2019, have been released on the university's website. Apart from the admit card, applicants can also take a mock test on the website to prepare themselves for the exam. The tests, to be held between July 3 and July 8, will be carried out at 18 centres across the country.

## DELHI TODAY

**Dance:** A solo Kathak presentation by Harpreet Kaur Jass, a disciple of Guru Malti Shyam, exploring poetry from different languages, at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

**Music:** "The contribution of Pt. Vasudev Upadhyay Gharana to Pakhawaj and Dhrupad" - a joint lecture and demonstration by Rishi Shankar Upadhyay (Pakhawaj), Milan Upadhyay (Dhrupad vocal) and Mahima Upadhyay (Pakhawaj) at Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Delhi Evolution through Flora and Time", a solo show by Vidur Sodhani at Delhi O Delhi Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Seventy Five by Thirty Two", a solo show of paintings of Indira Govil at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

*(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)*

# Delhi govt. extends school summer vacation by a week

## Move taken keeping in mind sweltering heat

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Due to sweltering heat, the Delhi government has extended summer vacation for students up to Class VIII till July 8.

"In view of the hot weather in Delhi, the summer vacation for students up to Class 8 are being extended till July 8. For other classes, the schools will reopen as per earlier schedule," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

The order, he said, would be applicable to both private as well as government schools.

The rest of the students will have to start attending school from Monday.

The monsoon usually hits the Capital by June 29 but has been delayed by almost a week this year. ▪SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

### Above normal

The maximum temperature in the Capital settled at 42.2 degrees Celsius on Sunday, five degrees above normal. The minimum temperature was 32 degrees Celsius, four degrees above normal.

The monsoon usually hits the Capital by June 29 but has been delayed by almost a week this year.

The weatherman has forecast partly cloudy sky with possibility of thunderstorm with very light rain on Monday.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover be between 42 and 32 degrees Celsius respectively.

Palam was the hottest area in the Capital with temperature touching 44.8 degrees Celsius on Sunday.

# Cost of setting up primary schools shoots up

## East and South civic body hike recognition rate from ₹5,000 to up to ₹1,00,000

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

The cost of getting "recognition" for private primary schools in East and South Delhi Municipal Corporations has risen from ₹5,000 to up to ₹1,00,000. A similar hike may be under way at the North Corporation as well.

The municipal corporations are mandated to grant recognition to unaided private primary schools after inspections and ensure that they adhere to norms. Under the Delhi Master Plan 2021, the minimum area for recognition of primary schools was prescribed as 800 sqm. However, the rules were "simplified" by the Delhi government through a circular issued in 2013 which allowed grant of "provisional recognition" for a period of one year to schools in non-conforming areas with land up to 200 square yards, five rooms and other prescribed facilities such as a library and a staff room.

Now, from a flat rate of ₹5,000, the rates have been revised into a three tier system. Schools up to 200 sqm are being charged ₹25,000, those between 201 and 400 sqm are charged ₹50,000 and those above 401 sqm have to pay ₹1,00,000.

### North body to follow suit

The hikes were made by the education departments of the respective corporations taking anticipatory approval from the Mayors but was passed in the EDMC's standing committee only last week. While the fees in the North Corporation is currently ₹5,000, a senior official said that similar changes are in the pipeline.

The last time the recognition fee was increased was in 2008, from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000. Education director for EDMC, who was the first to move the policy said that the increase was brought in given that the rates hadn't been changed for a long time. In East Delhi alone, there are 264 recognised private primary schools, officials said.

They also said that a list of non-conforming schools was also sent to the Delhi government to seek closure.

# Iran to hold cultural show in city from tomorrow

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Iran will celebrate its rich South Asian cultural links in a major event to be held here in the first week of July. The exhibition which is part of the plan to mark seven decades of India-Iran diplomatic ties, will be launched on July 2 and will present the Persian version of the epic Ramayana and other interesting artefacts.

"Ramayana was translated into Persian in a poetic and prose style by Sheikh Saadullah during the reign of Emperor Jahangir and was titled "Rama va Sita", a release from the Embassy of Iran stated on Sunday.

The cultural show is timed to coincide with the ongoing developments in the Gulf which found mention in the G20 summit in Osaka where Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged for peace and stability in the region. The exhibition will also showcase Iran's contemporary links with Hindu and Sikh faiths.

### Hindu and Sikh links

Photographs and narratives associated with the old temple of Bandar Abbas which has remained a major Hindu site for more than a century and the Sikh links with the city of Zahedan will also be highlighted during the festival.

Apart from the famous illustrated manuscripts of Shahnameh and musical concerts, the cultural exhibition will also showcase famed Iranian carpets, rugs and copper items.

The exhibition will be open to visitors till July 5 at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

# HOHO service struggles to get passengers even in tourist season

## Number of buses in fleet reduced from 15 to just five; inadequate frequency and lack of infrastructure at pick-up points hurting the service

PALLAVI KESWANI
LYDIA JAYAKUMAR
NEW DELHI

Seventeen-year-old Shruti Shreya was on a visit to Delhi with her father. A resident of Dhanbad in Jharkhand, Shreya boarded the Delhi Tourism's HOHO bus no.3 for the second time this week, hoping to complete Delhi Darshan.

"We took the bus yesterday also, but could not cover all the spots as it was impossible to finish it in a day," she said as she took a seat in a nearly empty bus heading towards Nehru Museum.

Shreya is among the few tourists who opt to tour Delhi in one of the Hop on Hop off (HOHO) buses.

The HOHO buses were started by the Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC) during the Common Wealth Games in 2010. The tickets are priced at ₹499 for a single-day Delhi tour. It covers 21 locations across the city. However, the HOHO bus service is struggling to get passengers in its ninth year of operation.

Currently, the number of buses in operation has been reduced to five while the fleet strength was 15 when the service was started.

### Pricing problem

The DTTDC also conducts half-day tours for half the price. Pricing is an issue as private tour companies conduct full-day tours in AC Volvo buses for approximately ₹300. However, the private option does not provide the passengers with the flexibility offered by HOHO.

The HOHO buses were brought in by the DTTDC during the Common Wealth Games in 2010. ▪SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

While the HOHO buses are in good condition, inadequate frequency and lack of infrastructure at pick-up points is hurting the service.

Jagannath Sahni, 70, who had travelled all the way from Maharashtra to visit Delhi spent a large portion of the time waiting for the bus, sitting on the ground in the sweltering heat along with his two friends.

Claiming that the service is overpriced, he said: "The price needs to be reduced significantly if they want to increase the popularity of HOHO buses."

The bus operates on the Hop on Hop off Model i.e. any passenger can catch a bus from the designated pick-up point after an interval of 45 minutes.

However, upon receiving a time schedule detailing the route and timings of each bus, at the start of her journey, Ms. Shreya expressed dissatisfaction. "It is a good service but the time provided is not adequate to see all the places. Forty-five minutes is too less a time to cover some of the spots. I think the interval between the two buses should be modified to suit different locations," she said.

"We were only able to cover the first floor of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and even dropped the idea of visiting the planetarium as we were running out of time," Ms. Shreya added.

Some of them, however, had a different view on the subject, "I really like the 45-minute gap, which is perfect for exploring a place and boarding the next bus," said Prithvi Raj, 26, who found about the bus service online.

### Running commentary

The HOHO service also employs a number of 'guest relations executives' who give a running commentary on tourist spots throughout the journey. However, the commentary falls short in its reach to the passengers since it is only in two languages – English and Hindi – and the guest relations executives often switch between the two languages depending on the demography of passengers.

The HOHO service has, however, failed to lure foreign tourists. Most of the passengers are Indians, said Purti Tanwar, a guest relations executive.

The bus stops at the designated HOHO bus service road sign, to drop off and collect passengers. But, at a number of primary locations, including India Gate, there is no proper signage, claimed a passenger who did not wish to be named.

Another complaint made by the passengers pertained to inadequate notification. "We missed the last bus yesterday. They should inform passengers before the last bus leaves," said Ms. Shreya, as she got off at Sarojni Nagar Market.

# Mean streets

Every day this year, the Capital has witnessed 24 snatching or robbery cases on average. The fear of the unknown stalks city roads even as police claim a downtick in street crime

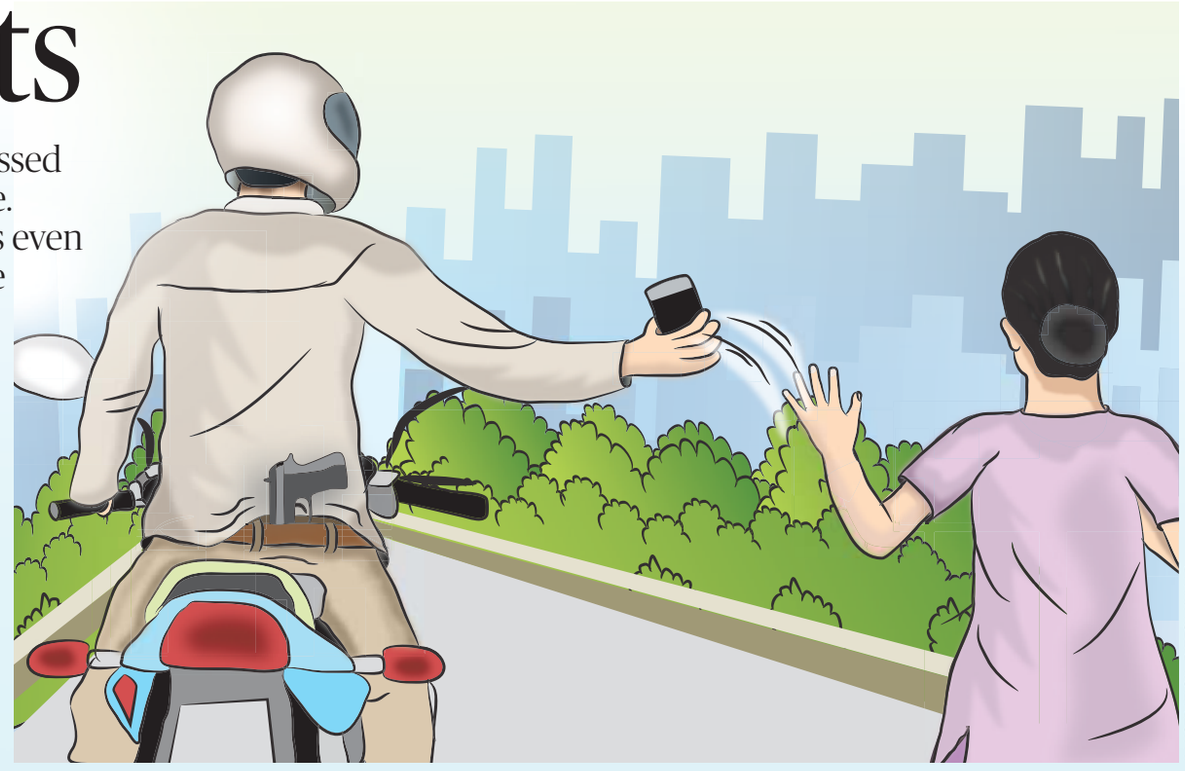

ILLUSTRATION: RITESH KUMAR

CITY MATTERS

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Trigger-happy criminals on motorbikes targeting unassuming pedestrians for their cell phones, gold chains or other valuables – and even shooting them if need be – have become a major headache for the city police.

According to the Delhi police records, till June 15 this year, 18 cases of snatching and six cases of robberies were reported every day across the city.

Rakshita Jasra, a college student, said Delhi is not a safe place to live, especially for women. "Though I have not encountered any such incident, many around me have been victims of street crime. From what I have observed around me, I see the police not working efficiently, though I believe generalisation is not fair," said Ms. Jasra.

### Less juvenile crimes

Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik, however, said the city has witnessed a continuous downward trend in cases of robbery and snatching because of the persistent efforts of the police to prevent such crimes.

"In Delhi, the challenge is that 95% of snatchers are first-timers. We have made strategies and implemented them to further bring down the cases of street crime," said Mr. Patnaik.

He added that because of efforts like YUVA, a skilling initiative which has been successful in providing gainful employment to youth from slums and JJ clusters who are prone to criminal activities, this year the Delhi police have been successful in reducing the number of crimes committed by juveniles as compared to previous years.

"We keep tabs on bad characters, proclaimed offenders, history-sheeters, criminals out of jail on parole or bail. It is being done regularly to deter such elements from executing criminal activities," said Madhur Verma, DCP (New Delhi) and Delhi Police PRO.

### 'Non-bailable offence'

Suggesting ways to curb street crime, a police officer said that snatching should be made a non-bailable offence, like it has been done in Haryana. Persons booked under IPC Section 356 (criminal force in attempt to commit theft of property carried out by a person) come out on bail within two weeks and again target people on the road, he said.

Anjali Dhariwal, another college student, said she has to be extra alert whenever she is travelling alone, especially at night. "Visibility of police does increase a sense of security in me," said Ms. Dhariwal.

Mr. Verma said that prevention of crime, particularly street offences, remain one of the top priorities of Delhi police in 2019. They are focusing on the pattern of crime and detention of criminals.

According to the Delhi police data, in comparison to 2016, seizure of illegal arms has gone up by 200% and use of firearms in heinous crimes has reduced by 20% in 2019 (till June 15).

"For extensive surveillance on criminal activities, we have reorganised beat structures of policemen; kept regular watch on known and budding criminals; stepped up jail release monitoring and integrated patrolling with traffic police and PCR," said Mr. Verma.

He added that they regularly do analysis of crime, crime mapping, identification of dark spots, vehicular checking and many other things to ensure police visibility on the roads.

The measures, however, have not brought much relief to the victims of street crime.

Raghav Batish, a college student, said, "My cell phone was stolen on New Year's Eve in the busy Saket market between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. I reported it to the police and an FIR was lodged. I was told that action would be taken but nothing has happened."

The officer said the police are in the process of inducting modern technology to aid the investigating officers and increase conviction rate in order to create deterrence against crimes.

(*With inputs from Saurav Sinha*)

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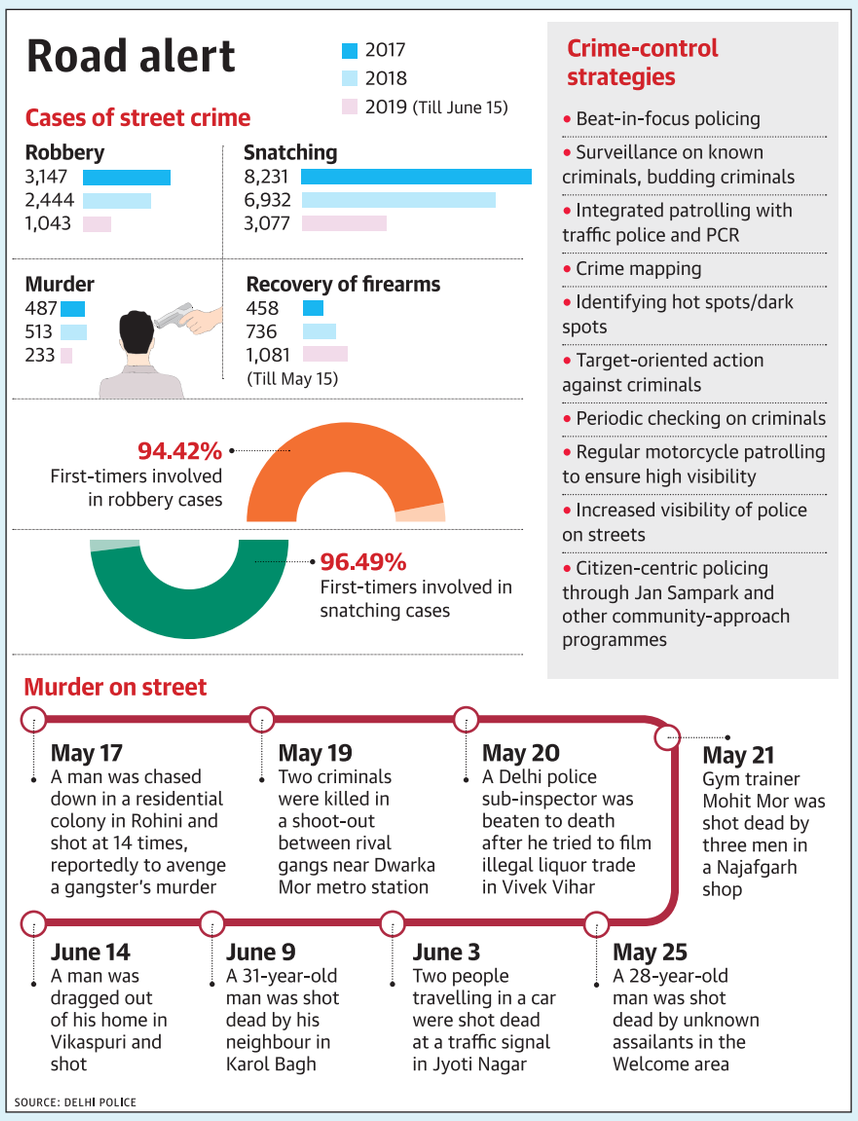


# 'Street crime damages police's reputation'

Police should arrest receivers of stolen items, improve conviction rate, say former Delhi top cops

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

To bring down street crime in Delhi, the police should get to the root of each and every case of snatching or robbery, said former Delhi Police Commissioner Ajay Raj Sharma.

Mr. Sharma said the police should also arrest the receivers of the stolen items. In most cases of snatching, the investigation stops after the snatcher is caught but police officers should also trace the stolen item and arrest its receiver.

To keep criminals out on bail under surveillance, the police should verify the credentials of the guarantors who give surety for them. If the guarantor is not a family member, the police should ascertain his or her motive behind getting a criminal out on bail, added Mr. Sharma.

### Source of illegal arms

"The use of illegal arms is rampant. The Delhi police should go beyond their boundaries to find the source of illegal weapons instead of arresting arms suppliers in Delhi," said the former Police Commissioner.

"Police visibility [in public places] and studying the nature of criminals or the patterns they follow while committing street crime can help the Delhi police [in preventing such crimes]," he added.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Ved Marwah, another former Delhi Police Commissioner, said that keeping tabs on activities of notified "bad characters", regular patrolling on dark stretches and higher rate of convictions can deter criminals.

He said street crime can damage the reputation of any police force.

"The police should focus more on increasing their conviction rate for all kinds of heinous crimes as that can deter new members from joining gangs or getting involved in criminal activities. Police officers should be made more accountable for the crimes happening on the streets of the city," said Mr. Marwah.

> Police visibility [in public places] and studying the nature of criminals or the patterns they follow while committing street crime can help the Delhi police [in preventing such crimes]
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> AJAY RAJ SHARMA, Former Delhi Police Commissioner

> The police should focus more on increasing their conviction rate for heinous crimes as that can deter new members from joining gangs
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> VED MARWAH, Former Delhi Police Commissioner

# Seven severely injured in gas cylinder blast

Four children among injured

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Seven persons, including four minors, sustained serious burn injuries in a gas cylinder explosion at their home in Shahdara's Vivek Vihar on Sunday, the police said.

Victims Ravi Ranjan (32), Babita (33) and Anshu Devi (30) sustained 99%, 45% and 90% burn injuries respectively. The children, identified as Lovely (9) and Gungun (7) suffered 95% and 80% injuries respectively, while Gupesh (3) and Altamas (2) sustained 85% burn injuries.

The incident happened on Sunday around 8.45 a.m. when a family member had lit the gas to make breakfast, the police said.

After receiving a call, fire officials rushed to the spot to initiate a rescue operation, the fire department said. Initial investigation has pointed towards a gas leak as the cause for the explosion.

The injured persons were rushed to GTB Hospital for treatment, they said.

# Criminal with ₹5 lakh bounty on head held

Accused involved in over 200 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

A notorious criminal allegedly involved in over 200 cases, including ATM theft, murder, attempt to murder, robbery, burglary and cow slaughter, has been arrested by the Gurugram Police Crime Branch. The accused carried a cash reward of ₹5 lakh on his head.

The accused, Shahid alias Advani, was arrested on June 26. A resident of Kharkhari village in Nuh's Tauru, Shahid was produced before the court and remanded to eight days in police custody.

During interrogation, Shahid said that he was involved in several cases of heinous crime, including carrying illegal weapons, causing hurt and clash with the police in Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Maharastra.

He always roped in a new accomplice and rented a car while committing every crime, said the police.

### Modus operandi

He would confide in the car owner that he would use the vehicle for commission of crime and paid the owner a high rent. He would recce unguarded ATM booths at isolated places before striking. Shahid, along with his accomplice, would uproot the ATM after tying it to the vehicle and then cut it with gas-cutter to make off with the cash.

He also purportedly confessed to his involvement in cases of robbery and murder in the area falling under the jurisdiction of Tauru police station.

# Man mowed down by car, family suspects murder

Victim was killed as he was involved in a legal fight, says family

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a suspected case of hit-and-run, a 36-year-old man on a scooty was killed after he was knocked down by a speeding car near Windsor Palace in New Delhi on Sunday morning, the police said.

Dheeraj, who lived with his family on Free Church premises on Sansad Marg, was driving to India Gate for a morning walk.

He was passing through the Windsor Palace, when a black car hit his scooty from behind. He was flung into the air due to the collision and landed on the ground a few metres away.

An eyewitness told the police that the car driver did not stop and fled the spot immediately.

The deceased's family, however, alleged that Dheeraj was killed as he had gotten involved in a legal fight against the committee members of Free Church over ownership of land. The matter is in the court, they said.

Dheeraj ▪

The police said they received a call at 5.45 a.m. regarding a road accident near Windsor Palace.

A police team reached the spot and Dheeraj was taken to a hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

A police officer said that they are examining CCTV footage to identify the offending vehicle. The deceased is survived by his wife and two children. Dheeraj's brother Bobby said that the victim was also associated with the Lok Janshakti Party. The brother, who suspects that Dheeraj was killed, said the family is awaiting the police investigation report.

### Case registered

"An FIR under IPC Section 304 A [causing death by negligence] has been registered at Parliament Street police station. The body was handed over to family after postmortem. The case is under investigation. We have some important leads in the case and it will be worked out," said Madhur Verma, DCP (New Delhi).

# Khyala sewer deaths: second body found

Three workers had drowned on June 28; kin allege police inaction

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The body of a worker who drowned in an underground sewer line on June 28 in west Delhi's Khyala, along with two others, has been recovered on Sunday, the police said. The body of the third worker remains untraced.

On June 28, Shahrukh died and two others – Devinder and Ankit – were swept away while construction work was being carried out at an underground sewer line of the Delhi Jal Board. Shahrukh had gone inside for a welding job. His body was recovered on June 28.

Devinder's body was recovered 40 feet from the spot on Sunday. Ankit's body has not been recovered yet.

Family members of the victims have alleged police inaction in the matter after the supervisor, who was arrested on June 29, got bail immediately.

They claimed that the victims were forced to enter the drain without any safety gear on.

### 'Demand strict action'

"My son was a welder, and was not trained for underground work. The contractor forced him to enter the drain and had not provided any safety gear. I demand strict action against the perpetrators," said Mohammad Shokeen, Shahrukh's father.

Devinder's father Guddu Lal, who was hoping for a miracle to happen until his son's body was traced, said his son had got married around five month ago.

"It was the last job he chose to do before leaving for his village in Etah to see his ailing wife. He wanted to come home with some money in hand. I never thought he would not return," said Mr. Lal.

Mr. Lal also wondered how it was so easy for a person to get bail after "killing someone". "We demand strict action against the accused. We still do not know who is at fault. The contractor is blaming the DJB and the DJB officials have been pointing fingers at the contractor," said Mr. Lal.

The police had registered an FIR under IPC Section 304A (causing death by negligence) on Friday and the supervisor was arrested. Monika Bhardwaj, DCP (West) confirmed that the supervisor got bail the same day he was arrested.

# Fire at Ghaziabad mall

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GHAZIABAD

A major fire broke out at a restaurant inside Gaur Central Mall in Raj Nagar here on Sunday afternoon, trapping at least 80 people who were rescued by the fire department, officials said.

There were around 50 customers and 30 staff members inside the restaurant when the fire broke out."There were two exits. The one from the kitchen was blocked and the door had to be broken for a quick evacuation," an official said.The cause of the fire could not be known immediately and a probe is under way.

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|---|---|
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| Ph.D | 1. Development Studies, 2. English, 3. Human Ecology, 4. History, 5. Hindi, 6. Sociology, 7. Mathematics, 8. Comparative Literature & Translation Studies (CLTS), 9. Women's & Gender Studies, 10. Economics. 11. Management and 12. Education# |

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## IN BRIEF

### Six men held in separate cricket betting rackets

NEW DELHI

Six persons have been arrested for allegedly running cricket betting rackets in two separate operations in Rohini and Shakti Nagar, the police said on Sunday. Four laptops, 26 mobile phones, two LED TV sets and calculators were seized during the operations, they said. "Rais were conducted at both places after a tip-off," said ACP (Crime) Rajiv Ranjan.

### Three held, 10 snatching cases solved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
FARIDABAD

With the arrest of three men, 10 snatching cases have been solved, the police said on Sunday.

They claimed to have seized eight stolen gold chains, ₹20,000 cash, a car and a motorcycle used in the commission of the crimes.

The accused – Pankaj alias Pinku, Vinod and Mathna alias Nagar – are drug addicts. They would indulge in such crimes to arrange money for drugs, cars and bikes, the police said.

The trio would drive during the day to recce the areas where women usually strolled alone. Later, two of them on a motorcycle would engage a woman in conversation and snatch her gold chain.

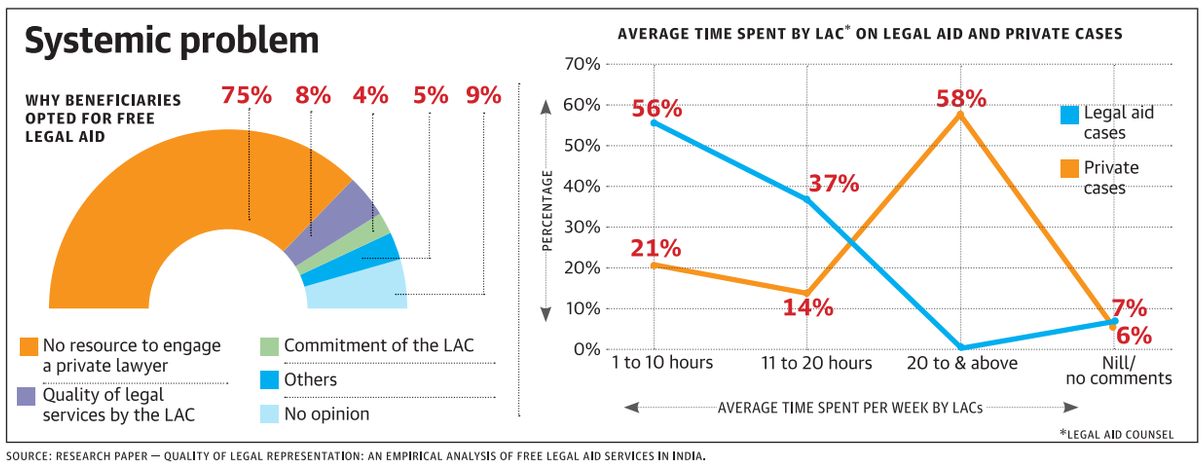
The accused were active in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Noida and Ghaziabad, the police said.

They claimed to have solved six cases of Surajkund police station, two of Sector 31 police station and one each of Sarai Khawaja police station and Old Faridabad police station.

# Most see free legal aid as last-ditch option: report

Study says over 16% of respondents claimed legal aid counsel demanded money; feedback from clients cannot be sole methodology to assess quality: NALSA

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI




SOURCE: RESEARCH PAPER — QUALITY OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF FREE LEGAL AID SERVICES IN INDIA.

A majority of the people who are entitled to the free legal aid system see the service as an option only when they cannot afford a private lawyer.

First-of-its-kind pan-India research by Prof. Jeet Singh Mann of National Law University, Delhi (NLUD) has found that people don't have faith over the services of legal aid counsel (LAC) under the free legal aid services due to a variety of factors.

"The services offered by LAC are absolutely free. But a majority of potential beneficiaries are disinclined towards the option of availing these services," remarked the research report titled 'Quality of Legal Representation: An Empirical Analysis of Free Legal Aid Services in India'.

**Background**

In 1987, the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act was enacted to give free and competent legal services to the poor. The Act paved the way for the constitution of National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) and other legal service institutions at the State, district and taluka level.

Last year, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) had come out with a report stating that India's per capita lawyer ratio is better than most countries in the world. There are about 1.8 million lawyers in India which mean there is one lawyer for every 736 people.

The same report also stated there are 61,593 panel lawyers in the country, which translates to just one legal aid lawyer per 18,609 population or five legal aid lawyers per 1,00,000 population.

Free legal services under LSA Act are available to a person belonging to Schedule Tribe and Schedule Caste, woman, child, victim of human trafficking, differently abled person, industrial workman, and person in custody in a protective home and the poor.

According to the statistics provided by NALSA, about 8.22 lakh people across India benefited through legal aid services from April 2017 to June 2018.

**Genesis of the research**

Prof. Mann, also the director at Centre for Transparency and Accountability in Governance, NLUD, said his research project has focused on the functioning of LACs as they play a pivotal role in the dissemination of legal aid services.

His research project was funded by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Ministry of Human Resource Development.

He said the data was collected from 18 States and 36 districts. The primary data was collected from 3,029 legal aid beneficiaries, 609 judicial officers, 1,007 empanelled legal aid advocates, 33 regulators/secretaries, and 3120 women.

**Why private lawyers?**

The study demonstrated that beneficiaries opt for free legal aid service due to the dearth of resources to engage a private lawyer. About 75% of beneficiaries responded that they opted for free legal aid because they had no means and resources to hire a paid private practitioner.

"They would never have approached for the legal aid services if they had resources to engage private legal practitioners," the study found. Also, 22.6% of the beneficiaries responded that they won't opt for free legal aid services for the second time.

The study also found that 60% of women, who were aware of the free legal aid services, chose to opt for private legal practitioner because they could have better control over their lawyer.

These women have no faith and confidence over the quality of services offered under the legal aid system, the study said.

The survey found that 56% of LAC spends an average of 1 to 10 hours per week on legal aid cases. On the contrary, around 58% LAC spend on an average of 20 hours and above per week on private cases.

Although the services offer by LAC are absolutely free, the ground reality is that around 16.30% of beneficiaries claimed their LAC often demand money before or after every court hearing.

Also, around 33% of the judicial officers said complaints were received against LACs for demanding money from beneficiaries.

**Private lawyers Vs LAC**

Majority of judicial officers (52% ) rated the overall skill set of a private legal practitioner as of fairly good quality and that of LAC as of moderately low quality, the report said.

**Full-time empanelment**

Currently, the engagement of LAC is usually on an ad-hoc basis. Around 45% of the regulators opined that making them full time will definitely improve the level of commitment among the LAC.

LAC can withdraw from an aided case by submitting a reason to member-secretary. In this scenario, a beneficiary has to go through the painstaking task of retelling their case history to newly allotted LAC.

This problem can be tackled by increasing the honorarium given to LAC. The study recommended that making honorarium for a legal aided case at par with private cases, will compel LAC to not withdraw or desert aided cases in middle.

**Panel lawyers speak**

Advocate Priya Singh, empanelled as a LAC for juvenile courts in Delhi, said remuneration towards the empanelled lawyers should be increased every year. This is important for those who are serving in juvenile courts as they are not allowed to have their own private practice, she added. "We only do this job. There should be yearly increased in remuneration," she said. As for making the LAC a permanent post, Ms. Singh said it will impact on the efficiency of the lawyers as there is no impetus to work hard. "Currently, lawyers handling juvenile justice cases are empanelled for three years, once the time is up, they are retained or removed based on their performance," she added.

Advocate Umang Mittal, who is at the end of his first stint as a panel lawyer in Delhi, said the problem with most of the beneficiaries is that they are illiterate and don't have the procedural knowledge of the functioning of courts. "Hence they end up getting irked after three or four dates. Thereafter, they don't want to come to court," Mr. Mittal said.

Quoting from personal experience, he said trust deficit among the beneficiaries towards the panel lawyers was hard to eradicate. "The panel lawyers have not come from a family or acquaintance's reference or recommendation. They are a stranger to the beneficiaries," he explained. Mr. Mittal, who also has his private practice in Delhi, favoured the recommendation to increase the remuneration of panel lawyers. "The work we put in for private client or legal service is the same, hence the remuneration should be proportionate," he said.

**NALSA's view**

NALSA director Sunil Chauhan said the quality of legal aid is one of the prime focus areas of NALSA in 2019. He said a series of steps have been taken in the recent past to enhance the quality of court-based legal aid services.

Mr. Chauhan said NALSA was improving the selection process of panel lawyers to ensure selection and empanelment of committed lawyers. After periodic assessments, lawyers can be delisted from the panel, he added. Mr. Chauhan said the Structure and Framework of Monitoring Committees have been changed, and now these committees also do the work of mentoring of panel lawyers in legal aided cases.

"Front offices at the district level are being upgraded to make them one-stop centres for legal aid seekers. They also update the record of legal aided cases. This way, the legal aid seekers are kept updated about the progress of their cases and better monitoring of cases takes place," Mr. Chauhan said. Lakhs of persons are getting legal advice and other forms of legal services such as drafting of applications etc., the director said, adding that through outreach programmes many are being made aware of the services. "Door-to-door campaigns were successful in this regard," he said.

**Thoughts on report**

On the research report, he said, "The report needs to be studied before commenting on it."

"It is important to see as to what indicators were taken by the researcher to examine the quality of legal aid in court matters. This is important as the outcome of a case cannot be the basis for coming to a conclusion about the quality of service rendered," Mr. Chauhan said.

"Moreover, has the researcher examined the case files to analyse as to whether the approach of a panel lawyer was correct or not in circumstances and the law," he said, adding, "Feedback from clients cannot be the sole methodology to assess the quality as clients are generally ignorant about the legal intricacies and their opinion is governed by perception about their cases."

# Pedestrian-friendly CP: parking woes irk visitors

Shopkeepers strongly oppose move, say footfall has taken a major hit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

There was chaos in parts of Connaught Place on Sunday as the New Delhi Municipal Council set in motion its plan to make the shopping hub pedestrian-friendly.

The move has invited sharp criticism from traders who claimed that footfall in the inner circle has reduced massively. Meanwhile, visitors complained of inconvenience, saying the parking areas are far and chaotic.

"It is okay for people who take the metro to Connaught Place, they can take the required exit. But there is no auto service for them if they want to go to another block. They will have to walk," said Shradha Gupta, who was visiting the area with her family for lunch.

Nipunika Shahid, who had to leave her car near Shivaji Stadium, said: "Since the entire inner circle parking was blocked, there was total chaos in the middle circle parking area. I had to go all the way to Shivaji Stadium metro station and walk back to Connaught Place".

No vehicles were allowed in the inner circle of Connaught Place on Sunday. • SANCHIT NAGPAL

Vinay Behel, the treasurer of the New Delhi Traders Association, said: "We were assured that there would be no stopping of vehicles into inner circle for access to parking lots but it was the opposite and caused huge inconvenience to customers. And where are the pedestrians? Even the regular crowd has gone away."

On Saturday, the civic agency had carried out a mock drill to test the new traffic and pedestrian movement plan.

# Court upholds life term for man who raped teenage daughter

Victim gave birth to a baby, which was given up for adoption

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has upheld the life imprisonment awarded to a man for raping his 15-year-old daughter noting that the testimony of the victim by itself was sufficient.

The man was caught when his sister noticed an unusual bulge in his daughter's belly and decided to get her checked.

The minor was found to be 28-weeks pregnant.

An FIR was registered by the convict's sister in September 2013 at Baba Haridas Nagar police station.

The victim gave birth to a baby, which has been given up for adoption.

The complainant said she had come to stay with the convict and his family comprising his wife, two daughters aged four and 15 years and 8-year-old son.

She claimed to have noticed an unusual bulge in the victim's belly and asked her about it. The victim then told her that her father was having physical relations with her for the past year.

**'Threatened to kill me'**

The victim, in her testimony, stated that her father worked as a mason and her mother, is mentally disabled, deaf and mute.

The teenager said that her father tried to force himself upon her when she pushed him and went to her mother. But, the accused followed her and threatened to kill her after which he raped her.

She added that after the said incident, her father used to rape her regularly. The victim also said that when their previous landlord came to know about the incident, he got the house vacated.

The accused said his daughter was having an affair with a neighbour, who impregnated her. He claimed that he was being falsely implicated in the case by his sister since he refused to give her a share in the ancestral property. A Bench of Justice Siddharth Mridul and Manoj Kumar Ohri rejected both the allegations made by the convict noting that neither the identity of the boy has been disclosed nor any material was produced to substantiate them.

"We are of the view that the testimony of the victim, which has remained un-shattered despite sustained cross-examination, is reliable," the Bench said.

# Over 30 held for running 'sex rackets'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Thirty-five persons have been arrested on Sunday during raids at several spa centres for allegedly running sex rackets, the police said on Sunday.

There were foreign nationals among those arrested, they said.

"Raids were conducted at 14 spa centres in Sector 18," said Gautam Buddh Nagar (Rural) SP Vineet Jaiswal said.

"A total of 35 persons – 10 men and 25 women – were arrested from these spas. Beer, condoms and ₹1 lakh cash were seized from these centres," Mr. Jaiswal said. The centres have been sealed.

A case has been lodged and their owners would be booked under Uttar Pradesh Gangsters Act, he added.

# Man told to vacate sister's property

After he failed to produce any independent witness, papers

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A court here has asked a man to handover one room with a kitchen to the legal heirs of his elder sister, rejecting his contention that he was the co-owner of the property.

**Died during trial**

The woman died during the trial of the case.

His elder sister had brought him to Delhi from Punjab when his family's economic condition deteriorated following the death of his father. He grew up under the care of his sister and her husband at Central Delhi's Chander Nagar.

When the man started harassing his sister and later approached a court seeking permanent injunction against vacating him from his room, her sister terminated her permission to him to stay in the room by way of a legal notice.

Thereafter, she filed a suit seeking possession of the room and the common kitchen occupied by him and mesne profits (value of property during the time he was wrongfully occupying) for unauthorised occupation of the suit premises.

The woman's brother in his defence said his sister had adopted him in 1976 and accepted a gift of ₹10,000 from his parents on the occasion.

He further submitted that he was the co-owner of the property and that an electricity meter in his name was also installed in the shop on the ground floor of the suit premises.

Since then, he had been living as family member of her sister late Kashmir Kaur and her husband Sardar Kashmir Singh, who treated him as their son for all social, religious and legal purposes, he further submitted.

But the court rejected his claim as he could not produce any independent witness or documents in support of it.

"The suit is decreed in favour of plaintiffs and against the defendant. The defendant shall handover peaceful and vacant possession of the room and common kitchen situated on the first floor of the suit property to the plaintiffs within two months of the decree. Defendant Gurmeet Singh shall also pay mesne profits/damages at the rate of ₹2,000 per month from 31.01.2008 to 31.01.2011, at the rate of ₹3,000 per month from 31.01.2011 to 31.01.2014, and at the rate ₹4,000 per month from 31.01.2014 to the date of this judgment," Additional District Judge Vishal Singh said.

# Sisodia challenges Nadda to compare govt. schools run by BJP and AAP

In response to jibe that AAP govt. has become 'laughing stock'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia challenged senior BJP leaders J.P. Nadda and Vijay Goel to compare the top 10 government schools in BJP-ruled States with the ones under the Aam Aadmi Party government.

The challenge came in response to BJP working president Mr. Nadda's statement on Saturday that AAP government had become "a laughing stock".

"I challenge @JPNadda & @VijayGoelBJP to choose top 10 govt schools of BJP education model from any BJP state. I'll choose top 10 govt schools of Kejriwal education model. I'll visit your schools, you can visit ours. Let's then debate- what's laughing stock and what makes one cry [sic]," Mr. Sisodia tweeted.

Manish Sisodia

Mr. Nadda's statement came while addressing Delhi BJP leaders on the second day of the state working committee's meeting to formulate plans for the upcoming Assembly elections. "They [AAP] have become the laughing stock. Delhi, being the national capital, needs leadership which has a serious vision for the city," he reportedly said, exuding confidence that the BJP would succeed in Delhi.

"By calling the choice made by the people of Delhi a subject of ridicule. I want to remind him about what Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his speech in the new Lok Sabha. He said when some people make fun of the elected government, they are making fun of the people of India. Perhaps Mr. Nadda-*ji*'s views differ from the PM's," Mr. Sisodia said.

**Attack on Budget**

The Minister added that Delhi schools posted the best result in the city's history this year with a 94% pass rate. "What is the best result in your States? Delhi has the highest portion of the budget for education at 26%. Does any of your States have such a high allocation for education? Show us even one BJP-ruled State where school infrastructure has been developed," he said.

# Make road safety national priority: IITians urge MPs

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Students and alumni of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi have written a letter to all Lok Sabha MPs urging them to make road safety a "national priority and spread awareness about it in their respective constituencies.

**'Pass Bill in both Houses'**

The campaign was started by Solve, a trust started by the students and alumni of IIT Delhi.

The campaigners in their letter to the lawmakers stated that the Motor Vehicles Bill, 2017, was a "ray of hope that can penetrate the darkness of road deaths and injuries" and urged them to ensure it gets passed in both Houses of Parliament.

The Bill proposes major reforms around the safety of vulnerable road users, including children, and holds road authorities accountable for faulty engineering leading to deaths/injuries, updates penalties for life-threatening behaviours, and tightens enforcement.

"Road traffic injury has become the leading cause of death for those aged between 5-29 years. A report by the World Health Organization states that around 821 deaths per day are reported in India due to road accidents," the campaigners said.

**DELHI Timings**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **MONDAY, JULY 01** | | | |
| RISE | 05:27 | SET | 19:23 |
| RISE | 03:56 | SET | 17:59 |
| **TUESDAY, JULY 02** | | | |
| RISE | 05:27 | SET | 19:23 |
| RISE | 04:47 | SET | 19:02 |
| **WEDNESDAY, JULY 03** | | | |
| RISE | 05:28 | SET | 19:23 |
| RISE | 05:46 | SET | 20:02 |

| Delhi Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Delhi City | 42 | 32 |
| Safdarjang | 42 | 32 |
| Palam | 45 | 33 |

**Delhi Palam Today**
**42°C** A warm & dusty morning turns dry and hot weather with partly cloudy. Chances of patchy dust storm. Heat wave likely conditions to prevail.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**
**42°C** Humid conditions to increase. Dry and hot weather to continue with partly cloudy sky.

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THE HINDU
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# All police stations must make a list of 10 top criminals: Yogi

## The CM said police officers should work pro-actively to prosecute them

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MORADABAD (U.P.)

Every police station must prepare a list of 10 most notorious criminals in its area and police officers should work pro-actively to prosecute them, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Sunday.

"It is only when a criminal is prosecuted that the public will start trusting the police. So the police should not only prosecute criminals, but also publicise their punishment," he told officers during a review meeting on law and order here.

Mr. Adityanath, during the meeting that also discussed development in Moradabad, Rampur, Bijnor, Sambhal and Amroha districts, directed officers to upgrade technology to improve monitoring and screening of probable criminals.

U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. ▪

"Use better technology to prevent criminals from committing crime. There is no need to wait for the criminal to commit any crime. Identify him, foil criminal activity," he said.

The Chief Minister was on a two-day visit to Saharanpur and Moradabad.

"We need to bring the crime rate in the State to its lowest level. For this, we must increase foot patrolling. Though we have improved on crime rate in western Uttar Pradesh, there is a need to do better. Senior officers must hold Janata Durbar for at least one hour every day and address the problems of the common man," he said.

"Only by resolving the problems of the public, can we reduce crime against women, be it harassment, dowry deaths, domestic violence and others," he said.

**Anti-Romeo squads**
Mr. Adityanath asked the officers to activate the "anti-Romeo squads" as colleges and schools in the State will re-open on July 1 after summer holidays.

"We must be prepared to pre-empt any crime against girls and should not allow any such activities to discourage them from pursuing their studies. Identify hotspots and increase police patrolling in those areas," he said.

**Safety of stray cattle**
The Chief Minister also asked officers to ensure safety of stray cattle.

"Our society is very sensitive about cow and any damage to cow will have long-term impact on social harmony. Ensure that cow shelters are fully functional and no cow is taken to any slaughterhouse," he said.

Mr. Aditynath directed officials to increase vigil on activities relating to illegal mining, illegal slaughterhouses and other crimes.

He also asked officials to keep a check on jailed criminals.

# 'Round-the-clock security for doctors'

## Assures Haryana Health Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMBALA (HARYANA)

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij on Sunday said round-the-clock security would be provided to doctors and paramedical staff working in civil hospitals in the State.

It is learnt that the decision came in the wake of an attack on a junior doctor allegedly by relatives of a deceased patient at a medical college in Kolkata recently. The attack had triggered nationwide protests by doctors.

Mr. Vij told reporters here that he had written to the Director of Haryana Health Services directing deployment of home guards, if sufficient police constables were not available in any hospital.

A letter was also sent to the DG, Home Guard, he said.

"Till I am the Health Minister, doctors should not worry about their security," he said.

He said he would make surprise visits at government hospitals to check the security arrangements. If any lapse was found the officer concerned would be held responsible, Mr. Vij added.

**CCTV cameras**
He said the Health Department had installed CCTV cameras in hospitals and more would be installed if needed.

The Minister said latest medical equipment like ultrasound machines, ventilators, and MRI scan machines were being provided in all the State government hospitals.

A big cancer hospital was being constructed at Ambala cantonment, he added.

# *Article 15* screening resumes in Kanpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KANPUR (U.P.)

The screening of Bollywood film *Article 15*, which was stopped by fringe groups here on Friday, has resumed, police said on Sunday.

The screening of the movie, which is based on the Badaun gang-rape incident in Uttar Pradesh and deals with caste discrimination, has started from Saturday at cinema halls and multiplexes, said Superintendent of Police (West), Sanjiv Suman.

Exhibitors had suspended the screening of the Ayushman Khurrana starrer after Brahmin bodies protested outside theatres, raised slogans against the actors and the producer, and tore off film posters, the police had said.

**Adequate security**
Directives have been issued to provide adequate police force at every theatre to ensure the peaceful screening of the film, Circle Officer (Babu Purwa) Manoj Gupta said.

However, the screening of the film was put on hold at the Sapna cinema hall on Mall Road.

District police chief Anant Deo has asked his subordinates to take strict action if anyone tries to disrupt the screening of the film.

The general secretary of the Akhil Bhartiya Brahmin Ekta Parishad, Hari Tripathi, claimed that the makers of the film had portrayed the community as a "cruel and aggressive group" that oppresses the Dalit community.

## *Beating the heat*

A mahout bathes his elephant in the Kolong river on a hot summer afternoon in Nagaon district of Assam on Sunday. ▪PTI

# M.P. tribal woman beaten up by family for 'eloping' with Dalit man

## Four of the seven accused held while others are on the run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAR

A 21-year-old tribal woman was assaulted with sticks by her family members in Madhya Pradesh for allegedly eloping with a Dalit man, police said on Sunday, adding that they have arrested four persons.

A police officer said the family members of the woman, a resident of Gatbori village, about 90 km from Dhar, were angry over her affair with the man with whom she had eloped recently, but later returned home.

**Provocation for assault**
He said the immediate provocation behind the June 25 incident was the woman's refusal to marry a man of her caste.

"In the video of the incident, family members of the woman are seen beating her up with sticks," said Bag Police Station in-charge Kamlesh Singhar.

Four of the seven accused have been arrested while rest are on the run, he said. Those arrested have been identified as Sardar Singh, Mahesh, who is the brother of the woman, Dongar Singh and Pratap aka Fatiya.

All of them have been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including for assault and criminal intimidation.

# Chopper scare for Alwar MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALWAR (RAJASTHAN)

BJP Member of Parliament from Alwar Balaknath had a narrow escape when the helicopter carrying him appeared to have lost control for a while and started rotating in the air in this Rajasthan district on Sunday, the police said.

There were strong winds in the morning when the helicopter carrying the Lok Sabha MP arrived to land on the helipad in Kotkasim area, 190 km from Jaipur, police said.

**Pilot regains control**
The pilot, however, managed to control the helicopter after it rotated four-five times in the air.

The chopper could not land and returned to Delhi, Kotkasim police station in-charge Rajkumar said.

Mr. Nath later came to Kotkasim from Delhi by road to attend an annual religious programme, an aide of the Parliamentarian said.

READ FRONTLINE EVERY FORTNIGHT

# Woman attacked and injured by her NRI son, dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PHAGWARA (PUNJAB)

A 58-year-old widow, who was assaulted and seriously injured by her NRI son in a village near here early in June, died at a Jalandhar hospital, police said on Sunday.

A resident of Phagwara's Jagjitpur village, Krishan Kaur was attacked on June 9 by her son Jaswant Singh with a spade and had suffered critical wounds, requiring hospitalisation, they added.

**Murder charge**
Rawal Pindi, Station House Officer, Resham Singh said Jaswant Singh had already been arrested earlier for various penal offences, including attempt to murder, but after the woman's death, the police added Section 302 of the IPC for murder.

Jaswant is settled in Qatar's capital Doha and had come home for a few days, he said.

**Property dispute**
Inspector Singh said Jaswant had a property dispute with his mother.

On her refusal to divide the property as per his wishes, Jaswant allegedly attacked his mother with a sharp-edged agricultural implement 'kahi' on June 9 night at their home, where the woman was living alone, said the SHO.

After the incident, the woman was first admitted to a hospital here, but was later referred to a Jalandhar hospital where she died on Saturday, the police officer said.

# Balimela residents seek benefits of government schemes

## The area was once a major Maoist stronghold in Odisha

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Residents of the Balimela reservoir area – once a major Maoist stronghold in Odisha's Malkangiri district – have now started calling upon the administration and the government to address their issues instead of approaching the ultras.

Ignoring the threat of Maoists, hundreds of inhabitants of 25 villages of Khairaput tehsil held a public meeting at Muduliguda on Saturday to discuss development issues.

The area is now connected with the outside world by the Gurupriya bridge that was inaugurated on July 26, 2018.

**'Swabhiman Anchal'**
The region with 151 villages is now named 'Swabhiman Anchal'.

At the meeting, the tribals spoke about their problems and aspirations. Their major demand was that Muduliguda be declared a panchayat so that they can avail of the benefits of government schemes easily. They also demanded other basic amenities including proper roads, better education and health facilities.

Malkangiri SP Jagmohan Meena said the meeting was an assertion of the tribals' renewed faith in the administration and government.

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# Pune wall collapse: builders remanded in police custody

## Labour activist blames civic body for passing the buck on workers' safety

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

A local court on Sunday remanded two builders, arrested in connection with the wall collapse in Kondhwa on Saturday, to police custody till June 2. Vivek Agarwal and Vipul Agarwal are partners of the firm, Alcon Landmark.

Nine labourers, four minors, and two women were killed after a section of the retaining wall of Alcon Stylus housing society crashed onto their makeshift hutments adjoining the wall.

The police booked 15 people, including the developers of Alcon Stylus housing society, Jagdish Agarwal, Rajesh Agarwal, and Sachin Agarwal, the two builders, the site engineer, contractor, and the supervisor, under Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code.

The FIR also had the names of Pankaj Vohra, Suresh Shah and Rashmikant Gandhi, the developers of Kanchan Royal Exotica project – the adjoining construction site where the labourers were working.

All the deceased hailed from Bihar's Katihar district. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased, while Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh.

While incessant rain is said to have caused the wall to crumble, residents of Alcon Stylus said the wall was in need of urgent repair and that the builders had ignored the danger despite society members drawing attention to it.

The incident has brought into focus the appalling living conditions of labourers and disregard for their safety on construction sites.

"The problem begins right from the recruitment of inefficient labour officers, who are clueless about safety measures for labourers. On an average, at least one death occurs each day at construction sites across the city," said labour activist Jayant Shinde, who heads Bandhkaam Kamgar Sena.

Mr. Shinde, who has been fighting to ensure basic amenities for labourers besides helping them economically, blames both builders and the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) for passing the buck on the question of workers' safety.

"While builders are to be blamed for failing to ensure proper safety gear for labourers, the PMC, too, has evaded its responsibilities in ensuring that migrant labourers get registered," Mr. Shinde said. The Bandhkaam Kamgar Sena has helped more than 8,000 labourers get registered with the Labour Welfare Board.

**A day after tragedy:** (Top) The site of the retaining wall collapse in Kondhwa in Pune wears a deserted look on Sunday; and family members mourn the death of their closed ones in Katihar district in Bihar. ▪ MANDAR TANNU ▪ PTI

# Nine dead, 564 hospitalised in this year's heatwave in Maharashtra, says DHS data

## Nagpur, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Wardha, Akola, Yavatmal worst-affected districts

JYOTI SHELAR
MUMBAI

The heatwave in Maharashtra killed nine people and affected 564 leading to their hospitalisations this year. While monsoon has brought some respite in the last few days, activists said preparatory measures should start now to brave the next summer in a better way.

Data collected by the Directorate of Health Services shows that nearly 2,300 cases and 64 deaths due to heat-related illnesses have been reported in the State since 2011. But these numbers could be under-reported as the statistics have been taken only from the government-run medical facilities.

When one is exposed to excessive heat, the temperature regulation of the body collapses and the patient succumbs if timely treatment is not offered.

"The paediatric and geriatric population is more vulnerable. People with comorbid conditions and those under medication are also at high risk," said epidemiologist Dr. Pradeep Awate, adding the heat-related cases are seen in the months of March, April, May, and June.

Nagpur, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Wardha, Akola, and Yavatmal are the most-affected districts but with the changing climate patterns, high temperatures have been recorded from many other areas as well. For example, in 2017, a village in Raigad district in the Konkan belt recorded an unusually high maximum temperature of 46.5 degrees Celsius.

### Prepare early

According to Premsagar Tasgaonkar, a researcher from Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR), preparations to combat heatwave impacts should start in advance. "Now that the monsoon is here, tree plantations and rainwater harvesting to increase the water storage bodies will help in the long run," Mr. Tasgaonkar said. He said lack of vegetation and water bodies is known to cause a rise in the temperatures.

He said the government hospitals too should be well-equipped before the summer hits. "Most hospitals don't have well-equipped cold rooms with coolers to cater to patients of heat exhaustion. The hospitals start preparing only after a heat wave warning is issued, which should not be the case," he said.

On-ground researchers said heat-related warnings and awareness advisories should be disseminated through radio, television, and phones way in advance. "Today, everyone has a phone, even in rural areas. The government can simply tie up with any of the telecommunication companies and circulate messages time to time," Mr. Tasgaonkar said.

### Heatwaves and health

- Heat-related mortalities have been observed to be worse in coastal areas, due to higher humidity. This makes a large section of India's population even more vulnerable.
- A 2017 study shows a 0.5 degrees rise in average summer temperatures could increase India's heat-related mortality rates by up to 2.5 times.
- This could be particularly felt in urban areas because of the 'heat island effect' of concrete, glass and heavy air pollution, that increase ambient temperatures by as much as 4.4 degrees.

**Cases and deaths in Maharashtra**

| Year | Cases | Deaths |
|---|---|---|
| 2011 | 28 | 4 |
| 2012 | 50 | 1 |
| 2013 | 47 | 11 |
| 2014 | 33 | 1 |
| 2015 | 28 | 2 |
| 2016 | 693 | 27 |
| 2017 | 313 | 7 |
| 2018 | 538 | 2 |
| 2019 | 564 | 9 |

**Effects**

People exposed to severe heat can develop symptoms like heat exhaustion, cramps, rashes, and so on. Intense thirst, fatigue, disorientation, and feelings of paranoia are also common. In severe cases, people may experience hallucinations, fainting, and vomiting. If heatstroke kicks in and people do not get treatment for a long time, it can lead to damage of vital organs like brain, and can also be fatal.

**Water shortage**

- Skymet has predicted the monsoon will below average in 2019, and the high heat will force people to extract more groundwater.
- It will also exacerbate surface water evaporation, leaving less freshwater for recharging of groundwater.
- The excessive heat plays a role in driving acute water shortage across India.
- Water reserves are dangerously low in 60% of the country's river basins, and it has so far received 44% less monsoon rain than average.

# New circular on plot development, NUC irks industry representatives

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MACCIA) and the government's industries department have locked horns over the latter's circular of shortening the period allowed to develop the plot given to industrialists and slapping of the non-utilisation charges (NUC) or even initiating the procedure to take the plot back.

The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) on June 21 issued a circular announcing changes in its policy of development of industrial plots less than 20,000 square metre given to the industrialists. "Those plot users who have not utilised 40% the floor space index (FSI) of the given land parcel but have acquired completion certificate of the building, will have to utilise 40% or more FSI within the two years of publication of the circular," it said. Earlier, the limit was 20%. It further said failing to do so will attract NUC worth 10% of the then existing land rate on the unutilised FSI, until 40% or more FSI is used. The facility to pay NUC will be available for two more years and if 40% FSI is still not used, then the area with no construction will be acquired back by the MIDC. The MIDC has directed its regional offices to conduct a survey and identify plots where 40% of the FSI has not been utilised and send notices to individuals concerned.

The MACCIA has called for a State-wide meeting of office-bearers of all representative organisations of industries on July 3 in Mumbai against the circular, calling it suicidal for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). "The MSMEs work under tight constrains of capital and are not in a position to go for sudden expansion. Should they now focus on increasing their business or the structure of the building?" asked Santosh Mandlecha, president, MACCIA. With more than 3,500 direct members, comprising industries, traders, agriculturist and professionals, the MACCIA has a collective membership of over seven lakh business organisations from all over the State and virtually functions as the apex chamber of Maharashtra.

The MACCIA's senior vice-president, Lalit Gandhi, said while MSMEs will suffer under the new rule, the companies which have kept thousands of acres of land under the name of mega projects and special economic zones, and the land mafias have been systematically excluded from the circular.

An official from the MIDC said the move aims at bringing as much area under development as possible or to release it for other use. "At several places, barely 10% FSI has been utilised and completion certificate of the building is acquired resulting in vast area remaining unused. We can acquire it and re-distribute it to needy businesses."

## *Fired up for big event*

**Practice run:** Hindu devotees perform a stunt with fire during rehearsals for the annual Rath Yatra or chariot procession, in Ahmedabad on Sunday. ▪ PTI

# Slain Briton's mother wants accused handcuffed on court visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

The mother of a British woman, who was allegedly killed in Goa two years ago, has demanded that the accused in the case be handcuffed while being brought to court. The demand comes in view of two recent incidents in the State where the accused arrested in rape cases gave the police the slip.

Andrea Brannigan, whose daughter Danielle McLaughling (28) was found dead near a beach in South Goa district in June 2017, on Sunday posted an undated picture on her Twitter handle of the accused, Vikat Bhagat, being brought for trial before a court in Margao town without handcuffs.

"The accused in my daughter's murder walking to the court in Goa without handcuffs so he could easily escape as two suspects in two separate rapes in Goa have escaped in the last six months," Ms. Brannigan tweeted. "The accused in my daughter's murder has no handcuffs, all prisoners of serious crimes should be handcuffed to prevent this happening," she said in another tweet.

On Friday, a man, accused of raping another British woman in Goa last year, escaped from the police custody while he was being brought to a court in Margao. In December last year, another accused in a gang-rape case in South Goa escaped from the police custody when he was being taken for a medical check-up.

# Minister's meeting with Uddhav fuels speculation of oil refinery talks

This file photo in February shows Nanar refinery project-affected people at a meeting with Uddhav Thackeray at Matoshri.

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Steel Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday held a meeting with Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray at the latter's residence, raising speculation of a possible discussion on the multi-billion dollar oil refinery project in Maharashtra, which was earlier opposed by the Sena.

"Met @ShivSena Chief, Shri Uddhav Thackeray and discussed about working together for a more prosperous & developed Maharashtra. Stressed on how Maharashtra can play a stellar role in fulfilling Hon. PM Shri @narendramodi's aim of making India a 5 trillion dollar economy," Mr. Pradhan tweeted after the meeting.

No official reaction from either side was given over the meeting. Maharashtra Industries Minister and Sena leader Subhash Desai was present at Matoshri when the meeting was held.

"I have no idea about the discussion between both the leaders as I was not part of the meeting. Mr. Pradhan and Uddhavji held a private conversation and I am not aware of the content," Mr. Desai said. When asked whether the Union Minister had come to mellow down the Sena's opposition to the oil refinery project, Mr. Desai said he is not in a position to comment on it.

A text message to Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray seeking information went unanswered.

Last week, in a written reply in the Assembly, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the City and Industrial Development Corporation is developing an integrated industrial cluster at 40 villages in Alibaug, Murud, Roha and Shrivardhan tehsils of Raigad district on 13,409.52 hectares of land. His reply is seen as the government's decision to move India's largest investment project, a ₹3 lakh crore refinery to be built in coordination with Saudi Arabia's Aramco on the State's coastline, to Raigad, months after scrapping its original location at Nanar in the face of local protests.

The Sena too had joined the locals in opposing the project. In February, the BJP, while announcing its alliance with the Sena in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls, had promised to shift the project out of Nanar.

## IN BRIEF

**Plane veers off taxiway in Mangaluru airport**

MANGALURU

An Air India Express flight from Dubai with 189 persons veered off the taxiway and got stuck in the grass while approaching the apron (parking area in the terminal building) after landing in Mangaluru International Airport on Sunday evening. The incident occurred allegedly owing to its high speed. No injuries were reported. The incident did not affect airport operations, its director V.V. Rao said.

**SIT arrests Bengaluru councillor in IMA scam**

BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Sunday arrested nominated Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike councillor Syed Mujahid from his house on M.M. Road in Pulakeshinagar, Bengaluru in connection with the I Monetary Advisory (IMA) Group scam. Police said he was involved in financial transactions with IMA Group founder and managing director Mohammed Mansoor Khan, who fled the country for Dubai on June 8.

# DSP suspended for attack on forester

### Incident evokes widespread condemnation; Forest Minister promises stringent action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD

Kagaznagar DSP P. Sambaiah and Kagaznagar Rural Circle Inspector Venkateshwarlu were placed under suspension for failing to prevent the attack on forest officials and personnel at Sarasala village in Telangana's Kumram Bheem Asifabad district on Sunday.

The two officers who were supposed to have protected the forest personnel discharging their duty were not present at the scene of offence, according to sources.

The attack on forest personnel, especially on a woman forest range officer, who were on a tree plantation drive, drew condemnation from all quarters.

**Shocking assault:** Forest range officer Chole Anitha being attacked at Sarasala village in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district of Telangana on Sunday ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**'No one is above law'**

Forest Minister A. Indrakaran Reddy and TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao condemned the action of Zilla Parishad vice-chairman Koneru Krishna in strong terms. A case had been booked and the accused arrested, Mr. Rao said, adding that no one was above law. Mr. Reddy said such incidents would not be tolerated.

The strongest condemnation came from the Forest Range Officers Association, Adilabad Region.

In a statement to *The Hindu*, president A. Appaiah, spokesman A. Geeraiah and others sought imposition of the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against the accused and that they be barred from contesting elections in future. The Association also demanded resignation of Sirpur MLA Koneru Konappa owning moral responsibility for the dastardly action of his brother Koneru Krishna, the prime accused.

The Indian Forest Service Officers Association also condemned the incident. They demanded immediate action against those responsible.

Among others who condemned the incident were the Telangana Joint Action Committee of Employees and Teachers and Gazetted Officer and Workers in former undivided Adilabad district. In a press release, the JAC called for suitable action against the accused. JAC chairman S. Ashok and secretary A. Shyam Naik also sought a government inquiry.

The Communist Party of India, Telangana State Council, condemned the attack and demanded stringent action against them. The party, however, criticised the government and said that in the name of removing encroachments it was not proper to evict locals.

# BJP finds coalition tough to dislodge

### Karnataka's ruling MLAs not convinced

B.S. SATISH KUMAR
BENGALURU

The coalition in Karnataka may be jittery at the prospect of the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party toppling its government, but the BJP State unit is also worried that its leaders have not been able to achieve a breakthrough on this.

This is in spite of the BJP's central leadership giving the State unit leaders clearance to woo coalition MLAs.

The BJP leadership, which had asked the Karnataka unit to halt the attempts to destabilise the coalition government till the formation of a new Ministry at the Centre was completed, recently gave the go-ahead to continue its efforts, according to party sources.

But the BJP State unit is finding it tough to get the required number of coalition MLAs to quit their Assembly membership and defect. "We need to convince about 15 ruling MLAs to quit and contest bypolls on our ticket. But it has not been possible to get as many MLAs to quit," a BJP leader admitted.

In fact, nearly 30 ruling coalition MLAs were reportedly in touch with the BJP during the Lok Sabha polls, in which the party registered an emphatic victory, winning 25 of 28 seats in the State. "Somehow, we have not been able to get the critical mass," a BJP leader said.

**Waiting game?**

Most 'rebel' MLAs said they would join once others too come in and the numbers rise. This scenario appears to have put pressure on BJP State president B.S. Yeddyurappa as it would reflect on the party organisation's ability to draw 'rebel' MLAs with a credible prospect of the party being able to form the government.

Interestingly, some BJP leaders have now stopped setting deadlines for the collapse of the JD(S)-Congress coalition. However, leaders close to Mr. Yeddyurappa insist that it is a question of time before the government collapses. They say the BJP wants the differences between the ruling allies to peak, before stepping in.

# Naidu decides to form 'shadow cabinet' to track Jagan regime

G.V.R. SUBBA RAO
VIJAYAWADA

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu is forming a "shadow cabinet" to keep a close watch on the working of the Jagan Mohan Reddy government.

Its unstated purpose, however, is also to take on the YSR Congress-led government, as the latter is making swift moves to corner the TDP on its decisions and policies during the last five years.

Under this, each "shadow minister" would closely follow a Minister and a department, and prepare reports on the its policies and developments on a regular basis.

Mr. Naidu, however, is yet to formulate guidelines for his "shadow cabinet". At a recent meeting with senior leaders, he said they would have to keep close tabs on Ministers and hold the government to account for its actions. "The TDP will play the role of strong opposition," says a senior leader.

# Rajnath checks out stealth frigate, submarine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is on his maiden visit to the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), reviewed the operational readiness of the Command, and other aspects of maritime and coastal security on the Eastern Seaboard, on Sunday.

Later, he visited the indigenously conceived, designed and constructed frontline stealth frigate, *INS Shivalik*, and the Indian Naval submarine *Sindhukirti*.

During the guided tour of the ship and submarine, the Union Minister interacted with the crew members.

Addressing naval personnel and defence civilians, Mr. Singh lauded the patriotic fervour of every sailor serving the Indian Navy, maintaining a constant vigil against maritime threats, and safeguarding the nation's maritime interests.

He also highlighted the Indian Navy's significant role in implementing the government's Act East policy. The Minister later interacted with personnel over the traditional 'Barah Khana' feast.

Mr. Singh was also briefed on the Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft, P8I, prior to his departure to New Delhi. On Saturday, Mr. Singh held a review meeting with Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Rajnath Singh onboard submarine INS Sindhukirti at ENC in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## *Time to unwind*

Visitors taking a stroll at the R K Beach in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. There was a considerable dip in temperature owing to the formation of a low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal. ▪K.R. DEEPAK

# 'Doctors duping people through ads'

### Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad has filed complaints against 13 institutions, doctors

STAFF REPORTER
KOZHIKODE

Qualified doctors as well as quacks continue to place advertisements in the media and also appear on social media, claiming to cure diseases despite activists challenging the practice before regulatory bodies.

Most of these ads are put by traditional medical practitioners or *nattu vaidyans* who often are not qualified. The Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad's (KSSP) Campaign Against Pseudo Science Using Law and Ethics (CAPSULE) has filed complaints against 13 institutions and doctors before the Travancore-Cochin Medical Council.

V.G. Udayakumar, former executive committee member, Central Council of Indian Medicine, told *The Hindu* on Sunday that the Supreme Court on April 13, 2018, had clarified that nobody could practise medicine in the country without the mandatory registration granted by regulatory bodies.

As per an SC order in 2018, no one can practise medicine without a registration.

**Bound by two laws**

Medical practitioners in Kerala were bound by the Travancore-Cochin Medical Practitioners Act, 1953, as well as the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970. "Some of these *vaidyans* are now claiming that they are not practising Ayurveda, but traditional medicine. But the catch is that they are distributing drug forms such as *arishtam*, *kashayam*, or *lehyam*, which are Ayurvedic preparations regulated by law," he said.

**'Pompous claims'**

Functionaries of CAPSULE said that modern medicine was dependent on evidence-based results, which could be revised in the light of new discoveries. Treatment systems under the Indian systems of medicine too were bound by laws and court orders. However, some former or existing employees of Ayurvedic medicine manufacturing units or hospitals and former aides of recognised Ayurvedic practitioners had begun claiming that they were *nattu vaidyans*.

These people were found to give pompous claims through the media, promise effective results and often rope in celebrities for their campaign, they pointed out.

Dr. Udayakumar said the so-called *nattu vaidyans* had been duping the people through the media highlighting certain problems existing in the medical system.

"There are enough laws to curb the practice. Advertising treatment or medicines for 54 diseases such as cancer and diabetes listed under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954, is a punishable offence," he pointed out. People who place those advertisements or media organisations which publish them were equally at fault. It went against medical ethics, to make such claims through advertisement, he added.

# Once a symbol of might, Tipu armoury is in ruins

### The monument, translocated two years ago, has turned into a dumping yard and public toilet

M.T. SHIVA KUMAR
SRIRANGAPATNA

For several years till March 2017, the role played by Tipu Sultan's armoury, near the Srirangapatna railway station, during the Anglo-Mysore wars was recollected on many occasions by the Central and the State agencies.

The significance of preserving the 18th century monument in Karnataka's Mandya district was always highlighted till the task of relocating it was accomplished.

**In neglect:** Weeds and shrubs have taken over the Tipu Sultan's armoury near the Srirangapatna railway station in Mandya. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Turned into dumpyard**

Two years on, the heritage monument is again longing for attention. With weeds and shrubs occupying it, the site is also a dumpyard for waste material such as cigarette packets and liquor bottles. Saplings are growing on the armoury, which was once the symbol of might of the erstwhile Mysuru ruler. Seepages from the roof and the saplings may trigger cracks if they are not removed immediately.

The gate fixed after translocation was wide open when this correspondent visited on Sunday. There were clear indications of the area being used for anti-social activities apart from being turned into a public toilet owing to lack of security.

The armoury, a square-shaped structure about 12 metres wide and 10 metres tall, was one among the many Tipu constructed to store ammunition for battles against the East India Company, represented mainly by the Madras Presidency.

Surprisingly, many passengers and others at the railway station, situated only a few metres away from the monument, claimed ignorance about its historical significance.

**Shifted in 2017**

The monument was a hindrance to the Bengaluru-Mysuru railway track doubling work for many years as it bisected the alignment of the second track.

The nearly 1,000-tonne structure was shifted to another area in March 2017 at a cost of ₹13.66 crore. The 'Unified Jacking System' was used for the first time in the country to translocate it by PSL-Wolfe Pvt. Ltd. The structure was excavated and moved using hydraulic cranes and other material.

# Autopsy shows 22 wounds on body of cheating case suspect

### Crime Branch probing death of man in Idukki jail

A CORRESPONDENT
IDUKKI

Days after a private financier and cheating case suspect died in custody in an Idukki jail, an autopsy report from the Kottayam Medical College Hospital showed that there were 22 wounds and contusion on his body.

It is alleged that the 49-year-old private financier Rajkumar died of the torture he underwent at the Nedumkandam police station.

Though he was arrested on June 12, he was produced before the Nedumkandam court only on June 16. He died at the Peerumade sub-jail on June 21.

The autopsy report said the injuries included contusion caused not by 'human hand', suggesting third degree torture. Though the immediate cause of the death was pneumonia, it might have been the result of severe torture and lack of food intake.

He was first taken to the Peerumade Taluk Hospital in a serious condition from the sub jail. He was then referred to the Kottayam Medical College Hospital.

**'Records fabricated'**

Officials said the Crime Branch was probing whether law enforcers had denied Rajkumar treatment in custody. Officials privy to the probe into Rajkumar's death said preliminary evidence pointed to a well-planned cover-up. The agency has stumbled upon attempts to fabricate station house and treatment records and also found gaps in the police narrative of the incident.

The Crime Branch also reportedly noted an alleged attempt by the police to dodge responsibility by creating a fake record that they had let Rajkumar out on bail on June 13.

Though Rajkumar was arrested along with two other female staff, he was taken into custody without entering his name.

The State police are weighing action against at least two supervisory officers in connection with the death.

*(With inputs from Thiruvananthapuram)*

## IN BRIEF

**RTGS, NEFT transfers to be cheaper from today**

MUMBAI

Fund transfer through RTGS and NEFT systems is set to become cheaper from Monday after the RBI decided it would not impose any charges on such transactions. The RBI had also asked banks to pass on the benefits to customers. With the move, RBI plans to encourage digital transactions. PTI

**Tamilisai mocks Stalin on no-trust motion**

CHENNAI

BJP Tamil Nadu unit president Tamilisai Soundararajan questioned DMK leader M.K. Stalin's decision not to push for a no-confidence motion against Assembly Speaker P. Dhanapal. She said Mr. Stalin had brought a no-confidence motion against himself because "they don't have confidence in themselves." She said Thanga Tamilselvan's joining the party had not made any difference.

# After Bihar, Uttar Pradesh braces for AES season

## The disease had claimed more than 154 lives in the neighbouring State

OMAR RASHID
GORAKHPUR

The tension on Sunita's face is palpable as she looks at her eight-year-old daughter who is asleep on a bed at the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Baba Raghav Das Medical College in Gorakhpur.

While the official diagnosis is yet to be ascertained, doctors say the child has shown symptoms of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome, a group of diseases that wreaks havoc in this part of east Uttar Pradesh in the monsoon season.

Suffering from high-grade fever, convulsions and altered sensorium or mental apathy, the child was first admitted to the hospital on May 29 and was discharged after 14 days but had to return for treatment after she developed sudden seizures.

"When we stopped the medicine, her fever would return. She would face jhatkas (convulsions)," said Sunita who hails from a village in Gorakhpur. A Dalit, Sunita and her family still defecate in the open as they are yet to get a toilet built. Her husband is a wage labourer, providing a glimpse of the socio-economic conditions of those affected by AES.

The disease hits the peak during monsoons, from July to October. Though the outbreak season is yet to commence this year, the BRD hospital has recorded 87 cases of AES and Japanese Encephalitis, of which 19 patients died. Authorities, however, say this is part of a declining trend since 2017 when the hospital was hit by the oxygen-supply tragedy.

That year, BRD Hospital dean Ganesh Kumar told *The Hindu*, 2,240 patients of AES and JE were admitted while 512 deaths were recorded. In 2018, the figures drastically fell to 1,047 patients and 166 deaths.

In the Gorakhpur Division, which comprises Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Deoria and Maharajganj districts, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) dropped from 12.64 in 2017 to 9.70 in 2018.

In 2017, the division witnessed 2,998 cases of AES of which 379 patients died, show official figures. In 2018, the cases fell to 1,279 while deaths recorded were 125. In comparison, the CFR in 2015 and 2016 was 17.32 and 15.12, with 338 and 426 deaths.

The figures for Japanese Encephalitis have also fallen drastically since 2017, when the CFR was 18.62 with 274 cases and 46 deaths as against 2018 when the CFR fell to 9.10, cases to 120 and 11 deaths.

The Yogi Adityanath government has tasked authorities to cut the figure down further this year. Authorities say the drop in cases and deaths is due to the State government's investments in infrastructure, medicines, training of human resources, vaccination and awareness campaigns. They say the bed capacity at BRD has been increased to 428, the annual medicine budget raised from ₹2.5 crore to ₹13 crore, while 16 lakh persons are being vaccinated each year and 3.5 lakh paramedics trained to assist in treatment.

Dr. Ganesh Kumar said the awareness campaign and treatment at the peripheral level, primary health centres, district hospitals and Encephalitis Treatment Centres, has decreased the load at BRD from 80% to 45% in just one season. Additional Director, Health, Gorakhpur Division Pushkar Anand said eight mini-PICUs were established since 2018 in Gorakhpur division, with round-the-clock paediatricians and equipment like ventilators, monitors, pulse oscillators and a central oxygen supply. "Our aim is to control the disease within a day or two. So it doesn't affect the brain," said Mr. Anand.

**Testing times:** Sunita looks on as her daughter is suspected to suffer from AES, • OMAR RASHID

## More than medicine, rain could check AES in Bihar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
PATNA

There is a consensus among doctors, experts, health officials as well as parents that monsoon brings down cases of AES in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, the epicentre of the mystery disease that has claimed lives of 154 children in the state so far.

Gopal Shankar Sahni, Department head of Paediatricts at the government–run Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital, said the number of new cases of AES reported in last few days dropped drastically due to rains that cool down atmosphere.

## 'Mumbai risks going the Delhi way'

JYOTI SHELAR
MUMBAI

Mumbai's average annual concentration of particulate matter (PM) 2.5, the extremely fine pollutants that penetrate our lungs, has been much higher than the permissible limit. If measures are not implemented soon, the city will go the Delhi way, say experts.

While the annual permissible limit for PM2.5 is 40ug/m3, the city's average in 2017 was 58. In 2018, it rose to 65. The data, gathered by System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research through their 10 monitoring stations in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, also shows that except for the monsoon months, the city's seasonal average of PM2.5 has been on the higher side as well. "During the rain, the particles get washed away. But at other times, people are exposed to excessive pollutants," said SAFAR's project director.

# Rhino protection force deployed in Kaziranga

## The team would also look after tigers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

An 82-member special protection force trained to combat poachers and understand animal behaviour was deployed in the Kaziranga National Park (KNP) on Sunday.

Among the 82 personnel of the Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF) are eight women.

"The SRPF is basically a tiger protection force named after the rhino since the threat of poaching is more for the one-horned herbivore. Their job profile includes protecting the striped cat since Kaziranga is also a tiger reserve," KNP Director P. Sivakumar said.

The process of setting up the special force was started in 2015. The recruits were given the appointment letter in July 2018 after which they were trained at the Forest Guard School in eastern Assam's Makum. The recruits also underwent weapons training at the 9th Assam Police Battalion in Nagaon district.

The 430 sq.km. KNP encompasses eight ranges under two wildlife divisions – Eastern Assam and Biswanath – straddling the river Brahmaputra. Of the 82 SRPF personnel, 60 have been assigned ranges under the Eastern Assam Wildlife Division on the southern bank of the river.

# Cooperative help takes tribal crafts to Amazon's global marketplace

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

From stunning bomkai, kantha and ikat saris to the geometric shapes of an embroidered Toda shawl, from intricately beaded Bhil jewellery to painstaking Dokra metalwork, the artistic riches of India's Adivasi communities will soon be showcased on Amazon's global marketplace. The Centre's Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation (TRIFED) signed an agreement on Friday to partner with the e-commerce giant's Global Selling Programme.

"The online market has no geographic borders," Renuka Singh Saruta, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, said at an event to mark the accord. "We want to promote India's tribal communities beyond our own borders and expand their opportunities for a sustainable livelihood," she added.

These traditional textiles are at the heart of TRIFED's turnaround over the last two years. "Earlier, the focus was on gift items and assorted handicrafts," said TRIFED managing director Pravir Krishna. "But with urban Indian fashions increasingly embracing our traditional heritage, the market is much bigger for textiles. There has been a 360 degree change, with textiles making up 80% of our products now," he said, adding that tribal jewellery was also popular.

The cooperative federation was started in 1987, but for the first two decades, it bought tribal products in bulk from the market and sold them in its retail outlets. "That was a loss-making proposition. Now we empanel tribal artisans and source directly from them. We pay them a 30% profit, and then sell at an additional mark-up of 10-15% to account for administrative costs," Mr. Krishna explained.

**Sevenfold jump**

The strategy is paying off, with sales rising sevenfold over the last two years. In 2016-17, TRIFED procured and sold almost ₹6 crore worth of tribal products. In 2018-19, procurement shot up to over ₹41 crore, while sales was ₹35 crore. More satisfying than the sales, however, was the generation of income and livelihood for tribal communities, increasing from less than 2 lakh mandays in 2016-17, to more than 13 lakh last year. The number of empanelled artisans has risen to more than three lakh, from 75,000.

"At the end of the day, our objective is not to grow turnover, but livelihoods for as many tribal people as possible," said Mr. Krishna. "We hope to double our figures: of sales, procurements and empanelled artisans, every year."

Getting on Amazon.com is a small part of that strategy, which would also allow pay-per-use access to the e-commerce firm's U.S. warehouses. Already, TRIFED's presence on Amazon India since September 2017 has led to annual sales of ₹50 lakh on that platform.

Now eyeing the global marketplace, design consultants work with adivasi master craftsman to create contemporary patterns from traditional skills.

# IAS officer transferred for spending ₹70 lakh to repair official residence

## Rashmita Panda accused of deliberately bypassing tender process

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has transferred Rashmita Panda, District Collector of Sundargarh, who was accused of splurging ₹70 lakh on the renovation of her official residential quarters within a period of six months.

According to information obtained by RTI activists, the 2010 batch Indian Administrative Service officer, as the then Vice-Chairperson of the Rourkela Development Authority, Commissioner of the Rourkela Municipal Corporation and CEO of the Rourkela Smart City Authority had her official quarters renovated by spending ₹68.57 lakh.

No tender was called for renovation of her quarters in Rourkela, and the project cost of each head of expenditure was deliberately kept below ₹5 lakh to avoid the tender process, alleged Pradip Pradhan, convenor of the Odisha Soochana Adhikar Abhijan, a forum of Right to Information activists.

As much as ₹4.04 lakh was estimated for fixing mosquito nets; plastic emulsion painting work was valued at ₹4.45 lakh; external and internal electrification of the quarters was estimated at close to ₹10 lakh; and construction of drains and a portico was estimated at ₹4.44 lakh.

Works such as construction of a guard room, raising the height of the boundary wall, construction of an additional dining room, and fixing of aluminium sliding windows were estimated at a little above ₹4 lakh each.

After the issue attracted media attention, the government shifted her to the Employment Directorate.

She is now holding the post of Director of Employment-cum-Chief Executive Officer of the Odisha Skill Development Authority.

# Odisha seeks wage hike for convict prisoners

## Neighbouring States pay better

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha's prison authorities have sought a hike in the minimum wages of convict prisoners from ₹40 per day, one of lowest wage rates in the country.

The Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services contended that since the Labour department had revised minimum wages of all category labourers in the State, convict prisoners' wages should be increased to ₹100 for skilled, ₹75 for semi-skilled and ₹60 for unskilled prisoners.

Skilled prisoners work in different manufacturing units such as weaving, tailoring, making of incense sticks, fly ash brick-making and phenyl-making. Semi-skilled prisoners are engaged in cooking, hair-cutting, gardening, dairy and farms, while unskilled prisoners do the sweeping and the guarding of the internal gates.

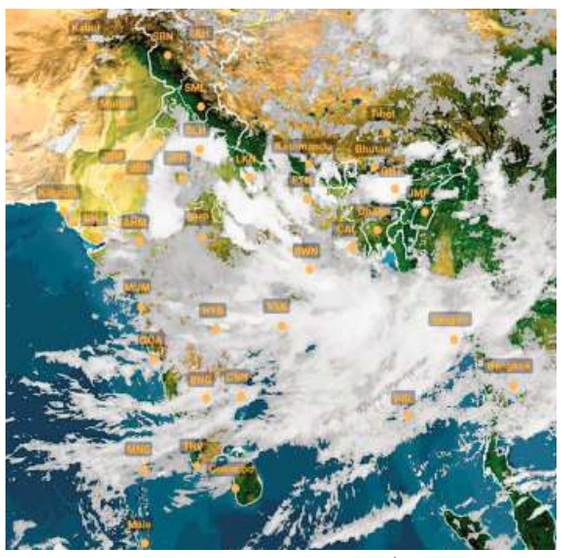
On an average, the State Prison Directorate spends ₹2 lakh annually towards the payment of wages.

Neighbouring States West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh pay higher than Odisha.

Compared to eastern States, Tamil Nadu pays ₹200 to skilled prisoners and ₹160 to unskilled ones.

## 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 Monday:** Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at a few places over Odisha, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Konkan, Goa, Telangana, Kerala, Mahe, coastal Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Gujarat, east Rajasthan and Jharkhand

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | 0.7 | 35.2 | 27.9 | Kozhikode | 7.4 | 32.8 | 26.3 |
| Ahmedabad | – | 37.4 | 27.8 | Kurnool | – | 34.6 | 25.9 |
| Aizwal | 10 | 25.8 | 21.1 | Lucknow | 7.2 | 36.1 | 23.1 |
| Allahabad | – | 42.5 | 32.2 | Madurai | – | 38.3 | 28.4 |
| Bengaluru | – | 29.8 | 21.6 | Mangaluru | – | 31.6 | 24.0 |
| Bhopal | 17.8 | 30.0 | 22.4 | Mumbai | 92.9 | 28.4 | 24.2 |
| Bhubaneswar | 1.7 | 32.7 | 24.7 | Mysuru | – | 31.6 | 20.8 |
| Chandigarh | – | 39.8 | 28.3 | New Delhi | – | 42.2 | 32.0 |
| Chennai | – | 36.9 | 30.5 | Patna | – | 33.4 | 29.8 |
| Coimbatore | – | 34.3 | 24.6 | Port Blair | 86.1 | 30.7 | 23.4 |
| Dehradun | – | 35.6 | 26.1 | Puducherry | – | 37.2 | 28.2 |
| Gangtok | 1.5 | 24.7 | 17.8 | Pune | 3.9 | 26.8 | 21.4 |
| Goa | 63.6 | 29.4 | 23.2 | Raipur | – | 35.8 | 24.8 |
| Guwahati | 0.1 | 35.0 | 26.4 | Ranchi | – | 34.2 | 25.0 |
| Hubballi | – | 24.0 | 21.0 | Shillong | 1.4 | 25.4 | 17.0 |
| Hyderabad | 2.2 | 28.9 | 23.2 | Shimla | – | 28.3 | 17.2 |
| Imphal | – | 30.2 | 23.0 | Srinagar | – | 30.5 | 16.2 |
| Jaipur | – | 41.0 | 30.6 | Trivandrum | – | 31.4 | 25.8 |
| Kochi | 0.2 | 31.4 | 28.2 | Tiruchi | – | 36.6 | 28.2 |
| Kohima | 7.2 | 24.8 | 18.6 | Vijayawada | – | 35.9 | 29.1 |
| Kolkata | 1.9 | 35.0 | 26.2 | Visakhapatnam | – | 33.3 | 30.0 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing** — **Yesterday**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 42 | 144 | .84 | 99 | – | |
| Bengaluru | 4 | .34 | .55 | 34 | 83 | |
| Chennai | 14 | .29 | .81 | 197 | – | |
| Delhi | 16 | .23 | .68 | 141 | .321 | |
| Hyderabad | 11 | .52 | .15 | 53 | 56 | |
| Kolkata | 8 | .58 | .12 | 144 | .111 | |
| Lucknow | 10 | .29 | .74 | 266 | – | |
| Mumbai | 1 | .25 | 102 | 26 | 74 | |
| Pune | 63 | 8 | .29 | 14 | 14 | |
| Vishakhapatnam | 18 | .56 | .30 | 37 | 79 | |

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Fatehabad, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 343 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nagpur, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

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

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

उ. प्र. उर्दू अकादमी, लखनऊ
اترپردیش اردو اکادمی، لکھنؤ
Urdu اردو IAS
Urdu اردو IAS

सूचना

समाचार पत्रों में जून माह में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन शीर्षक "उर्दू आई०ए०एस० स्टडी सेन्टर, लखनऊ (यू०पी०) फ्री कोचिंग, फ्री हास्टल, फ्री खाना पाँचवें बैच का प्रवेश प्रारम्भ" में ऑन लाइन फार्म भरने की अंतिम तिथि : 01.07.2019 से बढ़ाकर 06.07.2019 कर दी गई है। अन्य विवरण पूर्ववत् रहेंगे।

प्रो० आसिफ़ा ज़मानी (पद्मश्री) चेयरपर्सन
रिज़वान अहमद Ex D.G.P. U.P. निदेशक
एस. रिज़वान सचिव

## Among members

Glaring bilateral and global issues were highlighted at the G-20 summit

As a forum, the G-20 is often watched more closely for the meetings the event affords on its sidelines, than for substantive outcomes. The countries that make up the G-20 (19 nations and the European Union) account for 85% of the world's nominal GDP, and each has pressing issues it wishes to discuss with other members on bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral levels. Prime Minister Narendra Modi used the occasion of the G-20 summit at Osaka for as many as 20 such meetings, including nine bilaterals, eight pull-aside engagements, and of the Russia-India-China, Japan-U.S.-India and Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa groupings. The most anticipated were President Donald Trump's meetings with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping and Mr. Modi, given the escalation in trade tensions. Both ended on a cordial note, but with no breakthrough or "big deals". The Indian and U.S. Commerce Ministers will sit down again, as they have on at least three occasions in the past year, to try to resolve the impasse over trade issues, and the U.S. and China have called a halt to raising tariffs until they resolve issues. Both come as a relief to India, given the impact of those tensions on the national and global economies. Mr. Modi raised several Indian concerns at the G-20 deliberations, including the need for cooperation on dealing with serious economic offenders and fugitives, as well as climate change funding. This found its way into the final declaration. India sent a tough message by refusing to attend the digital economy summit pushed by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as his plan for "data free flow with trust", included in the G-20 declaration, runs counter to the Reserve Bank of India's proposed data localisation guidelines. The U.S. wrote in a counter to the paragraph praising the Paris accord, while trade protectionism was not mentioned in the document. On issues such as ocean pollution management, gender equality and concerted efforts to fight corruption, the G-20 found consensus more easily.

With Saudi Arabia hosting the next G-20 in 2020, followed by Italy in 2021, all eyes will soon turn to the agenda India plans to highlight when it holds the G-20 summit in 2022. Many global challenges, such as climate change and its impact, the balance between the needs for speed and national security with 5G networks being introduced, as well as technology-driven terrorism, will become even more critical for the grouping, and the government must articulate its line. India should lead the exercise in making the G-20 more effective in dealing with some of the inequities in its system. The G-20 is an important platform to discuss pressing issues, and it must not be detracted from its original purpose of promoting sustainable growth and financial stability by grandstanding by one or two members.

## New framework

The SEBI regulations for mutual funds will help restore investor confidence

After introducing a new standard framework for credit rating agencies last month, the Securities and Exchange Board of India came up with more stringent regulations to govern the management of mutual funds. The mutual fund industry came under its scrutiny after some mutual funds in the last few months had to postpone redemption of their fixed maturity plans (FMPs). HDFC Mutual Fund and Kotak Mutual Fund came to grief and had to roll over or proportionately reduce redemption of their FMPs in April after some Essel group companies failed to redeem their non-convertible debentures where the funds had invested. According to the new SEBI regulations, liquid mutual fund schemes will have to invest at least 20% of their funds in liquid assets like government securities. They will be barred from investing more than 20% of their total assets in any one sector; the current cap is 25%. When it comes to sectors like housing finance, the limit is down to 10%. These measures are aimed to prevent situations such as the one being witnessed now. While the mandated investment in government securities will ensure a modicum of liquidity, the reduction in sectoral concentration will discipline funds and force them to diversify their risks. Some mutual funds entered into standstill agreements with companies in whose debt instruments the funds had invested. This is not a welcome practice and goes against the interests of investors in the mutual fund. SEBI has done the right thing by banning funds from entering into such standstill agreements. Further, SEBI has required that assets of mutual funds be valued on a mark-to-market basis in order to better reflect the value of their investments.

While SEBI's intent to deal with the risks within the financial system is commendable, there could be unintended consequences to the regulator's actions – which need watching. One of the new regulations introduced by SEBI is to increase the exit load on short-term investments in liquid mutual funds to discourage sudden demands for redemption. This could possibly hinder fund flow into the bond market, which in India is already quite undeveloped when compared to the rest of the world. While SEBI is doing a commendable job in disciplining the markets and intermediaries, the larger question is whether the regulator can really protect investors beyond a certain point. Market investments involve risk, and investors seeking high returns may in fact be willing to assume the increased risk that comes with such investment. That said, what the regulator is probably more concerned about is the ripple effect of defaults and roll-overs on the system. Investor confidence can be shaken by defaults and that will have consequences for the economy. Viewed from this perspective, the regulator's latest rules should be welcomed.

# A thumbs down to unilateralism

The U.S. is acting in defiance of agreed rules to target India's WTO-consistent policies

BISWAJIT DHAR

Economic relations between India and the United States are on a knife-edge after the U.S. took a series of unilateral actions against India's exports, that began in 2018, followed by India's recently announced retaliatory move of increasing tariffs on 28 products imported from its largest trade partner. As a result of these developments, India has become the Trump administration's most significant target after China.

No one could have summed up the essence of the U.S.'s unhappiness over India's policies as well as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in his recent statement in New Delhi. He said, "The United States has been clear we seek greater market access and the removal of trade barriers in our economic relationship." Soon after, U.S. President Donald Trump sought withdrawal of tariff increases effected recently by India, saying that for years, India has "put very high tariffs against the United States". What needs to be noted is while similar complaints have been made by successive U.S. administrations over the past few decades, the tone and tenor of the Trump administration has distinctly upped the ante.

### Some background

Let us recall some of the major instances where the U.S. has questioned India's trade and other related economic policies. In the past, U.S. agencies – in particular, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) – have "investigated" India's trade policies, the conclusions of which have been used by the administration to demand changes in policies that would benefit American businesses. The latest demands stem from two extensive USITC investigations which were conducted between 2013 and 2015 on India's trade, investment, and industrial policies.

These investigations were carried out at the request of the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means and the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance "under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)) regarding Indian industrial policies that discriminate against U.S. imports and investment for the sake of supporting Indian domestic industries, and the effect that those barriers have on the U.S. economy and U.S. jobs". The first of these investigations, the report of which was submitted towards the end of 2014, covered only the opening months of the first Narendra Modi government, following which a second request was made by the two Congressional Committees to investigate the performance of the government in its first year in office. This report was submitted in September 2015.

### Propriety and procedures

The main message that was conveyed by these investigations was that American businesses strong disapproved several of India's key policies on trade and investment and that these policies had to be amended. Although in 2014, the USITC seemed to support the direction of the Modi government's economic policies in its first few months, in the second report, which covered the government's first year in office, the familiar tone of disagreement over India's trade and investment policies appeared once again. The investigations conducted by the U.S. agencies raise several issues of

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propriety, procedures and substance. These three dimensions need to be understood well for this is the only way in which the Government of India can prepare appropriate responses to the persistent questioning by the U.S. administration of its trade and investment policies.

The first is the issue of propriety. It is important to mention here that all of India's trade-related policies (which include intellectual property rights that were investigated and questioned in the two USITC reports were done under the cover of the U.S.'s domestic laws. This is tantamount to unilateralism, the response to which should be an unequivocal "no" in this age of multilateralism, where differences on policy issues between sovereign countries must be resolved in the appropriate multilateral forums. The possibilities of a stronger power using unilateral means should be eliminated. It is in this spirit that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was established as an integral part of the post-war global economic governance. GATT was replaced by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995.

The areas that were investigated by the USITC during the two investigations were also those that are covered by the WTO. Therefore, propriety and global trade rules demanded that the concerns of American businesses about India's policies had to be addressed within the WTO through consultations among the members. The main purpose of the GATT/WTO is to provide a forum for the resolution of disputes by following multilaterally agreed rules. The global community agrees that this would be the best way of preventing countries from getting into trade wars, which had pushed the global economy into the depression of the 1930s. The only country disagreeing with this position is the U.S.; it seems intent on pushing its trade partners into trade wars.

### Flawed step

Now to the procedure of conducting the investigations. This was deeply flawed for it provided a platform for vested interests in the U.S. to make common cause against India's policies. What is more, in these investigations, U.S. government agencies have been not only acting as the judge and the jury but also actively engaged in getting the findings of the investigations implemented.

As mentioned earlier, the substance of the investigations touched trade-related issues that are covered by the WTO agreements. Since the establishment of the WTO, India's policies have mostly been consistent with its commitments; where they have not been, other WTO members, including the U.S., have approached the dispute settlement body of the organisation to make India fall in line.

The fact that the U.S. is not approaching the WTO to challenge India's trade and investment policies that American businesses find detrimental to their interests implies the following: India's largest trade partner is acting in defiance of agreed rules to target India's WTO-consistent policies. Take, for instance, India's high tariffs which have left Mr. Trump greatly perturbed. These tariffs were agreed to in the Uruguay Round negotiations in consultation with all members of the organisation. Moreover, in the period since, India has lowered tariffs on many agricultural and industrial products. Contrast this with the U.S.'s position wherein it continues to defend its high levels of agricultural subsidies which are used for lowering commodity prices to levels at which no other country can have access to its domestic market. Thus, the U.S. does not need tariffs to protect its agriculture; it uses subsidies, instead. The WTO also informs us that the U.S. also uses very high tariffs on tobacco (350%), peanut (164%) and some dairy products (118%).

### What is at the core

The India-U.S. discord over trade stems from a deep-seated desire of U.S. businesses to have a bigger footprint in the Indian economy, and to achieve this goal, the administration is stepping beyond legitimate means. This discord defies Mr. Pompeo's simplistic formulation that "great friends are bound to have disagreements". In fact, the basis of the discord lies in the way the U.S. has been targeting India's policies, disregarding the rule of law. Early resolution of this discord seems difficult as the U.S. has decided to undermine the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism and walk down the path of unilateralism instead. Under these circumstances, the Government of India would have focus on two fronts: to remain engaged with its largest trade partner and to also engage actively with the global community to make the U.S. understand the imperatives of a rules-based trading system.

*Biswajit Dhar is Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi*

# Adding value to a third innings

Finland wants to strengthen the European Union's global leadership in climate action

ERIK AF HÄLLSTRÖM

Good governance, clean nature, a silent people, midnight sun, frosty winters, heavy metal and saunas are some of the features commonly associated with Finland and Finns. As Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) begins from July 1, the country has an opportunity to bring forth and present the values it believes in. Openness, transparency and equality are not just words for Finns; they are in Finland's DNA.

Seeing these values increasingly emerge in cooperation between India and the European Union is great news. Finland wants to strengthen the EU as a global actor and sees India as a key partner in tackling global challenges. India and the EU share the same values of democracy, tolerance and a strong rules-based international order.

The union was formed to ensure peace and prosperity in Europe after the Second World War. It began as purely economic cooperation between the six founding member states. Today the EU is an organisation with common laws and regulations which span policy areas from climate, environment and health issues to external relations, justice and migration.

This is Finland's third engagement with the EU Council Presidency. In 1999, its slogan was 'Europe into the new Millennium'. In 2006 the integration of 10 new EU member states was a cross-cutting theme. The Presidency rotates between the member states, and the Finnish Presidency is preceded by the Romanian Presidency and succeeded by the Croatian Presidency. The three countries form a troika, agreeing on certain principles together. While the Lisbon Treaty (2009) reduced the

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role of the Presidency, it is still important in trade, development cooperation, enlargement, legal and consular affairs. The task of the Presidency is to bring forward the EU agenda.

### The buzzword

Sustainability runs through the identity of Finland's Presidency. Delegates attending meetings in Helsinki will be served organic, and locally produced Finnish food; the emphasis will be on vegetarian fare, with the use of plastic reduced. Finland wants to lay stress on the importance of a circular economy by replacing the use of paper and plastic material with digital applications and Finnish innovations. During Finland's six-month tenure, there will be six informal ministerial meetings in the country.

The implementation of the EU-India Strategy is close to Finland's heart. The EU Council adopted the strategy in November 2018. As an ambitious document, it spells out clear priorities to develop further already excellent EU-India relations in sectors such as trade, terrorism, defence, science and global affairs. In New Delhi, the EU delegation and member states will implement the strategy together. It goes without saying that Finland hopes for a breakthrough in free trade negotiations and a resumption of the dialogue on human rights.

The EU is complex by nature. The responsibilities of the EU institutions and the member states need to be explained repeatedly and this applies to Finland and India. However, for Finns it is easy to speak about the EU in positive terms. Finland's membership is a value-based choice because it has anchored the country permanently to the West. The support for the EU is at a record high in Finland. Its currency is the Euro. Further, most Finns consider themselves both Finnish and European. The EU is a unique economic and political union that binds 28 countries together.

After the European parliamentary elections that were held in May 2019 in all 28 countries, a new leadership and a new Commission will be appointed. In addition, there will be challenging issues brought to the table during the six months Finland holds the Council Presidency. These include the multi-annual budget, migration and Brexit, the process of the United Kingdom's departure from the EU. Finland wants to deepen security cooperation in the EU. If at the end of December, Finland has contributed to this agenda having been brought forward, then there will be reason to be content.

*Erik af Hällström is Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland, New Delhi*

## 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.

### A truce

The truce in the trade war between the U.S. and China which was arrived at on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan is a significant development that the world has been anxiously waiting for (Page 1, "Trump, Xi seal trade war truce", June 30). The Trump administration's aggressive trade policies have the potential to result in unwarranted economic consequences at a time when the world economy is already sluggish. Short-sighted moves to protect existing jobs may result in a failure to create new jobs.

N. SADHASIVA REDDY,
Bengaluru

### On the RBI

That the Reserve Bank of India is under compulsions, in terms of directives issued by the government under provisions of the RBI Act, to maintain inflation at 4% (+/- 2) for a five-year period (2016-2021) and is accountable for any breach on this count needs to be appreciated before putting it in the dock for its obsession with inflation targeting (Editorial page, "Even central banks need 'capital' infusion, June 29). The ball is in the government's court. A similar obligation is cast by the FRBM Act on the government to have the fiscal deficit in check. Both prescriptions are essentially political with ideological underpinnings. At the present juncture, when there is a need to accelerate growth and employment, a strong case exists to recast the straightjacket approach. However, it would be unrealistic to expect such a move from a dispensation which is preoccupied with GDP growth, ease of doing business and looking to the West for policy prescriptions.

MANOHAR ALEMBATH,
Kannur, Kerala

### Negligence

It is unacceptable that a fundamental procedure of infusing the same type of blood, for which the patient was tested, was grossly overlooked at the Anantapur Government General Hospital in Andhra Pradesh ("Transfusion of wrong blood type kills woman", June 30). How do patients repose their confidence in our medical services? Many readers will not forget the incident where a woman was administered HIV-infected blood, again due to sheer medical negligence.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

### Demolition drive

The move by the Andhra Pradesh government to bring down a structure, Praja Vedika, built by TDP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu, seems to be one taken in haste ("Hall built by Naidu demolished", June 27). Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy could have used the facility for an indoor sports centre, a library or leased it to a private party. It is all about the wastage of public money. Mr. Jagan Reddy's party has been given a massive mandate but along with this should be a demonstration of good sense.

G. VENKATAKUPPUSWAMY,
Bengaluru

■ It may be true that the structure built under the Naidu regime flouted norms. But what is important too is who will reimburse the taxpayer's money and who decides that demolition is the only way out. The structure could have been used in a better way – a home for destitutes or the disabled, as an orphanage, as an old age home or even as a rehabilitation centre. The haste with which the decision was made raises questions.

SHRIKANTH KOLATHAYA,
Puttur, Karnataka

■ Perhaps rules do not insist on fixing accountability and punishing the culprits for causing a loss to the exchequer. If, according to the explanation now, the sprawling hall is one among various structures that violated the River Conservancy Act and orders from the National Green Tribunal, the wrong-doings by the previous government should be subject to legal scrutiny. People have a right to know who authorised the constructions and under what circumstances. There are hundreds of unauthorised structures across India that are examples of the flouting of various rules. If one or more structures can be saved without a major setback to the ecology, a substantial loss can be eliminated. Prima facie the demolitions seem more political than ecological.

P.R.V. RAJA,
Pandalam, Kerala

### Retired life

Retirement should at best be a comma and never a full stop (Open Page, "Post-retirement blues, paths", June 30). While ageing is a continuous process, it is the state of the mind that really matters; one should be able to relish one's retirement years with as much joy as one did the first flush of youth and middle age. The secret of true bliss post-retirement is to avoid an idle mind. There are several avenues in today's world for those who have retired. In my case after serving a bank for nearly four decades I have taken to writing, which I find rewarding. The joints might creak, one's hair might turn grey but if your spirits are buoyant, you can carry on with nary a worry.

C.V. ARAVIND,
Bengaluru

### The team to watch

The intriguing encounter between Afghanistan and Pakistan spells the beginning of a new rivalry in the game of cricket ('Sport' page, June 30). With their grit and commitment, one would be pleased to see this new team, i.e. Afghanistan, taking the game to a whole new level. The team will also spell hope in a country ravaged by wars and bloodshed.

K. VIGNESH,
Chennai

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
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**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**

In the report, "Afraid of BJP's 'New India': Ghulam Nabi Azad" (June 25, 2019), *Ranjan* Daimary was referred to as a Rajya Sabha MP from Bodoland People Front. It is *Biswajit* Daimary.

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# It's time to act, not do more research

## The resources spent in drafting educational policies should instead be spent in implementing solutions

PHILIP G. ALTBACH
& ELDHO MATHEWS

In its first 100 days, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second government has begun yet another rethink of higher education policies through the draft NEP (National Education Policy) and EQUIP (Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme). This is the latest, and seemingly among the most elaborate, in an endless series of official reports and programmes aimed at improving higher education in independent India. The Radhakrishnan Commission of 1949, the National Education Policies of 1968 and 1986, the Yashpal Committee of 2009, the National Knowledge Commission in 2007, and the draft NEP of 2019 have all basically said the same thing.

While it is always valuable for various government committees to point to the importance of higher education for economy and society, it is not necessary to convene many experts through initiatives such as EQUIP to tell the government and the academic community what they already know. Perhaps the time, energy and resources that EQUIP will require can be better spent implementing the obvious. Everyone agrees that higher education needs significant improvement, especially as India seeks to join the ranks of the world's premier economies.

### Inadequate allocation of funds

However, central to both quality improvement and increased access is money. Higher education in India has been chronically underfunded – it spends less than most other BRICS countries on higher education. The last Budget allocated only ₹37,461 crore for the higher education sector. Other related ministries and departments such as Space, Scientific and Industrial Research, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Science and Technology, Health Research and Agricultural Research have been allocated only modest support. Inadequate funding is evident at all levels. All State governments, which provide the bulk of higher education money, also fail to adequately support students and institutions.

"The challenge is not only to enrol students and improve graduation rates but also to ensure that they are provided with a reasonable standard of quality." Students fill admission forms in New Delhi in June. • PTI

The Central government, responsible mostly for the top of the academic system, does not provide sufficient resources. Even the Institutions of Eminence scheme falls short of requirements and is dramatically behind similar programmes in China and several European countries. Funding for basic research, which is largely a Central government responsibility, lags behind peer countries. Apart from Tata Trusts, Infosys Foundation, and Pratiksha Trust, industry provides little support. Thus, India requires substantial additional resources for higher education to improve quality and build a small but important "world class" sector. Massive effort is needed at both State and Central levels – and the private sector must contribute as well.

A key goal of EQUIP and the NEP is that India must expand the percentage of young people enrolled in post-secondary education significantly. It is interesting to note that while the draft NEP aims at increasing the gross enrolment ratio to at least 50% by 2035, EQUIP targets doubling the gross enrolment ratio to 52% by 2024. At present, India's gross enrolment ratio is 25.8%, significantly behind China's 51% or much of Europe and North America, where 80% or more young people enrol in higher education. India's challenge is even greater because half of the population is under 25 years of age. The challenge is not only to enrol students, but to ensure that they can graduate. Non-completion is a serious problem in the sector.

And of course, the challenge is not only to enrol students and improve graduation rates but also to ensure that they are provided with a reasonable standard of quality. It is universally recognised that much of Indian higher education is of relatively poor quality. Employers often complain that they cannot hire graduates without additional training. The fact that many engineering colleges even today have to offer "finishing programmes" to their graduates underlines the pathetic state of quality imparted by these institutions.

India needs a differentiated academic system – institutions with different missions to serve a range of individual and societal needs. Some "world class" research-intensive universities are needed. Colleges and universities that focus on quality teaching and serve large numbers of students are crucial. Distance education enters the mix as well. The draft NEP's recommendations for a differentiated system of research universities, teaching universities, and colleges are in tune with this. However, the ways suggested to achieve these objectives are impractical.

The private sector is a key part of the equation. India has the largest number of students in private higher education in the world. But much of private higher education is of poor quality and commercially oriented. Robust quality assurance is needed for all of post-secondary education, but especially for private institutions.

The structure and governance of the higher education system needs major reform. There is too much bureaucracy at all levels, and in some places, political and other pressures are immense. Professors have little authority and the hand of government and managements is too heavy. At the same time, accountability for performance is generally lacking.

### Recommendations

India needs: (a) dramatically increased funding from diverse sources, and the NEP's recommendation for a new National Research Foundation is a welcome step in this direction; (b) significantly increased access to post-secondary education, but with careful attention to both quality and affordability, and with better rates of degree completion; (c) longitudinal studies on student outcomes; (d) to develop "world class" research-intensive universities, so that it can compete for the best brains, produce top research, and be fully engaged in the global knowledge economy; (e) to ensure that the private higher education sector works for the public good; (f) to develop a differentiated and integrated higher education system, with institutions serving manifold societal and academic needs; (g) reforms in the governance of college and universities to permit autonomy and innovation at the institutional level; and (h) better coordination between the University Grants Commission and ministries and departments involved in higher education, skill development, and research.

The latest draft NEP and EQUIP have reiterated the importance of some of these points. There is really no need to spend money and attention on a new review. The needs are clear and have been articulated by earlier commissions and committees. The solutions are largely obvious as well. What is needed is not more research, but rather long-neglected action.

*Philip G. Altbach is research professor and founding director, Centre for International Higher Education at Boston College, U.S. Eldho Mathew is an independent higher education researcher based in New Delhi*

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

# Fair reporting demands appropriate words

## Why the media uses the term Dalit

A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

Some issues tend to keep surfacing, no matter how many times you address them. On August 20, 2018, I wrote a column, "Why context matters", to explain why news reports use the term 'Dalit'. When the Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry issued an absurd advisory to the media in 2018 on the use of the term Dalit, this newspaper carried an informed editorial, "What's in a name?" (September 6), which once again explained not only the rationale but also the ethical imperatives for using the term.

Yet, recently, a reader, Tarun Pal, wrote an angry letter to us asking why *The Hindu*, an English language newspaper, uses the term Dalit, a Hindi word, and not Scheduled Caste. Mr. Pal argued that if the idea is to describe the daily ordeals of a section of people, it would be prudent to name the specific community rather than use the general term Dalit. Another reader, Mahesh P. Padukone, wondered about the efficacy of using the term. He wrote: "Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal stating that 'Fifty two per cent of Dalit respondents feared their caste would be 'outed' and 67% said they faced discrimination at the workplace' in the U.S. is far-fetched because I seriously doubt an American even knows or cares about 'Brahmins', 'Dalits', 'Adivasis'... For them, it's an 'Indian' without the ramifications of caste."

This brings us back to the question, is the word Dalit used without any application of mind? Is it discriminatory? How did the change happen from Mahatma Gandhi's Harijan to Dalit? And where does the official term Scheduled Caste fit into this narrative?

### Historical context

Eminent economist and former chairman of the University Grants Commission, Sukhadeo Thorat, in his book, *Dalits in India: Search for a Common Destiny*, explained the significance of the term Dalit. He said that this term was invoked in a conscious manner in 1932 when B.R. Ambedkar worked out the Poona Pact with Congress leaders to secure reserved seats for the depressed classes to the provincial legislatures and the Central Legislature. Mr. Thorat argued that the term Scheduled Caste is a legally defined category, but that the media and academics can use other words to capture the context and problems faced by communities. He also made it clear that Dalit is a Marathi word, and means the oppressed and resourceless.

Scholars have also consistently argued that the term Scheduled Caste remains neutral, while the term Dalit provides the cultural and political context to the struggles of a people. In this newspaper, the academic Ananya Vajpeyi wrote an article, "A modern-day enlightenment" (April 17, 2014), explaining some of these contentious issues. She cited D.R. Nagaraj's influential essay, "Self-Purification v/s Self-Respect: On the Roots of the Dalit Movement" to make several points: "First, that it was Gandhi who initially grasped untouchability as a political problem (albeit his own concerns were spiritual and not material); second, that Gandhi and Ambedkar debated their divergent approaches to the problem of untouchability in a vigorous manner both before and after the Poona Pact of 1932; and third, that by the end of their long encounter with one another, Gandhi and Ambedkar had internalised one another's ideas." She examined how Nagaraj explained the difference between Harijan and Dalit as the "difference between the caste Hindu's struggle for self-purification and the outcaste's struggle for self-respect" because the "self" in the two situations is not the same.

### Pregnant with meaning

History apart, the Press Council of India, the statutory body that regulates the print media, has ruled that there cannot be a ban on the use of the word Dalit in the media. When the I&B Ministry advisory, which was based on an order of the Bombay High Court, was issued, the regulatory body said: "Our reading of the Bombay High Court order is that it did not seek a ban on the word 'Dalit'. We deliberated on the order and have come to the conclusion that it is advisable not to issue directions/orders prohibiting the use of word Dalit."

This newspaper is alive to the fact that the term Dalit is "pregnant with meaning, reflecting the struggle of a community to reassert its identity and lay claim to the rights that were denied to them for centuries". Hence, it becomes the duty of the media to use it.

*readerseditor@thehindu.co.in*

# Start with preventive care

## Doctors must encourage the continuum-of-care approach among patients

PRATHAP C. REDDY

The medical profession is a calling. It requires sacrifice and grit to become a healer, a clinician, and from then on, it is a responsibility and commitment to a lifetime of service and learning. Beyond the initial years of studying medicine, doctors have to work very hard every single day to upgrade their knowledge and skills.

What makes the process more challenging is the dynamic nature of the world we live in today. Knowledge and the nature of knowledge are evolving, driven by technological developments. Healthcare challenges have also constantly evolved. Doctors have reduced many feared ailments to stories of the past. But ailments have also remodelled and resurfaced and are posing different tests to doctors today.

Challenges are not new to doctors; in fact, they are doctors' companions right from the time he or she decides to enter the medical profession. I would urge every doctor to bear this in mind. No medical professional should be disheartened by the recent incidents of violence against members of the fraternity. I was pleased to see the support of fellow professionals, citizens and the government towards the fraternity's call for stronger laws to ensure its safety.

### Developments in healthcare

There are fabulous developments taking place in healthcare today. Health is on the national agenda for the first time after Independence. Ayushman Bharat is a game-changer. It will cover the cost of medical care for almost 40% of India's population, while the 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres being developed will strengthen the national focus on preventive healthcare.

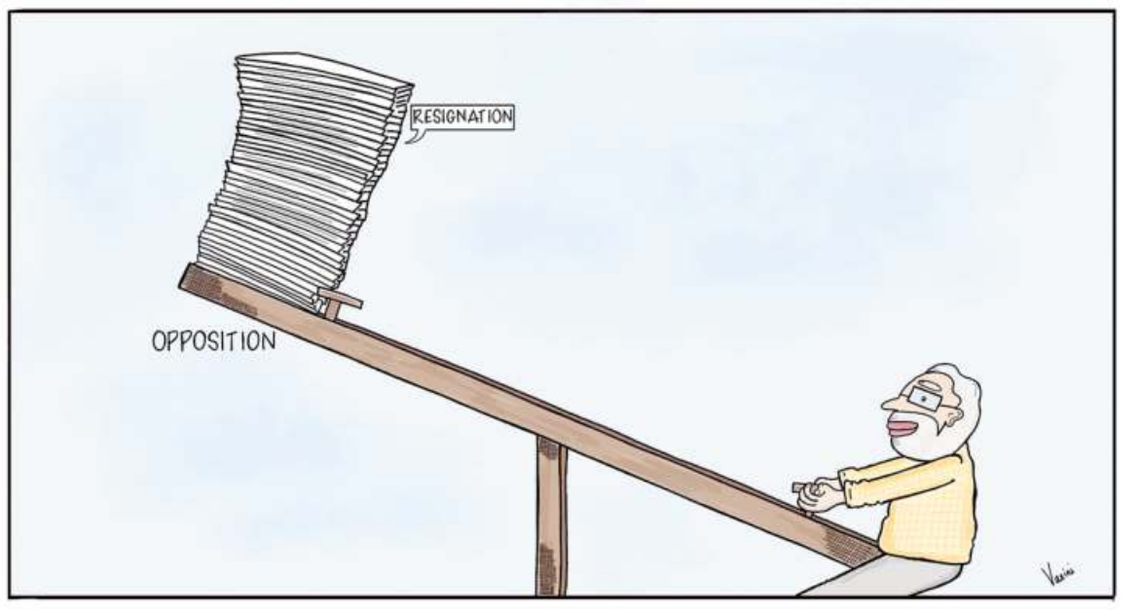
There is a willingness amongst our administrators to hear the perspectives of the sector. Innovative plans are on the anvil to boost medical education and hospital infrastructure. Skilling for healthcare is gaining momentum, and will undoubtedly be a key engine for job creation. Millions of medical value travellers from over a hundred countries are choosing India for medical and surgical treatment. Huge investments are being made to build hospitals, contemporary medical centres and remote healthcare models. As a clinician with over six decades of experience, I am confident that we have all the elements in place for a healthier and happier India. There is no better time to be a doctor than today.

### The big challenge today

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are a big challenge today and need serious tackling. The World Health Organization has been ringing the warning bells for the last few years on the challenges that NCDs pose. NCDs have been rapidly growing. Cancer, stroke, obesity and diabetes are some of the ailments growing at an alarming pace. They affect people across ages and threaten the younger population a lot more than the older population. But there are only finite manpower and resources to manage the problem. The limited pool of medical professionals, technicians and nurses, equipment and hospital beds will make it very difficult to tackle the onslaught of patients and diseases in the coming decade. The entire medical fraternity must come together to tackle this threat with a disruptive and innovative approach of creating a continuum of care. This will enable healthcare to start from preventive care instead of limiting medical excellence to curative care. Doctors must encourage an attitude of care continuum among patients.

On the occasion of National Doctors Day, doctors need to pledge again the medical oath. They have to be the harbingers of change in the attitudes and approaches towards healthcare. They need to become role models for their patients to lead healthier lives. They must educate patients about NCDs, and promote preventive care.

*Prathap C. Reddy is Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group*




DATA POINT

# How women travel to work in big cities

More women use public transport to travel for work than men in big cities. Women become more dependant on buses and metro trains as the distance to work increases. With the Delhi government proposing free bus and metro rides for women in the city, we look at the extent of public transport use.

By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Siddarth Rao T.**

### Use of public transport

Close to 37% of women who travel to work use public transport in Delhi. That figure is significantly higher than the % of men who do the same: 28. This trend is true for most big cities. The table below shows the % of working men & women who use public transport

| City | Men | Women |
|---|---|---|
| Mumbai | 49 | 53 |
| Chennai | 25 | 39 |
| Kolkata | 35 | 38 |
| Delhi | 28 | 37 |
| Bengaluru | 29 | 33 |
| Hyderabad | 21 | 29 |
| Ahmedabad | 11 | 17 |

### More women travel smaller distances compared to men

In Delhi, compared to 64% men who travel more than 5 km for work, only close to 53% women do so. The trend is fairly common in all big cities. The table shows the proportion of men and women who travel 0-1 km and 0-5 km for work

| | Distance travelled : 0-1 km | | Distrance travelled : 0-5 km | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| City | Men | Women | Men | Women |
| Hyderabad | 12 | 21 | 51 | 58 |
| Ahmedabad | 15 | 23 | 44 | 57 |
| Mumbai | 23 | 23 | 56 | 56 |
| Kolkata | 27 | 29 | 45 | 55 |
| Chennai | 15 | 23 | 47 | 51 |
| Bengaluru | 18 | 26 | 47 | 49 |
| Delhi | 19 | 22 | 36 | 47 |

### Distance factor

The preference for public transport increases as the distance to work increases. The table shows the proportion of women who take public transport across distances. Women who travel 11-20 km rely more on public transport than those who travel smaller distances

| | Distance travelled for work | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| City | 2-5 km | 6-10 km | 11-20 km |
| Delhi | 33 | 52 | 59 |
| Ahmedabad | 54 | 60 | 88 |
| Mumbai | 43 | 44 | 75 |
| Kolkata | 29 | 27 | 51 |
| Chennai | 39 | 48 | 63 |
| Bengaluru | 33 | 42 | 57 |
| Delhi | 13 | 20 | 37 |

### Data source

*The data are sourced from Census 2011. By that year, Delhi's metro network was fairly advanced. The network, which started in 2002, extended to 96 km by 2009 and 184 km by 2010-11 before the Commonwealth Games. Thus, the data will be fairly indicative of how women travel today in Delhi*

THIS IS THE FIRST OF A TWO-PART SERIES ON WOMEN AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 1, 1969

## 'Desai calls for export of minerals'

Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai to-day [June 30] said increased export of minerals could "play a large part" in making up the deficit balance of trade. He told the third annual convention of the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries here [New Delhi] that the Government came in the field of mineral exploration and export to compete in world markets. Full co-operation and co-ordination between the Government and the private mineral industries could help India capture foreign markets. "I hope we will do so," he added. He said people should give up the habit of collaborating with other countries for everything. "We have to develop minerals on our own and have to compete with others." Mr. A.K. Rungta, President of the Federation, in his address, suggested the formation of a "mining finance corporation" to meet the financial requirements of the minerals industry in the country. In his address at the third annual general meeting of the Federation, Mr. Rungta said the minerals industry was faced with numerous problems, creation and availability of adequate financial resources for the growth of the industry being one among them.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 1, 1919.

## The Straits Riots. Mob Shot At.

The Penang riots bear slight comparison with similar happenings in Singapore, where the cause was anti Japanese feeling culminating on Thursday 19th June in attacks on shops and individuals. The police had to fire on the mobs and several Chinese and Tamilians were killed and wounded. Captain Chancellor, Inspector General of Police, was struck on the head with a heavy stick, but though dazed by the blow he remained on duty. Placards inciting the Chinese to attack Japanese were posted but were speedily removed. The anti Japanese feeling in Singapore is bitter and the Manchester regiment stationed there had to be called out to assist the police and the movement spread to Penang where it developed into food riots owing to high prices. Shops of prominent Chinese who had been fined for profiteering were attacked and had to be defended by police. Rice shops were looted. All work was suspended at the docks. Obstructions were placed by the rioters on streets, such as trees, blocks of stone, beams and poles, and when these were removed and volunteers proceeded to another spot the obstructions were replaced.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Nagaland to start NRC variant from July 10

The State government, officials said, had directed all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to ensure that the teams were constituted by name within a week of the publication of the notification, make the information about the teams public, and communicate to the village council chairmen, Village Development Board secretaries, ward authorities, tribal hohos, church authorities, and NGOs. Hoho is the apex body of each Naga group.

The survey teams have been instructed to visit each house and make a list of indigenous inhabitants living there. Each family member will be listed in the village of their original residence and mention will be made of any member living elsewhere. The format for making the list will mention "permanent residence and present residence" separately. Aadhaar number, wherever available, will also be recorded.

The list will be published in the respective villages and wards which will then be authenticated by village and ward authorities under the supervision of the district administration. Each list will then be signed by the team concerned as also the village and ward authorities.

**Claims, objections**

The provisional lists will then be published in the villages and wards and also on the websites of the district and the State government on September 11. Time will be given till October 10 for any claims and objections after the publication of the provisional lists.

Officials said the RIIN process will be completed on or before December 10 and copies of the final list will be provided to every village and ward besides being placed at the district and State levels.

"No fresh indigenous inhabitant certificate will be issued after the RIIN is completed except for children born to the State's indigenous inhabitants who will be issued indigenous certificates along with birth certificates. The RIIN database will be updated accordingly," said an official involved with the exercise.

## Muslim youth lynched in West Bengal

Mr. Sheikh used to live with his three children, wife and mother in Chak Meherdi and was "largely unemployed."

Locals alleged that Bappa Ghosh, associated with the Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M] earlier and now attached to the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], led the mob.

Swadhin Sarkar, Chief Whip of the BJP and Baishnabnagar MLA said that Mr. Ghosh "is associated with the Trinamool Congress."

"In the last election, [Bappa] Ghosh worked with the Trinamool," he said. Mr. Sarkar claimed that the deceased was suspected of stealing a motorcycle and caught by the locals in the market area.

"The beating started and very unfortunately the person died. No Hindu-Muslim colour should be given to it and the culprits should be punished," he said.

Congress MLA from the adjoining Assembly segment Isha Khan Chowdhury and Trinamool's district president Moazzem Hossain visited the area.

Local Trinamool functionary Paritosh Sarkar said the "culprits are not associated with our party."

"It is not a Trinamool-BJP thing but a law and order issue. One person has been arrested on the basis of the video. The rest will also be identified and arrested," Mr. Paritosh said.

## Village official assaults woman forest officer

Telangana Principal Chief Conservator of Forests P.K. Jha said the land belonged to the forest department and the MLA was also informed about it.

He said the department would take up this issue seriously at a higher level.

"It was forest land. I was given to understand that earlier there were some attempts to encroach it. That time our people got them vacated. It was totally under our control."

The woman officer accompanied by 40 Forest Department personnel and 30 policemen had gone to take up plantation on the 20-hectare degraded forest land. This was part of compensatory afforestation for the land lost in the Kaleshwaram project.

The villagers who objected to the forest personnel clearing the place for taking up plantation suddenly attacked the officials and damaged the tractor they had brought for ploughing.

Of the 16 accused, the police arrested Krishna and his close associate Boora Posham. They were charged with attempt to murder, beating up government officials, damaging public property, possession of deadly weapons and unlawful assembly under Sections 147, 148, 307, 332, 341, 353, and 427 read with 149 of the IPC. The police clamped prohibitory orders under Section 30, Police Act, 1861, in the entire KB Asifabad district. The order prohibits gathering of people or carrying weapons.

Meanwhile, the prime accused sent in his resignation as ZP vice-chairperson and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency member from Kagaznagar.

He claimed harassment by forest officials with regard to cultivation of podu lands. Kagaznagar Forest Divisional Officer M. Raja Ramana Reddy said the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police had been apprised of the action being initiated by the Forest Department to take up plantation. They had been requested to provide police protection.

## 'One nation, one ration card' plan opposed in T.N.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Political leaders from Tamil Nadu, including DMK president M.K. Stalin, have opposed the 'one nation, one ration card' proposal of the Centre, saying it would result in undesirable consequences.

"This is an attempt to uproot the tenets of federalism and is against the Constitution," Mr. Stalin said in a statement. At a time when the 'one nation, one election' plan was evoking protests form regional parties and intellectuals, the Central government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was seeking to impose 'one nation, one ration card', the DMK leader said.

# Democracy is our heritage, says Modi

### PM reminds people of Emergency in first *Mann ki Baat* address after the recent Lok Sabha election

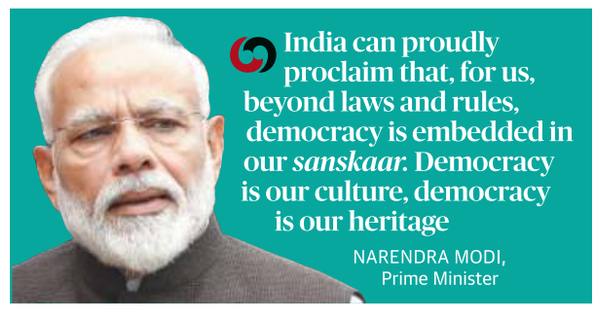
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In his first monthly radio address *Mann Ki Baat* after being re-elected, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said he had not returned to office, but "the people had brought him back".

The Prime Minister's *Mann Ki Baat* programme was suspended in February in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election, which concluded when results were declared on May 23.

**'You brought me back'**

Speaking about his last address before the election, Mr. Modi said: "When it [the February 24 address] was about to end, I had stated that we would meet once again after three or four months, people assigned a political hue to it, saying 'Hey, Modi*ji* is so full of confidence, he is certain!' The confidence was not Modi's. This trust was the trust of your foundation... Actually speaking, I have not returned, you brought me back, you positioned me here and gave me the opportunity to speak once again."




During the election, the Prime Minister had taken a trip to Kedarnath, where he had spent time in a cave. "Amidst hectic election engagements, many people asked me a flurry of questions on why I had gone up to Kedarnath... In a way, I undertook the journey to meet my inner self. I shall not reveal other things today, but I certainly want to tell you that perhaps in that solitary cave, I got an opportunity to fill up the vacuum caused due to the long pause that *Mann Ki Baat* had to go through. The rest is your inquisitiveness... I think, someday, I'll talk about that, too," he said.

Referring to the state of Emergency imposed by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975, Mr. Modi spoke about the importance of democracy, which he said was "embedded in our *sanskaar* (tradition)".

"During Emergency, every citizen of the country had started getting the feeling that something that belonged to him had been snatched away... And it was not just on account of the fact that the Constitution of India has made certain provisions that enabled democracy to blossom... But, India can proudly proclaim that, for us, beyond laws and rules, democracy is embedded in our *sanskaar*; democracy is our culture. Democracy is our heritage," he said, adding that people had voted to save democracy in the 1977 election.

Speaking about the 2019 Lok Sabha election, he said it was the "largest democratic election" in the world ever, with 61 crore voters participating.

**On water scarcity**

Switching to current topics, he spoke about water scarcity affecting parts of the country, saying that "only 8%" of rainwater was being harvested.

He requested people to make water conservation a mass movement "just like the cleanliness drive has been given the shape of a mass movement".

He also asked people to share information about "traditional methods of water conservation" that have been used for centuries as well as information about people and NGOs working in the area using the hashtag #JanShakti4JalShakti on social media.

## Himachal Congress MLA quits party post

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Five-time Congress MLA Harsh Wardhan Chauhan tendered his resignation from the post of the general secretary of Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee and urged Congress president Rahul Gandhi to take over the reins of the party to revamp it.

Mr. Chauhan, the sitting MLA from the Shilai Assembly constituency, on Sunday, submitted his resignation taking "moral responsibility" for the party's defeat in the 2019 parliamentary poll in the State.

"I feel it is imperative for all of us to submit our resignation so as to enable you to undertake a complete revamp and overhaul of the party organization," he wrote in his resignation.

# Eminent Gurkhas left out of NRC

### Sahitya Akademi winner, kin of Assam Agitation martyr in additional exclusion list

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

After Bengali Hindus and Muslims, the Gurkhas of Assam appear to be at the receiving end of the exercise to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The Assam unit of the Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangha (BGP) said on Sunday that many community members have found their names among 1.02 lakh people in the additional exclusion list of the NRC published on June 26.

They include the kin of a Gurkha 'martyr' of the 1979-1985 Assam Agitation that provided a cut-off date for the NRC exercise to be based on, the descendant of a freedom fighter who founded the Congress party in the State during the British rule, and a Sahitya Akademi award-winner.

"My daughter Bajyanti Devi was the first woman martyr of the Assam Agitation and I contested the Assembly election. But my daughter-in-law and two grandsons are in the additional exclusion list, which demeans her sacrifice," said 90-year-old Amar Upadhaya.

A file photo of NRC officials checking documents of residents during a hearing against the non-inclusion of names. ▪ AFP

Manju Devi, the great-granddaughter of freedom fighter Chhabilal Upadhyay is also on the exclusion list. One of her family members was Swarup Upadhyay who was MP from Tezpur in 1991.

Sahitya Akademi winner Durga Khatiwada, whose father Abinarayan Khatiwada's name figures in the 1951 NRC, is in the excluded list too.

"The Gurkhas came with the British soldiers to fight Burmese invaders and protect Assam in the 1820s. There are about 1,50,000 Gurkhas kept out of NRC and even those who are known to be living here for two centuries are being victimised," said Prakash Dahal, general secretary of BGP's Assam unit.

**'Will move court'**

"Certified copies will be sought from the competent authority ascertaining the reason for exclusion and the matter will be taken before court as the BGP is a party in the Supreme Court on NRC hearing case where Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had said that no Gurkhas should be left out of the NRC," the organisation's leader Nanda Kirati Dewan said.

**Hindi-speakers**

Hindi-speakers too are feeling the heat.

"The NRC is crucial for national security. But due to the mentality towards various linguistic communities and people who migrated from other States, a large number of real Indians are in a state of great confusion. In spite of proving clear NRC links, a large number of Hindi-speaking people are being declared as foreigners," Gaurav Somani, State Congress spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the Centre for Peace and Justice has sought greater transparency in the NRC process as well as hearings in Foreigners' Tribunals. "The tribunals created by the Ministry of Home Affairs have scant regard for civil procedures and evidence. Wherever we went, people complained of manipulations. People are dying because of fear of the system that is targeting the poor," the centre's Teesta Setalvad said.

## Honorarium reduction a betrayal, says Priyanka

### Congress leader slams U.P. government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Terming it a betrayal, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday hit out at the Uttar Pradesh government for reportedly reducing the honorarium paid to school instructors.

Quoting a media report about the reduction in honorarium paid to 30,000 junior school instructors from ₹8,470 a month to ₹7,000, she accused the BJP government in the State of committing atrocities on them.

Ms. Vadra, Congress general secretary in charge of party affairs in eastern Uttar Pradesh, said that far from fulfilling its promise of paying ₹17,000 a month, the government had reduced the honorarium.

In a tweet written in Hindi, she asked whether the government had any answer for the "betrayal" of instructors.

Her tweet came a day after she attacked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over the law and order situation in the State.

## Case of sour grapes, CM tells Priyanka

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
SAHARANPUR

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday took a dig at Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for her criticism of the law and order situation in the State.

"It is a case of sour grapes. Her party president lost from U.P., so sitting in Delhi, Italy or England, they have to comment on something or the other to remain in headlines," the Chief Minister told presspersons here.

In a tweet on Saturday, she said criminals were roaming freely in the State, but the government was not bothered. In response, the Uttar Pradesh police tweeted statistics, claiming a decrease in crimes.

## 532 kg heroin smuggled from Pak. seized

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Customs Department on Sunday said it had seized 532 kg of suspected heroin, worth around ₹2,700 crore, allegedly being smuggled from Pakistan in a truck through the trade route at the Attari border.

"A consignment of 532 kg of suspected heroin and another 52 kg of suspected mixed narcotics were seized in the import consignment at Integrated Check Post, Attari on Saturday. The consignment was hidden under bags of salt in the truck which had come from Pakistan," an official said.

# Hizb militant killed in Budgam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

A Hizbul Mujahideen militant was killed in a pre-dawn operation of security forces on Sunday.

"On a credible input, a cordon-and-search operation was launched at Chadoora's Bugam area of Budgam. During the search operation, the hiding militants fired on the search party. One militant was killed and the body was later retrieved from the site of encounter," the police said.

The police identified the slain militant as Hilal Ahmad Bhat from Pulwama's Armulla.

"Bhat was affiliated with Hizb and was wanted by law for his complicity in attack on security establishments," the police said.

**On their toes:** Soldiers during the gunfight at Bugam in central Kashmir on Sunday. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

## Tamil yeoman is now T.N.'s 'State Butterfly'

ROHAN PREMKUMAR
UDHAGAMANDALAM

Tamil Nadu now officially has a State Butterfly – the Tamil yeoman (*Cirrochroa thais*) or the 'Tamizh Maravan'. The State has formally notified this by an order on the lines of the State Tree (Palm), Bird (Emerald Dove), Flower (Gloriosa) and Animal (Nilgiri Tahr).

The Tamil yeoman was chosen for the honour after both the T.N. Forest Department and conservation groups decided to work together to identify a butterfly species that could be "iconic, easily recognisable and easy to spot," to serve as another symbol of the State, a Forest official said.

# Reshuffle of Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on the cards

### Move likely as three Ministers won the Lok Sabha election, while SBSP leader O.P. Rajbhar was sacked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

A reshuffle in the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is likely as three Ministers won the Lok Sabha election, while one was sacked, BJP sources said.

The exercise, the first since March 2017 when the Adityanath government was sworn in, is also likely to reward the party's leaders for their hard work in ensuring win in 62 of the 80 seats in the State, the sources said.

The three Cabinet Ministers who won the Lok Sabha polls are S.P. Singh Baghel from Agra, Rita Bahuguna Joshi from Allahabad and Satyadev Pachauri from Kanpur.

Disgruntled Minister and SBSP leader O.P. Rajbhar was sacked by the Chief Minister for his outburst against his NDA partner, the BJP.

"Reshuffling of the U.P. Cabinet is on the cards. However, it is the sole and absolute prerogative of the Chief Minister," a senior U.P. BJP leader said.

The current Council of Ministers, headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has 18 Cabinet Ministers, nine Ministers of State (independent charge) and 13 Ministers of State, in addition to two Deputy Chief Ministers, Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma. The total headcount stands at 43.

Yogi Adityanath

"The maximum size of the Ministry can be 15% of the total strength of the Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly). The U.P. Assembly has 403 seats and hence the State can have a maximum of 61 Ministers, including the Chief Minister in the Council of Ministers headed by him," U.P. BJP vice-president J.P.S. Rathore said.

After the declaration of the Lok Sabha election results, Mr. Adityanath had said that a Cabinet reshuffle was very much on the cards and he is likely to take a decision soon. "We will do it (Cabinet expansion). We will do everything as and when time comes. We will do everything in the interest of the State," he said.

**Two loyalists**

The two loyalists who could be rewarded with elevated posts are Mahendra Singh and Swatantradev Singh, the in-charge of the party's campaigns in Assam and Madhya Pradesh, respectively, party insiders said. While Mahendra Singh is the Minister of State (independent charge) for Rural Development and Overall Village Development, Swatantradev Singh is the Minister of State (independent charge) for Transport and Protocol.

## CPI(M) leader slams remarks on Article 370

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Senior CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami on Sunday termed the recent remarks by Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav on Article 370 as "an attempt to distort the facts and history".

"It is the Constituent Assembly which incorporated Article 370 in the Constitution providing a constitutional basis for the relationship of J&K with the Union. It is not a temporary provision," said Mr. Tarigami.

# Procedural concerns in focus as GST enters third year

Industry groups seek simplification of registration and return filing to build on the gains; revenue trend in recent months signals turnaround

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

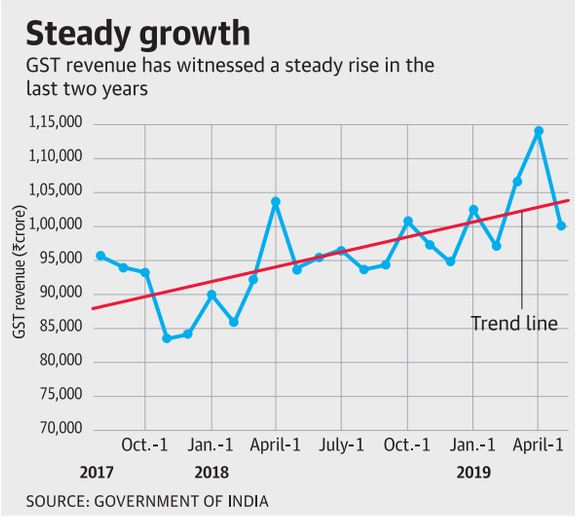
As the Goods and Services Tax (GST) enters its third year, tax consultants and industry groups point to the imperative need to ease the complexity surrounding procedures, especially with regard to registration and return filing, in order to build on the gains of the past two years.

"In the third year of the GST regime, addressing procedural complexities of the GST portal system, implementation concerns and making compliance easier will further accelerate ease of doing business for industry in India," said Mahendra Singhi, president of the Cement Manufacturers Association (CMA). "GST has been one of the proactive steps by the government and the way the concerns are addressed by the Council makes it one of the most effective mechanisms," he added.

A key highlight of the new indirect tax system, according to trade bodies, has been the way the GST Council, the nodal body deciding rates and procedures, has addressed industry's concerns and modified rules to make the system easier. This, they say, has given Indian business confidence that even in a regularly changing tax system, their difficulties would be eased by the council.

"Both Central and State governments have taken industry's concerns into consideration and resolved the same in a timely manner, which gives immense confidence to the business fraternity that we are on the right path," said Sandip Somany, president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

While revenue collections in the first two years were underwhelming, with receipts coming in lower than budgeted and slumping periodically in response to the various rate cuts announced by the GST Council, the trend in the past few months may signal a turnaround.




The months of March, April, and May have each seen GST revenue crossing ₹1 lakh crore, an elusive milestone that was achieved only rarely earlier. Average annual collections have also steadied, coming in at a little more than ₹89,000 crore in 2017-18 (August-March), touching about ₹98,000 crore for the full year of 2018-19, and averaging ₹1.07 lakh crore in the first two months of 2019-20.

While the proactive manner in which the GST Council has addressed concerns has put industry at ease, there are still several procedural issues that need resolution. Tax consultants opine that the council's very willingness to make changes to rules and procedures has rendered the current GST quite different from what was originally envisioned.

### 'Significant departures'

"Looking at it broadly, the initial plan in place for return filing gave way to something else and the reverse charge mechanism took off, then was put on hold, and then came back in different avatars," Archit Gupta, founder and CEO of Cleartax, said. "There have been significant departures from what the original plan was."

One big departure, Mr. Gupta said, was to do with GST registrations and the rules regarding who should register and who need not.

"Originally, it was very simplistic and was based on the threshold limit of ₹20 lakh turnover a year," Mr. Gupta said. "But now, the thresholds have changed, and it also depends on whether you are a goods business or a services business, where you are based, whether you are based online. It is not as easy for freelancers or businesses to quickly assess whether they need a GST registration or not."

FICCI too stressed the need to simplify the registration process. "To ease the compliance burden for services sector, there is a need to have centralised GST registration similar to the erstwhile service tax law," FICCI said. "The State-wise registration has increased the cost of compliance... manifold."

And the CMA's Mr. Singhi said tax administrators also needed to consolidate on steps aimed at simplification.

"We are glad that the government has also partially addressed, recently, amongst our primary concerns relating to credit notes for post-sale discounts to dealers and we would hope that some of the ambiguity that remains is also looked into soon," he said.

Traders' bodies such as the Confederation of All India Traders, however, said that the announcement made after the latest GST Council meeting that only Aadhaar would be required for registration was a welcome move as it would ease the process for small traders.

"In just two years, GST has consolidated and is delivering notable outcomes for smoother business, lower logistics costs, and easier payment of taxes in digital mode," Adi Godrej, former president of the CII, said.

BABY STEPS TO GIANT STRIDES
▸ BUSINESS REVIEW

## Money in Swiss banks: India ranked 74

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ZURICH/NEW DELHI

India has moved down one place to 74th rank in terms of money parked by its citizens and enterprises with Swiss banks, while the U.K. has retained its top position, as per data released by the central banking authority of the Alpine nation.

India was ranked 73rd last year, after jumping from its 88th rank a year ago.

An analysis of the latest annual banking statistics of the Swiss National Bank (SNB) shows that India remains ranked very low when it comes to money parked by Indian individuals and enterprises in Swiss banks, including through their India-based branches, while accounting for 0.07% of the aggregate funds parked by all foreign clients of the Switzerland-based banks.

## IN BRIEF

### Cong slams govt. over rise in fuel prices

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday slammed the Centre over rise in fuel prices, saying the BJP was back to "fleece" the people. Party chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the petrol price in Delhi on June 22 was ₹69.93 per litre and went up to ₹70.40 on June 30. "Rising petrol-diesel prices... burdening middle class and farmers," he tweeted.

### Non-subsidised LPG price reduced by over ₹100

NEW DELHI

The price of non-subsidised LPG cylinder on Sunday was cut by over ₹100 per cylinder on the back of softening in international rates, Indian Oil Corp (IOC) said. The cooking gas in New Delhi will be priced at ₹637 per cylinder from midnight on Sunday as against ₹737.50 currently, IOC said in a statement.Subsidised cooking gas price will be ₹494.35 percylinder. PTI

### New Chief Secretary appointed for Haryana

CHANDIGARH

Keshni Anand Arora, a 1983-batch IAS officer, is Haryana's new Chief Secretary. Ms. Keshni, 58, assumed charge on Sunday here. She replaced D.S. Dhesi, who retired on June 30. Ms. Keshni is the third in her family to become Haryana's Chief Secretary.

## *On their mark*

**Pilgrims' progress:** Pilgrims getting ready for the Amarnath Yatra at Baltal, 125 km northeast of Srinagar, on Sunday. Baltal acts as the base camp for pilgrims wishing to undertake the arduous journey through Sonamarg. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

# UGC urges varsities to guard against discrimination

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked universities and higher educational institutions to make sure that their officials and faculty members do not discriminate against students of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

It has asked the universities to create a page on their websites for filing of complaints of discrimination and act immediately on such complaints.

### Official word

"The universities and colleges should ensure that no official or faculty member indulges in any kind of discrimination against any community or category of students. They should desist from any act of discrimination against students from the Scheduled Caste and Tribes on grounds of their social origin," UGC Secretary Rajnish Jain said in a letter to the Vice-Chancellors.

"Action should be taken against erring officials immediately. The universities may form a committee to look into these complaints. The officials should be more sensitive while dealing with such complaints, and an action-taken report should be sent to us within 30 days," Mr. Jain said.

# BJP backs Vijayvargiya, says leaders didn't fire

Row over video of celebratory firing outside party office

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

The BJP's Madhya Pradesh unit backed party legislator Akash Vijayvargiya after he was released on bail on Sunday, with a spokesman saying the MLA had no reason to regret his assault on a municipal official with a cricket bat as he had acted in public interest.

"Why should he regret the incident when the intention was good? He acted according to the situation," Gulrez Sheikh, a spokesman for the State unit, said.

Mr. Sheikh ruled out the involvement of the party's office-bearers in any celebratory firing of guns in Indore on Sunday.

"We are not sure if those responsible were our workers, but no office-bearers or representatives were involved. As a party, we are against celebratory fire. Moreover, you can't rule out the possibility of other political parties being involved in the incident for political mileage," he said.

**Back home:** BJP MLA Akash Vijayvargiya being welcomed after being released on bail on Sunday. ▪ PTI

### Viral video

A video posted on social media showed some persons firing celebratory gunshots outside the party office in Indore after Mr. Vijayvargiya was released on bail on Sunday morning. In the video, the group, holding party flags and dancing, was seen firing in the air outside the office in the Sanyogita Ganj area.

The police, however, said the celebratory firing had not occurred on Sunday. "The incident did not happen today as Mr. Vijayvargiya was given police cover," Mohammed Yusuf Qureshi, Superintendent of Police, Indore East, told *The Hindu* over telephone. "It could have taken place at 6 p.m. yesterday [Saturday] when the bail was announced or at the time of the Assembly election results earlier. We are checking CCTV footage to ascertain details," he said.

Earlier, after being released, Mr. Vijayvargiya told ANI that he did not regret thrashing a municipal official with a cricket bat, as he had been left with no other option when women were being mistreated during a demolition drive.

"I am not guilty or embarrassed about what I did as it was in public interest," ANI quoted him as having said. "A woman was being dragged brutally in front of the police and I couldn't think of doing anything else ... I pray to god I am not compelled to pick up the bat again."

Mr. Vijayvargiya, who is the son of BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, was arrested on June 26 for allegedly assaulting a municipal official with a cricket bat over an argument with civic officials during the demolition drive.

# Navy lines up mega deals for helicopters, submarines

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Navy has lined up several multi-billion dollar deals for helicopters, long-range maritime patrol aircraft (LRMPA) and submarines which are in important stages of the procurement.

The deals for 24 MH-60R multi-role helicopters (MRH) and 10 more P-8I LRMPA are at an advanced stage with the U.S. through their Foreign Military Sales route. The process for 111 Naval Utility Helicopters and six conventional submarines under Project-75I has kicked off through the much-delayed Strategic Partnership (SP) model.

"The case for 24 MRH is at the cost negotiation stage and is expected to be concluded by September," a Defence source said. In April, the U.S. formally approved the sale potentially valued at $2.6 billion.

The Navy has moved a proposal for 10 more Boeing made P-8Is estimated to cost over $3 billion as a follow-on case to the 12 aircraft acquired earlier. The proposal has been cleared by the Defence Ministry's Capital Acquisition Plan Categorisation Higher Committee. "The file will now go to the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) for approval," the source said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh surveying the naval reconnaissance aircraft P81, during his visit to the Navy's Eastern Command in Visakhapatnam on Sunday.

The Navy had initially procured eight P-8Is in a $2.1-billion deal in 2009. It exercised the optional clause for four more in a deal worth over $1billion signed in 2016. The aircraft are part of the 312A Naval Air Squadron based at Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu.

"The process for selection of qualified Indian private partners will begin shortly," another Defence source said. The Navy has already discussed the qualitative requirements with the OEMs and as per the SP model, the Request for Proposal (RFP) has to be issued to the Indian SP partner.

The P-75I for six submarines will be the second deal to be processed under this model. Early this month, the Navy issued the Expression of Interest for shortlisting potential Indian strategic partners for the project estimated over ₹45,000 crore.

## K. Natarajan to head Coast Guard

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

K. Natarajan took over as the Director-General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Sunday. He is the 23rd chief of India's coastal security force.

He took over form Rajendra Singh, who was the first Director-General to be appointed from within the force. Prior to taking over as D-G, Mr. Natarajan was the Coast Guard Commander, Western Seaboard.

Commissioned into the ICG in 1984, he has commanded all classes of Indian Coast Guard ships such as advanced offshore patrols, offshore patrols, fast patrol vessel and inshore patrol vessel, the Coast Guard said.

# Kim can visit the White House anytime he wants, says Trump

## N. Korean leader welcomes 'handshake of peace' after meet

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PANMUNJOM

Moments after becoming the only sitting U.S. President to set foot inside North Korea, Donald Trump brought Kim Jong-un back over the dividing line for a meeting where they agreed to start working-level talks on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons.

Mr. Trump also said he had invited the young leader to the White House "anytime he wants to do it".

"It was an honour that you asked me to step over that line, and I was proud to step over the line," he told Mr. Kim. As they sat down for discussions, Mr. Kim said their "handshake of peace" in a location that was "the symbol of the division of north and south" showed that "we are willing to put the past behind us."

### Extraordinary sequel

Mr. Trump's entry onto North Korean soil – which he said was uncertain until the last moment – is an extraordinary sequel to the scene at Mr. Kim's first summit with Moon Jae-in last year, when the young leader invited the South Korean President to walk over the Military Demarcation Line, as the border is officially known.

A Kim trip to Washington would be even more spectacular, although Mr. Trump said the visit would happen "at the right time."

Mr. Moon seized on last year's Winter Olympics to broker the process between Pyongyang and Washington, after tensions soared in 2017 as the North carried out multiple missile launches and its biggest nuclear test to date, while Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim traded mutual insults and threats of war.

The significance of the meeting in the no-man's-land splitting the peninsula – where the two sides and their allies fought each other to a standstill in the 1950-53 Korean War – was "obvious", said Stimson Centre Asia analyst David Kim.

"It's historic for Trump to be the first U.S. President enter North Korea soil, historic for Moon to meet, albeit briefly, with both leaders."

### Hanoi disagreements

The Hanoi summit foundered on disagreements over what the North would be willing to give up in exchange for relief from sanctions that have hobbled its economy.

The DMZ has been a regular stop for U.S. Presidents visiting the South, a security ally – although Mr. Trump's helicopter was forced to turn back by fog in 2017 – while Panmunjom saw the first two summits between Mr. Moon and Mr. Kim last year.

"This was a great day," the U.S. President said before flying out on Air Force One. "This was a very legendary, very historic day."

**Singapore, Hanoi, Panmunjom:** Donald Trump with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the border village of Panmunjom on Sunday. ▪AP

# Taliban attack on election office kills 19

## Workers were registering voters ahead of the Afghan presidential polls

REUTERS
KABUL

Taliban suicide bombers killed at least 19 people in an attack on a government office on Saturday night, officials said, in the latest episode of violence in Afghanistan as peace talks continue to end the war.

Election workers were registering voters ahead of presidential elections in September at an office in the Maroof district of the southern Kandahar province when fighters of the hardline Islamist group launched an attack using four Humvee vehicles, officials said.

Eight election workers were killed, they said. Eleven Afghan security force members were also killed alongside the four suicide bombers, said Tadeen Khan, the police chief of Kandahar.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said the group's fighters also killed 57 members of thesecurity forces in the attack and captured 11 others, but Afghan officials disputed the account.

The Interior Ministry in a statement said 25 Taliban insurgents were killed in the clash. Fighting between the Taliban and Afghan forces has intensified even as leaders of the Taliban and U.S. officials hold talks in Qatar.

In a separate attack, Taliban fighters killed eight Afghan soldiers and injured eight others at a military checkpoint in Balabulak district in the western province of Farah, a local official said.

Mahmood Naemi, the deputy chief of the Farah council, said the clashes ended after Afghan forces launched air strikes.

"Many Taliban fighters were killed in the air strike," said Mr. Naemi.

### Villagers flee province

In the northern province of Takhar, over 600 villagers fled as Taliban fighters seized large areas of the province during heavy fighting in recent days, government officials said.

The pace of talks between the U.S. and Taliban has sped up as Afghanistan heads for presidential elections on September 28.

Qatar's government, which is mediating the peace process between the United States and the Taliban, on Sunday said the two sides discussed the withdrawal of foreign troops, preventing militants from using Afghanistan to harm the U.S. or other countries and a comprehensive ceasefire.

**Talking peace, waging war:** Members of the Taliban delegation arriving in Moscow for peace talks in May. ▪AP

## Latest round of talks are crucial, says militant group

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

The seventh and latest round of peace talks between the U.S. and Taliban is "critical," said Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen on Sunday, the second day of talks with Washington's peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in Qatar, where the militant group maintains a political office.

Mr. Shaheen told that both sides are looking for "tangible results" as they try to hammer out the fine print of agreements that will see the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

# Sirisena's death penalty move faces legal hurdle

## Petitions filed against his decision

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena is facing fresh legal challenges in his attempt to end a 43-year moratorium on capital punishment and start executing drug convicts, officials said on Sunday.

Two petitions were filed in the Court of Appeal on Friday seeking an order quashing any move by Mr. Sirisena to resume executions. "The Court of Appeal will have a preliminary hearing next week. In the meantime, the prisons commissioner has given an assurance to court that there will be no hangings," said a court official.

On Wednesday, Mr. Sirisena said he has completed formalities to resume hangings by signing the death warrants of four condemned drug convicts.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has been at loggerheads with Mr. Sirisena on many issues, weighed in on the matter, signalling his party's opposition to capital punishment.

"The death penalty is against the policies of our party," he said at a rally on Sunday. "As a civilised country, we can't bring back the death penalty," he said.

# Facebook page of student missing in N. Korea mysteriously reappears

## Alek Sigley's page was removed again on Sunday afternoon

REUTERS
SYDNEY

The Facebook page of an Australian man missing in North Korea reappeared, then disappeared again, on Saturday, hours before Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Australia is still trying to find out what has happened to him.

Alek Sigley, one of only a handful of Western students in the country, has been missing for several days. His family had taken down his social media accounts to prevent unnecessary speculation online. Mr. Sigley's Facebook page reappeared overnight, but it is not known who reinstated it, or why. It had disappeared again on Saturday by 2 p.m. Sydney time and remained down on Sunday morning. Mr. Sigley's last posts on his Twitter and Facebook profiles are from Monday, June 24, and his family has not heard from him since Tuesday. Speaking from the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan, Prime Minister Morrison said he had spoken to Mr. Sigley's family and said Australia was still trying to find out what happened to him.

When asked if President Donald Trump's visit to the Korean demilitarised zone presented an opportunity for the Americans to make representations, Mr. Morrison said he would not allow the issue to be taken up with other agendas.

Australian student Alek Sigley. ▪AP

## ELSEWHERE

### Tusk wants to give EU post to centre-left bloc

BRUSSELS

European Council president Donald Tusk has proposed giving the post of EU chief executive to Europe's centre-left political bloc in the European Commission's new five-year term, according to a German EU parliamentary adviser present at talks on Sunday. AFP

### Bahrain court restores citizenship of 92 Shias

DUBAI

A Bahraini appeals court overturned a decision to strip the citizenship of 92 Shias jailed for plotting to form an Iran-linked "terror" group, a judicial source said on Sunday. The 92 were among 138 sentenced to prison terms and the revocation of their citizenship after being convicted of trying to build a version of Hezbollah. AFP

# Doctor transferred after criticising Mortaza

## Bangladesh captain is also an MP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

A top Bangladesh paediatric doctor said on Sunday that he had been transferred to a remote rural clinic after criticising the country's cricket captain.

Rezaul Karim, a child cancer specialist, was posted to Rangamati weeks after criticising skipper Mashrafe Mortaza, who is also a Member of Parliament, on Facebook. "I have been transferred to Rangamati Medical College which doesn't have any cancer treatment facilities. This seems to me an unnatural process," he said.

Mohsin Uddin, a deputy secretary of the country's Health Ministry who signed the transfer order, said it was "only an administrative decision", and rejected any suggestion that it was a punishment.

A social media row started after Mr. Mortaza visited a state-run hospital and became infuriated when he found several doctors absent. A video of Mr. Mortaza criticising one senior doctor by telephone went viral on social media. Mr. Karim said he was one of six doctors served notice by the country's Health Ministry after writing a Facebook post criticising Mr. Mortaza for "taking pleasure in bowling Bangladeshi doctors".

Two months later he was ordered to remote Rangamati, where a low-intensity tribal insurgency has simmered for decades. Mr. Karim's sudden transfer from a cancer facility in Chittagong has also grabbed headlines in local media.

Mashrafe Mortaza, Bangladesh's captain . ▪AFP

# Trump wants dialogue with Russia: official

REUTERS
MOSCOW

U.S. President Donald Trump suggested stepping up a dialogue with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin when the two met in Osaka, Japan, Interfax news agency quoted Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying on Sunday.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin met for an hour and a half on Friday on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan for the first time since their initial formal meeting in Helsinki a year ago. "The American President quite distinctly showed his intention to step up the dialogue. As for Putin, he has long been talking of his desire to go along the path of normalisation of relations," Mr. Peskov said, according to Interfax.

Mr. Peskov also said that Mr. Trump appeared to be unhappy with the scale of trade turnover between the two countries.

# Harris racially targeted by right-wing critic

## Democratic rivals voice their support for Senator after her identity is questioned

DERRICK BRYSON TAYLOR

Days after Donald Trump Jr. shared, and then deleted, a tweet questioning Sen. Kamala Harris' race, several of her rival Democratic presidential candidates lent her their support on Saturday.

Mr. Trump Jr., President Donald Trump's eldest son, on Thursday shared a tweet from Ali Alexander, a right-wing personality, that falsely claimed that Ms. Harris's racial identity did not qualify her to speak about the anguish that black Americans face. "Kamala Harris is implying she is descended from American Black Slaves," Mr. Alexander wrote. "She's not. She comes from Jamaican Slave Owners. That's fine. She's not an American Black. Period." Mr. Trump Jr. shared the message, asking, "Is this true? Wow."

By Saturday, several Democratic hopefuls had begun to publicly support Ms . Harris, who is the biracial child of a Jamaican father and an Indian mother. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont wrote: "Donald Trump Jr. is a racist too. Shocker."

"The presidential competitive field is stronger because Kamala Harris has been powerfully voicing her Black American experience," Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, wrote on Twitter. He said that Ms. Harris's first-generation story embodied the American dream and that it was time to end "birther-style attacks."

### Disgusting, says Biden

Former Vice President Joe Biden, whom Ms. Harris had challenged during the debate, said the same forces that used "birtherism" to question President Barack Obama's American citizenship and race were now being used against Ms. Harris.

"It's disgusting and we have to call it out when we see it," Mr. Biden wrote on Twitter. "Racism has no place in America." Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who labelled the attacks "racist and ugly," challenged technology companies to stop "these vile lies dead in their tracks." After Mr. Trump Jr. deleted the tweet, his spokesman claimed it was a misunderstanding. Ms. Harris has faced attacks on her race before and has sometimes pushed back at attempts to label her. NY TIMES

Sen. Kamala Harris. ▪REUTERS

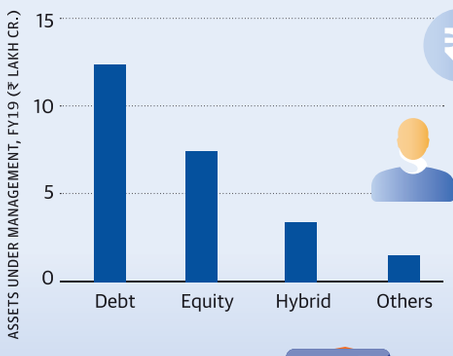
# Diversified gain

*Assets under management (AUM) for the Indian mutual fund industry rose from ₹23.79 lakh crore in March 2019 to ₹24.78 lakh crore in April. While the growth rate from March is over 4%, it is half of the growth recorded in the corresponding period in the previous year*

*Note: Data as on April 30, 2019*

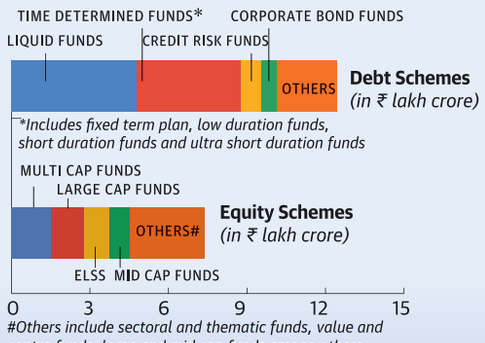
**PREFERENCE FOR DEBT**

Debt schemes accounted for over half of the total share of the AUMs. Equity schemes were a distant second with a contribution of 29.8%, followed by hybrid schemes at 13.6%




**SCHEME SPLIT**

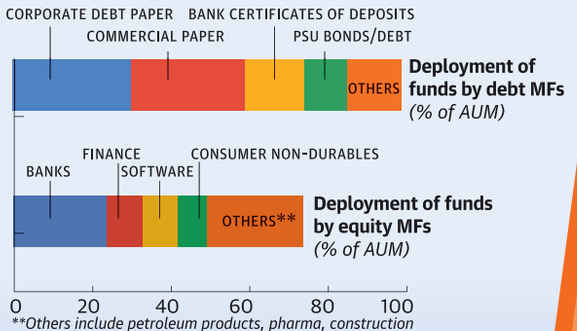
With a share of 38%, liquid funds have the largest share of the total net assets of debt funds, followed by time determined funds (32%). For equity funds, the largest proportion of net assets is of multi cap funds




#Others include sectoral and thematic funds, value and contra funds, large and mid cap funds among others

**INSTRUMENT AND SECTOR-WISE DEPLOYMENT**

Corporate debt papers had the highest share of deployment of funds in debt mutual funds (₹4.2 lakh crore). For equity mutual funds, almost a fourth of the funds were deployed with banks




**Others include petroleum products, pharma, construction projects, auto, power, auto ancillaries

Source: CARE Ratings, SEBI

INTERVIEW | SHYAM SRINIVASAN

# 'RBI rate cut impacts only a percentage of bank's cost of funds'

## Federal Bank CEO says he believes a 25-50 bps cut is possible this year

OOMMEN A. NINAN

*Federal Bank, a leading south Indian bank, envisages to grow from presence to prominence and from prominence to dominance. Its MD and CEO* **Shyam Srinivasan** *says that the bank plans to grow organically, and inorganically, if something comes up. However, he says its mantra is from prominence to dominance in Kerala and from presence to prominence in the rest of India. The bank plans more branches across the country by offering various ways of servicing client requirements. The CEO believes in high-quality governance to achieve 18-20% growth per year.*

**What are your expectations from the forthcoming Union Budget?**

■ Fiscal deficit containment, increasing revenue momentum (meaning widening tax basis), which means better administration of existing reforms and selective enablement of sectors of the market that can spiral growth. This is how I would characterise a budget that generates employment. Employment generation should have a focus around exports, because that is what will trigger the country's most immediate requirements.

**But we have been talking about exports and employment generation for many years; and even growth rate is tardy...**

■ It is true, but in part; we are part of a global world. If there is a slowdown worldwide, it will have its impact on domestic markets. The second would be the financial sector related challenges that have happened in the last 3-4 years for a range of reasons. If you take the budget period, rather than looking at the next five years as a whole, the government must look at it in two to three tranches. So, you have to work on certain realities over the next three years with laser-light focus.

**Any changes in customer behaviour on repayment of loans?**

■ For years, customers were told, as long as you pay even after 100 days or 200 days, we're all here to treat you as a customer, provided you pay one day with interest. So the customer, those with integrity, I mean, was used to one kind of behaviour for many years. I'm not talking about those who have cheated. That is a separate story. Our normal retail SME customers are now managing their cash flows. The fact that on the 91st day, assets turn NPAs, if they fail in repayment [is now on their minds].

**The Reserve Bank cuts rates but banks are slow to pass it on to customers. Why?**

■ Reserve Bank's commentary also suggests that there is more room for cuts. And I agree [we should] go for more cuts. I think inflation is fairly under control, but growth is still a challenge. It doesn't mean that banks will cut rates. A rate cut by the central bank only impacts a percentage of the bank's cost of funds. I bought very little from the repo. So when the repo comes down, only a percentage of my funding cost comes down, I still pay 4% or three-and-a-half percent or 6%. In some cases, that hasn't changed. I still pay 7%. So, if I had to cut your deposit rate, you will put it in another instrument, post office savings or government small savings certificate in order, which is giving a higher rate. So to keep you with me, I have to pay you this rate. When bankers are told you're not transferring the cost benefit to the customer, I'd agree. But transmission takes time.

**Do you believe another rate cut is imminent?**

■ The regulator now has many instruments in their hand to do these things. One is signalling by word, secondly rate cut, then they can create other enablers. So the armoury has increased. I believe 25 to 50 basis points cut is possible in this year.

**You are a bank that attracts a lot of remittances. What is the present trend?**

■ The last one year, remittances for India has been strong. But the nature of remittances and use of remittances has changed. It is less going into the banking system as savings [and] more going into consumption for regular use because a large part of the remittance that comes from Middle East, after the Kerala floods, has gone into repair and restoration.

# Why nuclear when India has an 'ocean' of energy

## Though the 'highly harmful' source is regarded as saviour on certain counts, the country has a better option under the seas

M. RAMESH

If it is right that nothing can stop an idea whose time has come, it must be true the other way too – nothing can hold back an idea whose time has passed.

Just blow the dust off, you'll see the writing on the wall: nuclear energy is fast running out of sand, at least in India. And there is something that is waiting to take its place.

India's 6,780 MW of nuclear power plants contributed to less than 3% of the country's electricity generation, which will come down as other sources will generate more.

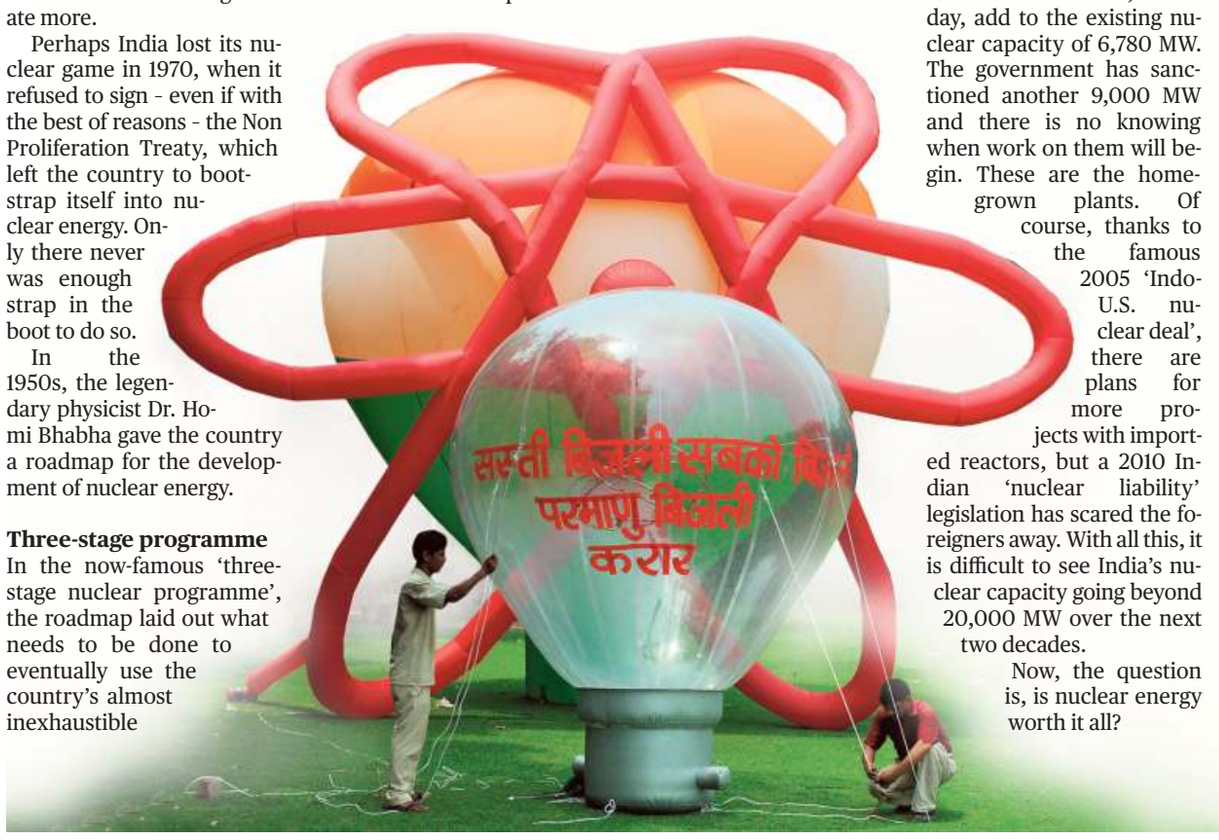
Perhaps India lost its nuclear game in 1970, when it refused to sign - even if with the best of reasons - the Non Proliferation Treaty, which left the country to bootstrap itself into nuclear energy. Only there never was enough strap in the boot to do so.

In the 1950s, the legendary physicist Dr. Homi Bhabha gave the country a roadmap for the development of nuclear energy.

**Three-stage programme**

In the now-famous 'three-stage nuclear programme', the roadmap laid out what needs to be done to eventually use the country's almost inexhaustible Thorium resources. The first stage would see the creation of a fleet of 'pressurised heavy water reactors', which use scarce Uranium to produce some Plutonium. The second stage would see the setting up of several 'fast breeder reactors' (FBRs). These FBRs would use a mixture of Plutonium and the reprocessed 'spent Uranium from the first stage, to produce energy and more Plutonium (hence 'breeder'), because the Uranium would transmute into Plutonium. Alongside, the reactors would convert some of the Thorium into Uranium-233, which can also be used to produce energy. After 3-4 decades of operation, the FBRs would have produced enough Plutonium for use in the 'third stage'. In this stage, Uranium-233 would be used in specially-designed reactors to produce energy and convert more Thorium into Uranium-233–you can keep adding Thorium endlessly.

Seventy years down the line, India is still stuck in the first stage. For the second stage, you need the fast breeder reactors. A Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) of 500 MW capacity, construction of which began way back in 2004, is yet to come on stream.




The problem is apparently nervousness about handling liquid Sodium, used as a coolant. If Sodium comes in contact with water it will explode; and the PFBR is being built on the humid coast of Tamil Nadu. The PFBR has always been a project that would go on stream "next year". The PFBR has to come online, then more FBRs would need to be built, they should then operate for 30-40 years, and only then would begin the coveted 'Thorium cycle'! Nor is much capacity coming under the current, 'first stage'. The 6,700 MW of plants under construction would, some day, add to the existing nuclear capacity of 6,780 MW. The government has sanctioned another 9,000 MW and there is no knowing when work on them will begin. These are the home-grown plants. Of course, thanks to the famous 2005 'Indo-U.S. nuclear deal', there are plans for more projects with imported reactors, but a 2010 Indian 'nuclear liability' legislation has scared the foreigners away. With all this, it is difficult to see India's nuclear capacity going beyond 20,000 MW over the next two decades.

Now, the question is, is nuclear energy worth it all?

There have been three arguments in favour of nuclear energy: clean, cheap and can provide electricity 24x7 (base load). Clean it is, assuming that you could take care of the ticklish issue of putting away the highly harmful spent fuel.

But cheap, it no longer is. The average cost of electricity produced by the existing 22 reactors in the country is around ₹2.80 a kWhr, but the new plants, which cost ₹15-20 crore per MW to set up, will produce energy that cannot be sold commercially below at least ₹7 a unit. Nuclear power is pricing itself out of the market.

Nuclear plants can provide the 'base load' – they give a steady stream of electricity day and night, just like coal or gas plants. Wind and solar power plants produce energy much cheaper, but their power supply is irregular. With gas not available and coal on its way out due to reasons of cost and global warming concerns, nuclear is sometimes regarded as the saviour. But we don't need that saviour any more; there is a now a better option.

**Ocean energy**

The seas are literally throbbing with energy. There are at least several sources of energy in the seas. One is the bobbing motion of the waters, or ocean swells – you can place a flat surface on the waters, with a mechanical arm attached to it, and it becomes a pump that can be used to drive water or compressed air through a turbine to produce electricity. Another is by tapping into tides, which flow during one part of the day and ebb in another. You can generate electricity by channelling the tide and place a series of turbines in its path. One more way is to keep turbines on the sea bed at places where there is a current – a river within the sea. Yet another way is to get the waves dash against pistons in, say, a pipe, so as to compress air at the other end. Sea water is dense and heavy, when it moves it can punch hard – and, it never stops moving.

All these methods have been tried in pilot plants in several parts of the world– Brazil, Denmark, U.K., Korea. There are only two commercial plants in the world– in France and Korea–but then ocean energy has engaged the world's attention.

For sure, ocean energy is costly today.

India's Gujarat State Power Corporation had a tie-up with U.K.'s Atlantic Resources for a 50 MW tidal project in the Gulf of Kutch, but the project was given up after they discovered they could sell the electricity only at ₹13 a kWhr. But then, even solar cost ₹18 a unit in 2009! When technology improves and scale-effect kicks-in, ocean energy will look real friendly.

Initially, ocean energy would need to be incentivised, as solar was. Where do you find the money for the incentives? By paring allocations to the Department of Atomic Energy, which got ₹13,971 crore for 2019-20.

Also, wind and solar now stand on their own legs and those subsidies could now be given to ocean energy.

# From baby steps to giant strides, GST gains momentum

## The historical tax reform, which marks its second year today, has offered stakeholders a mixed bag thus far

K. VAITHEESWARAN

The historical goods and services tax (GST) which was implemented across the country from July 1, 2017 is now two years old. India was not new to indirect tax levies, but consolidating Central and State levies and achieving uniformity was no joke. Credit is due to the Central Government as well as each and every State Government and officials who participated in this exercise.

**What industry got**

The industry loves GST for harmonising taxes, elimination of cascading effect of tax, widening the scope of input tax credit and for achieving a uniform tax rate for a product or service across the country. Tangible benefits include faster refunds, less interaction with tax authorities, abolition of checkposts, etc. There are other intangible benefits on account of GST. In the past, a manufacturer in State A would lose a customer in State B if he made a CST supply.

To prevent the loss, the manufacturer would open a depot in order to effect a local supply in State B. The depot was not a business requirement, but one of tax.

Under GST, a supplier can supply goods from any part of India and tax or input tax credit is no longer an arbitrage in competition.

The customer is now in a position to source from any supplier and the latter is in a position to access markets across India.

Industry gains include elimination or dismantling of structures created under the pre-GST era for tax purposes, supply-chain efficiencies, direct customer access, and a robust transparent trail for the movement of goods. On the flip side, the industry is extremely unhappy with the massive increase in compliance requirements, frequent battles with the GST portal, wastage of manhours in dealing with technical glitches, and facing potential loss of ITC on account of supplier facing similar problems.

The industry is also not happy with frequent changes in law, including scenarios where the portal does not permit what the law permits.

**What government got**

Monthly revenue from GST has crossed ₹1,00,000 crore, even though the GDP growth is low and the economy is witnessing a slump. GST has resulted in the widening of the tax base. Excellent data mining has resulted in identification of tax evasion at an early stage. E-way bill system has brought in an effective, transparent movement trail.

Higher tax collections even without intervention indicates compliance. As more and more vendors and service providers walk into GST, the formalisation of economy takes place.

As more service providers walk into GST, the economy gets more formalised. ■ REUTERS

The walk-in is voluntary and sometimes compelled by the bigger player, who prefers only registered compliant suppliers since ITC is linked with vendor compliance.

The natural corollary would be the increase in direct tax collections from these new assessees. Many manufacturing states had anticipated huge losses on account of GST compared to their pre-GST collections.

This has not happened probably due to significant consumption of services in such manufacturing States.

The government, however, is extremely unhappy with the fake invoice racket and rightly so. These players provide a disservice to the economy and also to honest tax payers. While action is welcome, the government should pursue the route of adjudication, prosecution and early conviction instead of the threat of non-bailable arrest provisions which have a potential for misuse.

Unlike many other countries which faced massive inflation on account of introduction of GST, India did not face any inflation. This was probably due to an effective rate of tax policy, as well as timely course correction.

The National Anti-Profiteering Authority had also played a role, but has outlived its objective. There was no necessity for a two-year extension. The consumer has gained the most in GST. From an era of cascading taxes, which had nearly 30% of taxes on goods; dual and multiple levies on services, the consumer is now seeing massive reduction in the rate of tax for goods and services.

In a typical restaurant, where there used to be VAT of 2% or 12.5% and a service tax of 6%, the customer is enjoying a flat 5% which is lower than the VAT rates applicable in many countries in the European Union. Awareness of GST among consumers is at an all-time high, thanks to social media.

However, the downside to this is tax evasion, which is now driven by consumers. In the past, when a customer procured goods or services, he was least bothered about the tax rate since excise duty was invisible. The VAT rate was low and was not a significant deterrent. When the overall indirect tax levy was 30%, it was not reflected in the invoice, but when the rate has declined to 12% and 18%, awareness about GST makes the customer assume it is a new levy which affects his pocket, and the consumer opens the cash channel.

**The law**

GST law has turned out to be the most complex one on account of design faults and frequent tinkering. The distinction between goods and services manifests itself in GST in multiple segments.

The Advance Ruling mechanism has failed since most rulings are in favour of the revenue and in some cases, against the provisions of the statute. The constitution of the AAR is the issue, since it is not presided by a judicial member and comprises sitting officers of the tax department. The GST Council has played a stellar role in cooperative federalism since 35 meetings have taken place, where resolutions have been passed unanimously despite political differences.

This kind of unanimity is unseen even in flat association meetings. In only two years of existence, 32 amendments to the CGST Act; 31 amendments to the CGST Rules; 87 CGST rate Notifications; 179 CGST non-rate Notifications; 90 IGST rate Notifications; 19 IGST non-rate Notifications; 101 Board Circulars; 10 Removal of Difficulty Orders; matching Notifications from 29 States, do not indicate a simple law.

*(The writer is an advocate and tax consultant)*

## ASK US

VIDYA BALA

**Q. I have a query regarding REC and NHAI capital gain bonds. In the present scenario, are they totally safe investments? Are post office time deposits and NSCs totally safe? Is LIC pension scheme a good investment?**

SUREKHA ANANTH

**A.** REC and NHAI are government-backed bonds and therefore safe. The same holds good for post office deposits and NSC.

As for LIC Pension – it depends on the nature of the scheme, whether it is an immediate annuity payment option or deferred and other terms. If you are talking about Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, it is indeed a good scheme to get regular income payouts. We would suggest you first exhaust post office senior citizens' scheme and this policy option and then look at other quality corporate deposits and FDs, if you need regular income.

**Q. I plan to retire next year at 57 years. I will have a corpus of ₹3 crore, which is presently in equity ₹1 crore, and debt ₹2 crore. I have my own home with no loans. I also have a floater medical insurance of ₹10 lakh outside my company medical cover. I expect a monthly expense of ₹80,000, post retirement. Please suggest how I should deploy my corpus to generate this income in a tax-efficient manner. Please also consider whether tax saving bonds, which presently is giving a return of 6.60% (secondary market — NSE), is a good option.**

SUDHEESH MENON

**A.** You will be able to comfortably generate ₹80,000 a month if your debt corpus of ₹2 crore delivers at least 6% However, as you rightly said, it is important for you to generate this in a tax-efficient manner. Having a combination of post office senior citizen deposits, LIC pension scheme for senior citizens (both when you turn 60) and low risk debt funds and bonds can help generate some regular income.

Our suggestion would be that you allow your equity to grow, preferably using diversified equity funds and then move it to lower risk options when your debt corpus depletes. Of your debt corpus, consider 20-30% in low risk, short-term debt funds and use a systematic withdrawal plan (SWPs) to generate monthly income.

An SWP will allow you to fix the amount you want to withdraw every month irrespective of how the fund is returning.

SWPs are a tax-efficient way to generate monthly income. You can consider tax-saving bonds provided you are able to buy them at a good price.

**Q. I want to know how to choose the best fund to get higher results over a time span of 10 years. My risk profile is moderate. Currently, I am just checking the past 3 to 5 years' performance and by ratings. Kindly guide me.**

SAIRAM M.N.

**A.** The first thing you need to do is not to try and pick the 'best fund.' Go with a 'consistent fund.' For this purpose, try to compare the funds' performance over market downturns and upturns. A fund's ability to consistently beat the benchmark in a rallying market and contain declines better in a down market will be more important than its ability to stay on top of the chart.

Look at metrics such as Sharpe (risk-adjusted return) and standard deviation (measures volatility) rather than just point-to-point returns. Ensure that the funds you pick have a clear strategy and you have funds with differentiated strategies and styles of investing.

*(The author is a financial planning adviser)*

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

# Prepping yourself for retirement

A lot of hard work is involved if you wish to retire with financial comfort

AARATI KRISHNAN

Most folks have a clear picture of what they plan to do after retirement – sleep late, catch up on Hollywood flicks, travel, spend time with the children.

But to get to that relaxed state after retirement, you need to put in groundwork in the run up to it. Assuming you've been investing towards retirement, here are five things you need to do three years before D-day.

**Note this**

- Take stock of your likely retirement corpus
- You can sell idle real estate to raise cash
- Key investment watchwords-capital protection, regular income and liquidity

### Take stock

When you start investing towards retirement in your 20s or 30s, you make a whole lot of assumptions about your income growth, savings, returns, inflation and living expenses after retirement. But real life seldom mirrors excel spreadsheets. That's why three years before retirement is a good time to take stock of your likely retirement corpus.

To do this, add up your accumulated balances in EPF, PPF and NPS, the market value of your equity and mutual fund holdings, sums in small savings schemes, banks and any significant investments in real estate or gold. Exclude the value of the house you occupy and the money you need towards specific goals such as your children's post-graduate education.

Deduct outstanding loans. What you are left with is the sum you'll have to rely on for your income post-retirement. By now you will also have a good idea of how much you'll need to meet your living expenses.

If you can meet them by withdrawing just 3-4% of your corpus, you're well-placed to retire.

### Unlock

If your invested corpus looks as if it will fall short of your needs, try and add to it by unlocking value from neglected assets and squeeze out a higher return from your existing savings. You may have bought a plot in the early years of your career or an apartment you've locked up for years, consider selling them to raise cash. If you have unused jewellery and silver lying in your bank locker, consider liquidating them, as that will not just unlock cash but also save you on locker rent. Taking greater care with your financial management and being prompt with your investing decisions can also add to your retirement kitty.

### Rejig

The investment vehicles that you use to earn an income post-retirement need to be very different from the ones you used to accumulate the corpus. Three essential attributes for your post-retirement investments are capital protection, regular income and liquidity.

This may call for a portfolio rejig. Rejigging a large portfolio requires time and favourable market conditions, so it pays to initiate this process well ahead. Exiting your equity investments in a phased manner well ahead of retirement will ensure that your entire corpus isn't exposed to a market fall just when you need it the most.

If your current portfolio is equity-heavy, three years before retiring is a good time to start selling the equity portion to buy more debt options so that you have more capital protection. Depending on your risk appetite and return needs, you can opt for different mixes of equity and debt (30% equity, 70% debt, or 20% equity, 80% debt) in your post-retirement portfolio.

Liquidity and ease of monitoring will be important to you after retirement. So, if a good part of your net worth is invested in real estate, land or gold, it is best to initiate their sale three years ahead so that you can switch to financial assets. If you are planning to rely on mutual funds with an equity component for regular income, the investment must be made 3-5 years before retiring. Then your portfolio will have some time to accumulate returns before you begin to withdraw from it.

### Repay

For stress-free retirement, it is best to start off with a clean slate on liabilities. Loans and EMIs also rob you of flexibility post-retirement as you will be forced to sacrifice part of your income towards the repayments. Therefore, it's a good idea to repay all your liabilities before you retire.

Use your accumulated savings to repay outstanding loans ahead of retirement. If you have limited money at your disposal, repay your high-cost loans first such as credit card debt and personal loans. Your car loan and housing loan can follow.

### Insure

Two kinds of risks that can totally upend your financial life after retirement are medical emergencies and natural disasters. Therefore, folks who have been used to a liberal health insurance cover from their employers during their working years, need to buy a comprehensive health insurance plan of their own before they retire. Doing this a few years before retirement makes sense because the younger you are, the cheaper your health insurance premium and the more options you get to choose from.

Most health insurance plans insist on a waiting period of three years or more before they begin to cover pre-existing diseases. On this count too, buying health insurance three years ahead of retirement makes sure that you are fully covered for any health complications as soon as you retire.

If your family members or parents were covered by your employer, you may need to take care of that cover too, before you retire.

## COVER NOTE: PERSONAL ACCIDENT POLICY

# When a slip need not be very expensive

Safeguard yourself from the financial impact of accidents

K. NITYA KALYANI

Accidents happen despite the best of precautions. To safeguard yourself from the financial impact of accidents, there is a very versatile and reasonably priced policy you can buy.

The Individual Personal Accident (PA) policy covers against accidents round-the-clock and around the world. The compensation is specifically for death or bodily injury caused directly and solely by an accident. It is a benefit policy, which means that it pays you a lump sum linked to the Sum Insured (SI) without reference to any expenses you may incur.

All Indian general insurance and health insurance companies offer this policy under various brand names with SI options as low as ₹25,000 going up to ₹10 crore in some policies.

**Tread with caution:** A typical personal accident policy is very versatile and reasonably priced. ▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

**Be safe, secure**

- All Indian general and health insurance companies offer PA policies
- Additional covers/ benefits can also be purchased
- Make note of the exclusions that define most insurance covers

### Maximum SI

The maximum SI is a multiple of the income of the insured person. PA policies can be bought for family members too and multiple year policies are available.

An annual policy for a 40 year-old male with ₹10 lakh SI will cost ₹450 for a death only cover, ₹650 for death and permanent total disablement and ₹950 for including permanent partial disablement as well.

Death due to accident is the main cover and the entire SI can be claimed for it. Permanent total disablement, defined clearly under the policy, also lays claim to a similar compensation.

This envisages situations like loss of two limbs or loss of both eyes. After this claim, the policy can be renewed.

Permanent partial disablement, meaning loss of a limb or an eye and so on has a graded compensation structure, also well laid out in the policy. Any balance SI after such a claim is available for the rest of the policy year and the policy is renewable.

Apart from these, temporary partial disablement, like fractures, which prevent the insured from attending to his work or profession is also covered. In this case, a weekly disability benefit which is a percentage of the SI is given for the time of such disablement or a specified number of weeks, usually 1% of SI for a maximum of 100 weeks.

The premium rate will take into account the risk level of your profession. Broadly, they are administrative work and physical work (but not hazardous/ manual labour).

Exclusions define most insurance covers!

There are a host of additional covers and benefits that can be purchased under PA policies on offer by different companies. They include:

Transportation of mortal remains, funeral costs, emergency road and air ambulance charges, cost of prosthetics and even modification of home/ vehicle for disablements, children's education benefit due to disability of insured, cost of pet care and elder care and even taking care of your loan repayment instalments during the disability period. You can buy a PA policy while purchasing an air ticket.

Costing about ₹150 to ₹200, this is usually a single voyage cover that lasts until the insured returns to the point of origin of the journey or until the end of that calendar month, whichever is earlier.

A simple comparison of the premium cost to benefits will show you that an annual policy is a better option.

There are group PA policies as well, where the premium rate is way lower than individual policies. They can be with credit cards, savings bank accounts or corporate policies for staff.

One of the largest such group policies is Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, which is part of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.

The power of group policies is apparent here as a cover of ₹2 lakh for death and disability has an annual premium of just ₹12.

If you haven't opted for it yet, you should do so now!

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

## BLACKBOARD: NAV

# Key investment metric

K. BHARAT KUMAR

**What is Net Asset Value?**

■ The Net Asset Value (NAV) is typically used in the context of mutual funds and exchange traded funds.

NAVs offer a transparent way to arrive at a value for a fund. The value to the investor is arrived at on a per-unit basis.

**Why is it necessary?**

■ When you invest in a mutual fund, you are given a certain number of units at a certain value.

Depending on how the mutual fund performs, the value of its assets and liabilities change, reflecting in the price per unit, hence determining the value of your investment.

An investor in the mutual fund can buy more units or can redeem her units for cash. The net asset value per unit determines the value of the transaction.

**How is NAV calculated?**

■ Net Asset Value per unit = (total assets – total liabilities) / total number of outstanding units

**How often does the NAV change?**

■ Unlike share values that change real-time depending on the price they command in the markets, NAVs for mutual funds are determined by the end-of-day value of the shares in which the mutual fund has invested.

**Is the NAV the best indicator of a fund's performance?**

■ While the NAV is a reasonably good indicator of a fund's performance, it is not wholly accurate.

Coupled with the NAV reading, one has to look at the dividend or interest that the fund has paid out to investors over a period.

Mutual funds typically pay out dividends, or interest accrued, to investors.

Since these are 'assets' that go out of the fund's books (unless reinvested), the NAV comes down proportionately.

That does not by itself mean that there has been a dip in the fund's performance. The annual total return is a better indicator of a fund's wholesome performance.

## LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH

*"I think daddy has to improve his maths. He looks disappointed everytime he does his sums!"*

## Health insurance premium

| Insurer Name | Key Features | Plan Names | Premium (Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Religare Health Insurance | Day Care Treatments | NCB Super Premium | 8,675 |
| | Family Floater option | Care | 7,887 |
| | Health Checkups | Care with unlimited recharge | 8,478 |
| | After Hospitalization | NCB Super Premium with UAR | 9,267 |
| Max Bupa Health Insurance | Day Care Treatments | Health Companion + Health Recharge (Money Saver) | 8,764 |
| | Hospitalization at Home | Health Companion | 9,862 |
| | Alternate Medicine | Go Active | 11,747 |
| | | Heartbeat Gold | 15,319 |
| Star Health Insurance | Family Floater option | Medi Classic | 9,204 |
| | Restoration of cover | Star Comprehensive | 11,476 |
| | Wellness Factors | | |
| | Network Hospitals Covered | | |
| Apollo Munich Health Insurance | | Optima Restore | 11,024 |
| | | Easy Health Individual Standard | 9,613 |
| | After Hospitalization | Easy Health Individual Exclusive | 12,067 |
| | Day Care Treatments | Easy Health Individual Premium | 14,945 |
| | Hospitalization at Home | Energy Gold | 20,036 |
| | Hospital Room Eligibility | Energy Silver | 14,136 |
| | | Energy Gold with Co pay | 17,216 |
| | | Energy Silver with Co pay | 11,316 |
| | | Health wallet | 22,908 |
| HDFC Ergo General Insurance | Hospitalization at Home | Health Suraksha Silver | 9,380 |
| | Hospital Room Eligibility | Health Suraksha Gold | 11,162 |
| | Alternate Medicine | Health Suraksha Silver with Region & ECB | 10,083 |
| | | Health Suraksha Gold with Region & ECB | 11,998 |
| Cigna TTK Health Insurance | Day Care Treatments | ProHealth - Protect | 8,979 |
| | Hospitalization at Home | ProHealth - Plus | 10,119 |
| | Alternate Medicine | | |
| | Family Floater Option | | |
| Bajaj Allianz Health Insurance | Hospital Room Eligibility | Individual Health Guard | 11,569 |
| | Wellness Factors | Health Ensure | 7,642 |
| | Family Floater Option | | |
| Royal Sundaram General Insurance | Day Care Treatments | Lifeline supreme | 7,936 |
| | Hospitalization at Home | Group Health Policy | 6,130 |
| | Hospital Room Eligibility | | |
| | Alternate Medicine | | |
| Universal Sompo General Insurance | Hospitalization at Home | Individual Health Guard | 12,241 |
| | Hospital Room Eligibility | | |
| | Alternate Medicine | | |
| Aditya Birla Capital | Day Care Treatments | Active assure Diamond | 7,938 |
| | Restoration of cover | Active Health Enhance | 9,801 |
| | Family Floater Option | Active Health Enhance ( Diabetes ) | 38,148 |
| | | Active Health Enhance ( Asthma ) | 16,818 |
| | | Active Health Enhance ( Hypertension ) | 32,616 |
| | | Active assure Diamond with Super NCB | 8,732 |
| | | Active assure Diamond with Unlimited Reload | 8,494 |
| | | Active assure Diamond with Super NCB and Unlimited Reload | 9,287 |
| Edelweiss Health Insurance | Day Care Treatments | Edelweiss Health Insurance- Gold (Health 241 Add-on) | 10,398 |
| | Hospitalization at Home | Edelweiss Health Insurance Gold | 8,318 |
| | Hospital Room Eligibility | | |
| | Alternate Medicine | | |
| Future Generali Total Insurance | Day Care Treatments | Health Total Vital | 10,031 |
| | Hospitalization at Home | | |
| | Hospital Room Eligibility | | |
| | Alternate Medicine | | |
| United India Insurance | Hospitalization at Home | Platinum | 13,531 |
| | Alternate Medicine | | |
| | Family Floater Option | | |

Source: Paisabazaar.com

# England's mammoth total proves beyond India's reach

After the Bairstow-Roy show, Stokes joins the party for the host; Rohit's century, Kohli's fifth fifty on the trot and Pandya's cameo not enough

**Blazing away:** Jonny Bairstow, in the company of Jason Roy, pushed India on to the backfoot with a 160-run stand for the opening wicket. ▪AP

**5** Number of consecutive fifties notched up by Kohli in this WC, equalling Steve Smith's record in 2015. The Indian is the first captain to achieve the feat in the tournament's history. It is also the India skipper's longest streak of half-centuries from which he hasn't converted into a three-figure knock

## STAT SPHERE

**1** The 160-run partnership between Bairstow and Roy is England's highest for the opening wicket in the World Cup. It is also the biggest by any team for any wicket against India in this WC

**2** Shami is only the second Indian after Hirwani (in 1988) to claim three four-wicket hauls in successive ODIs.

▪ The speedster is also the second bowler, after Afridi, to do so in the WC

**5** Rohit has become the fifth player to score three centuries in a single edition of the WC, and the second Indian, after Ganguly

**MOST TONS IN THE WC**

**4** Sangakkara (2015)

**3** Mark Waugh (1996), Ganguly (2003), Hayden (2007), Rohit (2019)

**8** Number of ODIs England has won out of the previous nine outings when Bairstow and Roy have put on a hundred stand

**12** India's winning streak of 12 league games in the WC was snapped with Sunday's defeat to England. The previous match India lost at the league stage was against South Africa in 2011

**16** Number of 50-plus opening partnerships by Bairstow and Roy, the most for England, surpassing Cook & Bell (15)

**25** Number of ODI hundreds for Rohit. He is the third quickest to reach the milestone (206 innings)

**FASTEST TO 25 ODI CENTURIES**

| |
|---|
| 151 Amla |
| 162 Kohli |
| 206 Rohit |
| 214 de Villiers |
| 234 Tendulkar |

***Stokes is the only bowler who has not conceded a six in this WC so far (minimum 30 overs)***

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP ENGLAND & WALES 2019

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

"I am one among the five per cent England fans at the ground!," stated a tongue-in-cheek tweet from a home team follower as a packed Edgbaston buzzed with excitement while the host and India clashed in a key World Cup fixture. In the end, the five per cent at the ground had a Sunday to celebrate while a sea of blue lapsed into silence.

England amassed 337 for seven and restricted India to 306 for five. It was India's first defeat in the current World Cup while Eoin Morgan's men found a toehold to stay alive, thanks to their 31-run win.

### Nervous start

India started nervously as Rohit Sharma, on four, edged Jofra Archer but Joe Root dropped it at second slip while K.L. Rahul spooned one back to Chris Woakes. Virat Kohli, walking into thunderous applause, drove Archer and Rohit struck Mark Wood on either side of the pitch and as the partnership developed, the two clattered fours off Liam Plunkett.

### Masters at work

The duo's mastery became evident as Kohli, wrists and moving feet, flicked Ben Stokes and Rohit cut Adil Rashid. Kohli's fifth fifty on the trot was etched. Rohit wasn't too far behind and the two played percentage cricket, picking their fours, running hard and revealing a defensive blade when a delivery demanded respect. There were bursts of exquisite shot-making too, be it Kohli picking his spots on the off-side or Rohit stringing a garland of three fours off Stokes through a pull and two square-drives.

Just as the 138-run second-wicket partnership seemed primed for more, Kohli (66) fell, his leaning drive looping up to backward point. Next-man Rishabh Pant, who replaced Vijay Shankar following the latter's toe injury, threatened a run-out but Rohit hit calmed the youngster. The two shared a 52-run partnership during the course of which the vice-captain registered his third century (102) in this World Cup. After that a tired slog off Woakes grazed the edge and Rohit retreated.

India 198 for three in 36.1 overs, adrift by 139 runs, needing more than 10 per over and a nervous crowd prayed to the Hindu pantheon as religious chants rent the air. Hardik Pandya pounded Woakes for three fours while southpaw Pant tried an uppish flick down the leg-side off Plunkett and watched Woakes pluck a stunner near fine-leg – a sprinting, gravity-defying catch.

### Required rate jumps up

India four for 226 in the 40th over and Pandya and M.S. Dhoni joined forces. Pandya split one through a diving Rashid's palms at backward point but there was no miracle to be savoured. As the required rate quadrupled in the final stretch, the all-rounder fell and for Dhoni, it became a tale of too much to score with too few a deliveries at stake.

Earlier, Morgan elected to bat and the England innings prospered through the efforts of centurion Jonny Bairstow (111, 109b, 10x4, 6x6), Jason Roy (66) and Stokes (79). Initially, openers Roy and Bairstow maintained a frenetic pace. Roy thumped two fours off Mohammed Shami's first over but also inner-edged the speedster nearly onto the stumps. Bairstow too did a similar act and survived.

Kohli employed Yuzvendra Chahal from the sixth over, swapped the ends of Shami and Jasprit Bumrah and yet there was no respite. Roy smote Chahal and when the opener tried to pull Pandya, Dhoni collected, the bowler appealed, Kohli mulled about a review but the former India captain opposed it. The snickometer hinted an edge! On 21, Roy celebrated with a six and four.

Bairstow proved that he too could trigger mayhem – a minimal back-lift exploded into a blazing stroke. He hammered the spinners and Kuldeep Yadav wasn't spared either. India found relief finally when Roy tried to heave Kuldeep over long-on and found a diving Ravindra Jadeja, substituting for an injured Rahul.

### Bairstow on the prowl

Root then dropped anchor and Bairstow extended his plunder. On nervous 99 he missed a Pandya bouncer but the next ball was patted for a valuable single. Having been caught up in a self-stirred media storm, Bairstow's redemptive joy was evident. Eventually, he perished to Shami.

Subsequently, Morgan top-edged a hook off Shami, who bowled some niggardly overs, got caned in the slog and still managed a five-for. Root and Stokes bided their time and the latter dug into Chahal, pulling and reverse-hitting. The southpaw and Root added 70 for the fourth wicket before Shami scalped the former. In the end, the audacity of Stokes and Jos Buttler's cameo ensured that the 300-mark was breached and India had a mountain to scale.

**INNINGS SCAN**

| ENG | | IND |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | Maidens | 3 |
| 27 | Fours | 35 |
| 13 | Sixes | 1 |
| 160 (1st) | Best stand | 138 (2nd) |
| 6.74 | RR | 6.12 |

**PROGRESSION**

| ENG | | IND |
|---|---|---|
| 47/0 | 10 overs | 28/1 |
| 145/0 | 20 overs | 83/1 |
| 202/1 | 30 overs | 152/2 |
| 245/3 | 40 overs | 234/4 |
| 337/7 | 50 overs | 306/5 |

**TOP SHOWS**

| For | Batting | Bowling |
|---|---|---|
| England | Bairstow 111 (109b, 10x4, 6x6) | Plunkett 3/55 (10) |
| India | Rohit 102 (109b, 15x4) | Shami 5/69 (10) |

## SCOREBOARD ENGLAND VS INDIA

**ENGLAND**

Jason Roy c sub b Kuldeep 66 (*57b, 7x4, 2x6*), Jonny Bairstow c Pant b Shami 111 (*109b, 10x4, 6x6*), Joe Root c Pandya b Shami 44 (*54b, 2x4*), Eoin Morgan c Jadhav b Shami 1 (*9b*), Ben Stokes c sub b Bumrah 79 (*54b, 6x4, 3x6*), Jos Buttler c & b Shami 20 (*8b, 1x4, 2x6*), Chris Woakes c Rohit b Shami 7 (*5b, 1x4*), Liam Plunkett (not out) 1 (*4b*), Jofra Archer (not out) 0 (*0b*); Extras (b-2, lb-2, w-4): 8; Total (for seven wkts. in 50 overs): 337.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-160 (Roy, 22.1 overs), 2-205 (Bairstow, 31.4), 3-207 (Morgan, 33.4), 4-277 (Root, 44.1), 5-310 (Buttler, 46.6), 6-319 (Woakes, 48.1), 7-337 (Stokes, 49.4).

**INDIA BOWLING**

Shami 10-1-69-5, Bumrah 10-1-44-1, Chahal 10-0-88-0, Pandya 10-0-60-0, Kuldeep 10-0-72-1.

**INDIA**

K.L. Rahul c & b Woakes 0 (*9b*), Rohit Sharma c Buttler b Woakes 102 (*109b, 15x4*), Virat Kohli c sub b Plunkett 66 (*76b, 7x4*), Rishabh Pant c Woakes b Plunkett 32 (*29b, 4x4*), Hardik Pandya c sub b Plunkett 45 (*33b, 4x4*), M.S. Dhoni (not out) 42 (*31b, 4x4, 1x6*), Kedar Jadhav (not out) 12 (*13b, 1x4*); Extras (lb-1, w-6): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 50 overs): 306.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-8 (Rahul, 2.3), 2-146 (Kohli, 28.2), 3-198 (Rohit, 36.1), 4-226 (Pant, 39.1), 5-267 (Pandya, 44.5).

**ENGLAND BOWLING**

Woakes 10-3-58-2, Archer 10-0-45-0, Plunkett 10-0-55-3, Wood 10-0-73-0, Rashid 6-0-40-0, Stokes 4-0-34-0.

**Toss:** England.

**Man-of-the-Match:** Bairstow.

*England won by 31 runs.*

### Next assignment

**INDIA:** July 2 vs **Bangladesh**, *Edgbaston, 3 p.m.*

**ENGLAND:** July 3 vs **New Zealand**, *Chester-le-Street, 3 p.m.*

# 'Some felt Roy nicked it, some didn't'

Rohit says the skipper is always under pressure when it comes to reviews

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

A match's fate can turn on a slender thread. When England openers Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow were just about laying the building blocks of their 160-run partnership in the World Cup game against India here on Sunday, the former edged Hardik Pandya to M.S. Dhoni.

It was the faintest of snicks, Hardik and Virat Kohli seemed keen to press for a review but the man, who caught, wasn't sure. Kohli listened to Dhoni and did not seek a review. Later it came to light that the batsman had got a glove onto the ball. India played catch-up for the rest of a contest which it eventually lost.

### Tricky

Rohit Sharma, the team's vice-captain and a centurion to boot, had his take on the issue: "It is a tricky thing. Some of the guys heard, some of the guys didn't. There are a lot of thoughts that come around, some guys thought he (Roy) nicked it, some felt he didn't. If you are lucky you have the decision going your way. The captain is always under pressure. We, as a team, don't want to look too much into it."

The opener also explained the injury that ruled out Vijay Shankar on the morning of the contest: "There is no uncertainty with regard to the number four position, Vijay Shankar was supposed to play but before the game he got hit on the toe by Jasprit (Bumrah) and he wasn't fit. Every team will have these one or two changes happening every now and then."

**Swinging away:** Rohit Sharma's fine form continued as he notched up his third century of the tournament. ▪AFP

Rohit had a humorous aside when asked about propping up Rishabh Pant at number four: "You guys wanted Pant to play right, asking where is Rishabh Pant, where is Rishabh Pant? It was the right move for him to come at four. Of course, there is pressure but he should enjoy his cricket." And the hall erupted in laughter as correspondents were put on the defensive.

### Credits England

Queried about the way the match shaped up, Rohit credited England for being the better team. "We lost K.L. (Rahul) right at the start and they bowled well. It was important that the guy in form bats long and it was between me and Virat and we knew that the longer we bat, we will get closer to the target. When Mahi (Dhoni) and Kedar (Jadhav) were batting, they were trying to hit but they couldn't as the pitch too slowed a bit.

"You got to give credit to the England bowlers, they mixed it up. You also need that x-factor innings, 70 off 40. Hardik was looking good but he couldn't go on, that's what Ben Stokes did for England. We know their top-order likes to put pressure and when Kuldeep (Yadav) and (Yuzvendra) Chahal came on, they already had some runs and they didn't let these guys settle and they had an off-day."

# Bairstow tends to get fired up a lot: Morgan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BIRMINGHAM

A pleased Eoin Morgan said that the much-needed victory against India in an important World Cup joust augured well for his men. The England captain praised his key players in a press conference at Edgbaston, late on Sunday night. *Excerpts*

**Sheer joy:** We are delighted. The manner in which we played with the bat especially resonates with everyone in the change room and that too against an extremely strong team.

**Jonny Bairstow effect:** Bairstow tends to get fired up a lot and that suits him regardless of the week he had. What he did today was outstanding and it was a match winning knock.

**Countering spin:** We wanted to put as much pressure as possible, I think the period from 10 to 20 overs when they (Indian spinners) bowled made the difference in the game.

**Ben Stokes on fire:** Stokes played a completely different innings. He wanted to take us beyond 320. He was adaptable and the change room was bouncing when he scored those runs in the end.

**India's failure at the death:** I thought we bowled really well and it wasn't an easy wicket, it wasn't easy to hit sixes.

**Jason is back!** With Roy's return, England was up and running again. ▪AFP

### Where they stand

| Team | Mat | Won | Lost | NR | PTS | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia (Q) | 8 | **7** | 1 | 0 | **14** | 1.000 |
| India | 7 | **5** | 1 | 1 | **11** | 0.854 |
| New Zealand | 8 | **5** | 2 | 1 | **11** | 0.572 |
| England | 8 | **5** | 3 | 0 | **10** | 1.000 |
| Pakistan | 8 | **4** | 3 | 1 | **9** | -0.792 |
| Bangladesh | 7 | **3** | 3 | 1 | **7** | -0.133 |
| Sri Lanka | 7 | **2** | 3 | 2 | **6** | -1.186 |
| South Africa (E) | 8 | **2** | 5 | 1 | **5** | -0.08 |
| West Indies (E) | 7 | **1** | 5 | 1 | **3** | -0.32 |
| Afghanistan (E) | 8 | **0** | 8 | 0 | **0** | -1.418 |

** Till the India-England match on June 30*

# Working on increasing vigilance: Richardson

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

ICC chief executive Dave Richardson said here on Sunday that the global body was working with authorities to ensure that there were no further untoward incidents like the clash between Afghanistan and Pakistan fans during a World Cup match at Leeds on Saturday.

Two persons were evicted from the stadium after fans clashed outside the stadium, requiring intervention from the Yorkshire Police.

Richardson said ICC was in the process of upping security and ensuring no political slogans were raised at match venues.

Dave Richardson. ▪AFP

"We are working with various security teams. Obviously, it is very difficult to get hold of every person present at the ground. But our security team would be looking for any person trying to raise a political slogan or banner," Richardson told mediapersons.

**Got him!** Lockie Ferguson has no clue to this Mitchell Starc special. ▪ ALEX DAVIDSON/ GETTY IMAGES

# Australia crushes NZ

## Starc claims five for 26 after Behrendorff dismisses openers

**WORLD CUP**

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON

Australia cruised to an 86-run victory over New Zealand in the World Cup at Lord's on Saturday, with batsman Usman Khawaja and pace spearhead Mitchell Starc starring for the defending champion.

Aaron Finch's team was wobbling at 92 for five after winning the toss. But Khawaja (88), who received fine support from Man-of-the-Match Alex Carey (71) steadied the ship before he became the first victim of a last-over hat-trick from Trent Boult as Australia finished on 243 for nine.

It proved more than enough as New Zealand slumped to 157. Jason Behrendorff (two for 31) removed both the New Zealand openers before Starc finished with five for 26.

**THE FACE-OFF**

Sri Lanka vs West Indies
CHESTER-LE-STREET

DIMUTH KARUNANRATNE

JASON HOLDER

HEAD-TO-HEAD

| | Matches | SL | WI | Tied | NR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Overall | 56 | 25 | 28 | 0 | 3 |
| World Cup | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 |

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

**SCOREBOARD** AUSTRALIA VS NEW ZEALAND

**AUSTRALIA**
243 for nine in 50 overs

**NEW ZEALAND**
Martin Guptill lbw b Behrendorff 20 *(43b, 2x4)*, Henry Nicholls c Carey b Behrendorff 8 *(20b, 2x4)*, Kane Williamson c Carey b Starc 40 *(51b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ross Taylor c Carey b Cummins 30 *(54b, 2x4)*, Tom Latham c Smith b Starc 14 *(28b)*, Colin de Grandhomme c Khawaja b Smith 0 *(1b)*, James Neesham c & b Lyon 9 *(22b)*, Mitchell Santner c Behrendorff b Starc 12 *(29b)*, Ish Sodhi lbw b Starc 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Lockie Ferguson b Starc 0 *(3b)*, Trent Boult (not out) 2 *(7b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-3, w-10): 17; Total (in 43.4 overs): 157.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-29 (Nicholls, 9.2 overs), 2-42 (Guptill, 13.1), 3-97 (Williamson), 4-118 (Taylor, 31.4), 5-118 (de Grandhomme, 32.1), 6-125 (Latham, 35.3), 7-131 (Neesham, 38.1), 8- 141 (Sodhi, 39.6), 9-144 (Ferguson, 41.1).

**AUSTRALIA BOWLING**
Behrendorff 9-0-31-2, Starc 9.4-1-26-5, Cummins 6-1-14-1, Lyon 10-0-36-1, Smith 2-0-6-1, Finch 1-0-7- 0, Stoinis 2-0-12-0, Maxwell 4-0-18-0.

**Toss:** Australia.
**MoM:** Alex Carey.
*Australia won by 86 runs.*

# Verstappen wins Spielberg thriller

**AUSTRIAN GP**

REUTERS
SPIELBERG

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix for the second year in a row on Sunday, subject to a stewards' investigation, while champion Mercedes lost for the first time this season.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, starting on pole, finished second after defending hard against Verstappen with the two youngsters banging wheels as the Dutchman forced his way past three laps from the end.

Both 21, the pair was the youngest top-two finishers in Formula One history. Verstappen took the chequered flag, but still faces an anxious wait for confirmation.

Valtteri Bottas finished third for Mercedes with championship-leading teammate Lewis Hamilton fifth behind Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

Hamilton remains in front, 31 clear of Finland's Bottas after nine of 21 races.

**Max again:** Verstappen took the chequered flag. ▪ REUTERS

### Fast facts

First win for Honda (engine) since Jenson Button in Hungary, 2006

- Verstappen holds the title for most race wins without ever being on pole
- Giovinazzi scored his first F1 point today and the first by an Italian driver since Liuzzi in 2010
- F1's youngest-ever podium: 24 years, 156 days average age
- Verstappen wins the Austrian GP for the second year. Joins Ronnie Peterson., Alan Jones, Mika Häkkinen, Michael Schumacher and Nico Rosberg with two wins. Only Alain Prost (3) has more wins there
- 17 - Sebastian Vettel has gone 16 grand prix in a row without winning (excluding retirements), which amounts to the worst such run in his F1 career
- The last eight F1 races at Spielberg have been won by a driver who started from the first two rows on the grid. The last driver to win the Austrian Grand Prix from further back was David Coulthard for McLaren in 2001, who began in seventh

# The big three primed to tighten grip

## Djokovic, Federer and Nadal will fancy their chances yet again

**WIMBLEDON**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are each set to tighten their stranglehold on Wimbledon as thier rivals struggle to keep afloat while bidding to dethrone the sport's A-list stars.

World No. 1 Djokovic is the defending champion and chasing a fifth title at the All England Club.

Federer, promoted to second seed, can win a ninth crown while two-time champion Nadal is seeking to complete a rare back-to-back Roland Garros-Wimbledon double. Twelve months ago, Djokovic arrived at Wimbledon with his career threatening to spiral into decline.

Unable to shake off the effects of right elbow surgery, the Serb was ranked at 21, his lowest position for over a decade.

But two weeks later, Djokovic had captured the 2018 title to add to his 2011, 2014 and 2015 wins, becoming the lowest-seeded player to take the Wimbledon trophy since Andre Agassi in 1992.

Federer, chasing a 21st major, first played Wimbledon in 1999. Pushing 38, he would be the oldest ever Grand Slam champion if he were to lift a ninth title.

But Federer is quick to praise the influence of Djokovic and Nadal. "I think we definitely became better because of one another," he said.

Nadal arrives on the back of a 12th Roland Garros title.

His 18th career major also meant he moved within two Slams of Federer's all-time mark for the first time.

The Spaniard, ranked two but – much to his irritation – seeded three was champion in 2008 and 2010.

He is now trying to join Bjorn Borg by achieving the Roland Garros-Wimbledon double for the third time.

It's been 17 years since anybody not named Djokovic, Federer, Nadal or Andy Murray captured the Wimbledon title. That long-distant honour went to Lleyton Hewitt in 2002.

Among the women, Ashleigh Barty goes into Wimbledon buoyed, unlike her predecessor Naomi Osaka, by being World No. 1 and with several of her major rivals struggling. The engaging 23-year-old Australian has yet to get beyond the third round at Wimbledon.

With 37-year-old seven-time champion Serena Williams finally showing signs of age, Osaka looking exposed through poor form and two-time singles champion Petra Kvitova still easing back to top form after an arm injury, defending champion Angelique Kerber may be the biggest threat to Barty.

### Monday's picks

**MEN**
1-Djokovic vs Kohlschreiber
4-Anderson vs Herbert
6-Zverev vs Vesely
7-Tsitsipas vs Fabbiano
15-Raonic vs Prajnesh

**WOMEN**
2-Osaka vs Putintsova
3-Pliskova vs Lin
7-Halep vs Sasnovich
8-Svitolina vs Gavrilona
10-Sabalenka vs Rybarikova

### Serve and volley

A look at a few significant numbers from The Championships:

**MEN**
**MOST TITLES:** Roger Federer (8)
**MOST TITLES (DOUBLES):** Todd Woodbridge (9)
**OLDEST CHAMPION:** Federer, 35, in 2017
**YOUNGEST CHAMPION:** Boris Becker, 17, in 1985
**MOST FINALS PLAYED:** Federer (11)
**MOST MATCH WINS:** Federer (95)

**WOMEN**
**MOST TITLES:** Martina Navratilova (9)
**MOST TITLES (DOUBLES):** Navratilova (7)
**OLDEST CHAMPION:** Serena Williams, 34, in 2016
**YOUNGEST CHAMPION:** Martina Hingis, 16, in 1997
**MOST FINALS PLAYED:** Navratilova (12)
**MOST MATCH WINS:** Navratilova (120)

- Since 2003, only Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray have won the Wimbledon men's singles title.
- Federer will be looking to script a historic 100th win at the Wimbledon this year. By reaching semifinals, he will not only achieve this milestone, but also break Jimmy Connors' record for the most grass-court wins (185) in the open era.
- Two-time champion Nadal will seek to equal Bjorn Borg's feat of completing the Roland Garros-Wimbledon double thrice. Nadal could notch up his 50th triumph at Wimbledon by winning the second round.

- Only for four years since 2000 none of the Williams sisters figured in the women's singles final.
- At the age of 15, Cori Gauff has become the youngest player in the open era to qualify for the Wimbledon women's singles main draw. Venus Williams, who won four of her seven Grand Slam titles before Gauff was born, will take her on in the first round.
- Ashleigh Barty goes into her first tournament as a World No.1 and top seed at a Grand Slam.

COMPILED BY G. PRASAD

# A debut at 31!

Gatto-Monticone. ▪ REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

There are late bloomers in tennis and then there is Italy's Giulia Gatto-Monticone who is making her Wimbledon debut at the age of 31.

Win or lose, it will be a Grand Slam bow to remember after the World No. 162 was drawn to face Serena Williams in the first round.

In 16 years on the circuit, Gatto-Monticone has banked just over $300,000 compared to 24-time Majors winner Williams' $88 million.

"I've made a lot of sacrifices, I can selfishly say that I deserve all this," she told *Spaziotennis* blog. Her patience has paid off and a Tuesday date on Centre Court against the great American beckons.

Gatto-Monticone qualified for Roland Garros this year, becoming the oldest Grand Slam debutant since 43-year-old Renee Richards at the 1977 US Open.

Gatto-Monticone has credited her late-career boom with "wellness and taking up martial arts".

# Prajnesh gears up for the Raonic challenge

## 'Compared to my first two Slam matches, I do feel more confident now'

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

With the most-awaited tennis event on the calendar starting on Monday at SW 19, India will yet again have only a solitary representative in the singles event, with Prajnesh Gunneswaran playing his third straight main draw event of Grand Slam this year.

The 29-year-old from Chennai made rapid strides in the last couple of years and qualified for his first Grand Slam earlier in the year at the Australian Open before a series of impressive results on the Challenger circuit pushed him into the top-100 and ensured a direct entry into the French Open and Wimbledon.

However, the last few months have not been easy for the left-hander as he struggled with some shoulder injury that saw him not qualify for three Tour events since losing in the final of a Challenger in April, barring the French Open. Finally, he had his first tour win over Janko Tipsarevic in Antalya, Turkey, earlier this week before losing out to Italian Lorenzo Sonego in a tough three-setter.

### Tough months

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Prajnesh said, "It has been a tough couple of months with a shoulder injury. I was hoping to move up the rankings and unfortunately have not been able to. But going into this tournament, I feel good. This week too, had a chance to go deep in the event but unfortunately couldn't close out."

The Indian, however, faces a stern test first up against the big-serving Canadian Milos Raonic who made the finals here in 2016.

**Looking ahead:** With injury issues behind him, Prajnesh Gunneswaran goes into Wimbledon feeling good. ▪ AFP

"While personally now this is just another Slam event, but growing up definitely, you hear a lot about how big Wimbledon is in our sport and it feels good to be part of the event. I think I will also be playing in a slight bigger court with a good crowd.

"Obviously, he has done it a lot more times than I have, but if I can return well and take the game deep, then I will have my chances," Prajnesh added.

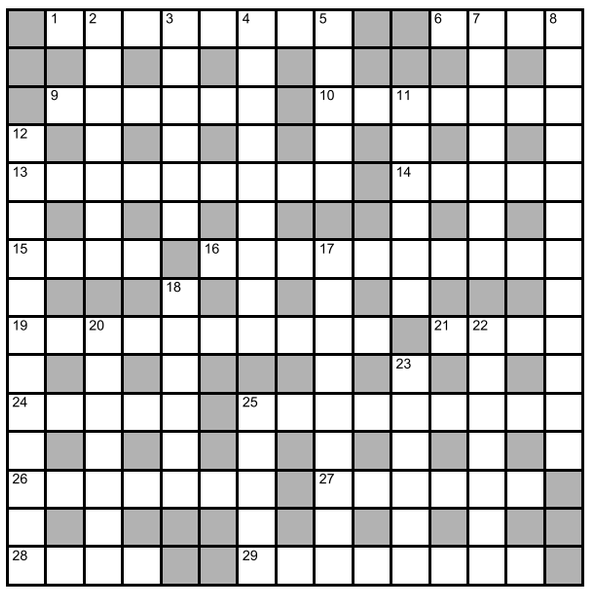
The World No. 95 said the shoulder injury meant his serve was affected and that was the main reason that led to the dip in form, adding that he goes into the tournament a lot more confident than he was before the French Open when he was nursing the injury.

"Compared to my first two Slam matches, I do feel more confident now because being here at this stage now feels more normal and you can now focus on just playing your game."

In the latter-half of the season, the Indian will also be defending a lot of points and has a couple of tour events in Newport, Atlanta, following Wimbledon where he is hoping to do well there so as to ease the pressure of defending points later in the year. "If I can string some good results in the next few weeks, it will be easy. At the end of the day, you have to do well at the big stages to move up the rankings, so let's see how it goes."

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12666

(set by Gridman)



**ACROSS**

1 Mother reading tomes about primate (8)
6 Preserve black door frame (4)
9 Friend had a different version of spiritual leader (6)
10 Kory's city? (3,4)
13 Say as an aside as son leaves cross and Jack comes in (9)
14 Good to be in control and hold sway (5)
15 Want a great sum in India to kickstart (4)
16 Ban disturbs PHS cronies (10)
19 It is breathtaking literally (10)
21 Broadcast about Tamil leader's pack (4)
24 Mathematician's empty talk about the latter half of addition (5)
25 Member of order chosen after Church's first division (9)
26 In general, it's up to a couple of learners (7)
27 Initial start not in film locale (6)
28 Get attention at opening of novel (4)
29 Limited, best mention by first writer (8)

**DOWN**

2 A question on a mark left incomplete and relating to water (7)
3 New style rang oddly (6)
4 Nation heard intended declaration (9)
5 Principle of fellows quitting flat (5)
7 Get rid of sailor, a foreigner who has lost his head (7)
8 It contributes to a rise in the making of cakes (6,6)
11 Careful about credit to a rallying slogan (3,3)
12 Collegian did get round to it before making a long-distance call (8,4)
17 Who's destroyed moors' renovated retail areas? (9)
18 Blood fluid – a sample incompletely drawn out (6)
20 Hollywood's top film director's arrogance (7)
22 Pictures non-U hurt muscles (7)
23 Guard dispatched to line (6)
25 Left in grotto to give birth in a way (5)

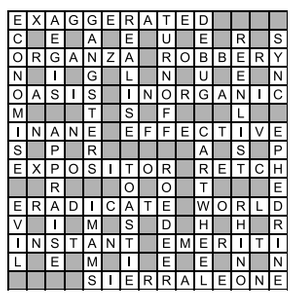
## SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 5 | | | 9 | 3 | | |
| | | | 4 | | 2 | 7 | | |
| | 9 | | | 5 | | | | 6 |
| 4 | | 7 | | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | | 6 | | 4 |
| 6 | | | | 3 | | | 5 | |
| | | 9 | 5 | | 4 | | | |
| | | 2 | 6 | | | 8 | | |

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS4401 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

**Solution to puzzle 12665**



**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 9 |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 9 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 |

**FAITH**

# Unsullied by impurities

Just as there are plenty of opportunities for dirt and impurities to settle down on objects and beings, one's physical and mental faculties are also liable to get soiled. While it is natural and possible to remove external dirt regularly to a certain extent, it is all the more necessary to try and get rid of the inner dirt accumulated in the mind, pointed out Velukkudi Sri Krishnan in a discourse. Ultimately, the purity of mind is essential as this influences thought, word and deed, and is reflected as one's moral fibre, temperament, personality and character. The mind is known as anta-karana, that is, it is an internal instrument, while the karmendriyas and jnanendriyas are the external instruments and are known as 'bahya' karana.

A human being is able to think, perceive, sense, reason out and act because of the mind that functions in coordination with buddhi, chitta, and ego sense or ahamkara. By nature, the mind is drawn to sense objects; the buddhi or intellect is the determining force for decision-making, while the ahamkara is what identifies with the self. The mind communicates the message from buddhi to the sense organs. Normally, there is a gap between thought, speech and action. Since the thought is the starting point from which one's speech or feelings follow as actions, much care is to be taken about the good or bad nature of the thoughts. How is one to distinguish between right and wrong? That which is beneficial to the body and mind is to be taken as right; and that which is harmful is wrong. Even as habits get set in people, certain ways of thinking also get ingrained in the mind owing to upbringing and environment. So, having a self-check on one's habits and behaviour, as well as the thoughts arising in the mind, has to be an ongoing process.

## TV PICKS

**ICC World Cup:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD); 3 p.m.
**Wimbledon:** SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD); 5 p.m.

## IN BRIEF

**Aditi stays bogey-free for second day**

ROGERS (US)

Aditi Ashok birdied three of the four par-5s in the second round at the Walmart NW Arkansas championship here. Aditi shot a bogey-free four-under 67 to get to nine-under 133 and was tied 12th at the halfway stage. Aditi trailed twin leaders Sung Hyun Park and Carlota Ciganda by four shots. PTI

## Nagal falls to Petrovic

SPORTS BUREAU
MILAN

Davis Cupper Sumit Nagal was beaten 7-5, 6-2 by Danilo Petrovic of Serbia in the semifinals of the €46,600 Challenger on Sunday.

Sumit collected 29 ATP points and €2,160.

## Vatsal tops

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Vatsal Chaudhari of Gujarat clocked 1:12:34 to win the men's 24-40 age group title in the inaugural National Open aquathlon championships on Sunday.

**The results (winners only): 11-13 years (swimming 200m, running 1.5km): Boys:** S. Athouba Meitei (Man) 8:35; **Girls:** Rithika B.M. (Kar) 10:12. **14-16 (400m, 3km): Boys:** Ansil S. (Ker) 17:14; **Girls:** Chaitya Jain (Kar) 20:33. **17-19 (750m, 5km): Men:** Nitai Randeria (Guj) 30:05; **Women:** Devika Srikanth (Kar) 33:37. **20-23 (1000m, 8km): Men:** S.A. Shashikiran (Kar) 45:3; **Women:** Riddhi Kadam (Guj) 56:56. **24-40 (1500m, 10km): Men:** Vatsal Chaudhari (Guj) 1:12:34; **Women:** Rehana Sultan (Mah) 2:00:21.

# Monu shoots gold

### Sarabjot falters on the final shot after leading all the way

**The final one:** Monu, right, waits eagerly for Sarabjot to fire. ▪ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

## SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Monu Tomar of Air Force delivered a 10.2 on his final attempt to clinch a dramatic gold in men's air pistol in the 19th Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship which concluded at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Sunday.

Trailing by a full point before the last shot, Monu released his shot quick and then the spectators took over, putting pressure on Sarabjot who delayed his last shot and eventually fumbled to 8.9, undoing all the good work.

Sarabjot, who had won the Asian junior gold earlier this season, had topped qualification with 584, and was cruising towards the gold before the climax took a toll on his nerves.

Sharvan Kumar won the junior and youth silver medals behind World champion Vijayveer Sidhu and Naved Choudhary respectively.

**Dramatic finish**

It was another dramatic last shot in the junior category too, but Vijayveer had built such a good lead that even a 8.7 last shot failed to stop him from grabbing the gold. Sharvan did shoot 10.3 on the final shot, but Vijayveer won by 0.6 point. Kunal Rana won the bronze, as Sarabjot slipped to the fourth place.

The day concluded with another gripping climax in the youth section as Naved and Sharvan were tied going into the last shot. Naved had a 10.6 compared to Sharvan's 9.5.

**The results:**

**10m air pistol: Men:** 1. Monu Tomar 240.5 (581); 2. Sarabjot Singh 240.2 (584); 3. Omkar Singh 218.5 (579).

**Juniors:** 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 243.9 (578); 2. Sharvan Kumar 243.3 (579); 3. Kunal Rana 221.1 (578).

**Youth:** 1. Naved Chaudhary 242.6 (577); 2. Sharvan Kumar 241.5 (579); 3. Udhayveer Sidhu 221.2 (575).

## Peru stuns Uruguay

## COPA AMERICA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SALVADOR

Goalkeeper Pedro Gallese saved Luis Suarez's spot-kick as Peru beat Uruguay on penalties on Saturday to reach the Copa America semifinals, where it will face Chile. The defending champion had earlier made the grade in similar fashion when it beat strong rival Colombia via penalty shoot-out, with Alexis Sanchez firing in the winning goal.

Edison Flores scored the decisive penalty as Peru qualified for the semifinals for the third time in the last four editions of the Copa.

It was a remarkable turnaround for Gallese, who was the villain in the 5-0 thrashing received at the hands of Brazil earlier.

But in Salvador he guessed the right way for the first shoot-out penalty to deny Barcelona forward Suarez, after which Peru's own penalty-takers were faultless.

Uruguay had three goals ruled out for offside during normal time. Giorgian de Arrascaeta, Edinson Cavani and Suarez had all put the ball in the net, only to be denied by a linesman's flag.

**The result:** Uruguay 0 drew with Peru 0 (Peru win 5-4 on penalties).

# First big victory for Dean

### Gill goes for kill, finishes third

RAYAN ROZARIO
CHENNAI

## INRC

Overnight leader Dean Mascarenhas (Shruptha Padival) of Team Champions held his nerve to finish on top in the overall category of the 41st South India Rally, the first round of the Champions Yacht Club-FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship, here on Sunday.

With the big guns around, nobody gave Dean a chance to win this prestigious rally. But the 26-year-old from Mangaluru, who had issues with his car as well, knew he had the ability to beat the best in the business. And with JK Tyre backing him all the way, it further made his journey easy. With Gaurav Gill (Musa Sherif) pushing to the maximum in almost every stage and Fabid Ahmer (G. Sanath) fighting as well, Dean withstood the pressure to take the crown.

The day began with Gill on a smashing mood. There were some big changes (suspension, chassis and dynamics) made to the car and the team also 'found a tune' that suited the current day temperatures. That set the tone for the six-time champion to go for the kill on the final day. He was the second fastest on the first stage (tarmac) and was the quickest by a big margin in the next (Aavisa). Unfortunately for him, there were some cows on the road and he had to stop. He hoped the stewards take a look and give the lost time back to him.

**The results: INRC Overall:** 1. Dean Mascarenhas & Shruptha Padival 1:45.10.8s; 2. Fabid Ahmer & G. Sanath 1:45:24.4; 3. Gaurav Gill & Musa Sherif 1:45:27.6.

**INRC:** 1. Gaurav Gill & Musa Sherif; 2. Phalguna URS & Srikanth Gowda 1:48:04.5. **INRC 2:** Dean Mascarenhas & Shruptha Padival; 2. Rahul Kanthraj & Vivek Bhatt 1:45:28.6; 3. M. Ritesh Guttedar & H.J. Lokaranjan1:53:13.3.

**INRC 3:** 1. Fabid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 2. Arjun Rao & Shanmuga Sundaram 1:46:40.2; 3. Daraius Shroff & Sheeraz Ahmed 1:47:40.7. **INRC 4:** 1. Vaibhav Marate & Arjun SSB 1:53:02.1; 2. Rakshith Iyer & Chandrashekar 1:54:30.7; 3. Shirole Prakhyat & S.M. Bharath 1:59:19.7.

## Aronyak keeps winning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

West Bengal's Aronyak Ghosh, the boys' top seed, continued to win, but there were a couple of minor upsets in the girls' section in the second round of the 30th National under-17 chess championship at the Oberon Mall here on Sunday.

**Important results (second round): Open:** Aronyak Ghosh (WB, 2) bt S. Nidheshpa (TN, 1); Wairagade Khush (Mah, 1) lost to Neelash Saha (WB, 2); Vatsal Singhania (Jha, 2) bt P. Hruthik Lokesh (TS, 1).

Antony Jesumarian Leslie (TN, 1) lost to Utsab Chatterjee (WB, 2); D.V. Ananthapandamabh (Ker, 1) lost to R. Sibi Vishal (TN, 2).

**Girls:** B. Leaha (TN, 1) lost to Shanya Mishra (Del, 2); L. Jyothsna (TN, 2) bt S. Annapurni (TN, 1); Diya Chowdhury (WB, 2) bt S. Vijayasubhasri (TN, 1).

R. Harsha (TN, 1) lost to Nitya Laheri (Guj, 2); Divyabharathi Masanam (TN, 1.5) drew with Anjtha Krishnakumar (Ker, 1.5); Swara Lakshmi Nair (Kar, 2) bt V. Nanditha (TS, 1); Sneha Bharathakoti (Tel, 2) bt M.K. Poorna Sri (TN, 1).

# ONGC trumps Air India for title

BHRIGU BAGGA
NEW DELHI

**Champion:** The ONGC team which won the DDCA Hot Weather cricket tournament. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

Oil and Natural Gas Commission, propelled by centuries from Tanmay Srivastava and Hiten Dalal, beat Air India in the final of the DDCA Hot Weather cricket tournament at the Ferozeshah Kotla here on Saturday. The match was a day-night affair.

ONGC elected to bat on a humid afternoon. Opening the innings, Srivastava and Dalal, after two maiden overs, launched a brilliant charge. Both complemented each other with Dalal being the aggressor without taking any risks. The best was the 21st over of the innings when the pair smashed 21 off the spin of Lalit Yadav.

Dalal smashed six sixes and eight fours in his 82-ball knock before he was caught on the boundary. His partnership with Srivastava was worth 186 runs.

ONGC reached 292 for five in 40 overs to throw a stiff challenge to Air India.

Combined bowling effort saw ONGC bowl out Air India for 213.

Srivastava was adjudged the best batsman of the tournament, while teammate Saurabh was the best bowler.

**The scores:** ONGC 292 for five in 40 overs (Tanmay Srivastava 108, Hiten Dalal 102, Mayank Dagar 31, Prince Yadav four for 56) bt Air India 213 in 35.2 overs (Ekansh Dobal 67, Mayank Dagar four for 41).

# Chetri, Suhana, Umesh and Diya win titles

## NORTH ZONE TT

RAKESH RAO
SONEPAT

Aadarsh Chetri and Suhana Saini took contrasting routes to assert their superiority in the sub-junior singles finals of the National ranking table tennis (North Zone) tournament here on Sunday.

On the concluding day of the championship, when all four winners, including two in the cadet singles, came from different states, Chetri was most convincing as he packed off Preyesh Raj Suresh in straights sets.

Suhana, the local favourite, dropped the second set to Maharashtra's Taneesha Kotecha and sealed the title after extended points in the fifth set.

UP's Umesh Kumar stayed in control during his 4-1 conquest of Maharashtra's Dhruv Shah while Bengal's Diya Brahmachary needed six sets to tame teammate Nandini Saha.

**The results:**

**Sub-junior boys (final):** Aadarsh Om Chetri (Del) bt Preyesh Raj Suresh (TN) 11-9, 11-5, 12-10, 13-11. **Semifinals:** Chetri bt Sarth Mishra (UP) 11-5, 11-5, 15-13, 13-11; Preyesh bt Divyansh Srivastava (UP) 11-9, 11-6, 6-11, 11-9, 8-11, 13-11.

**Sub-junior girls (final):** Suhana Saini (Har) bt Taneesha Kotecha (Mah) 12-10, 8-11, 11-3, 11-9, 13-11. **Semifinals:** Suhana bt Nilishia Sarkar (Ben) 11-8, 11-9, 11-5, 11-9; Taneesha bt Sneha Bhowmick (Ben) 15-13, 11-9, 11-7, 8-11, 11-9.

**Cadet Boys (final):** Umesh Kumar (UP) bt Dhruv Shah (Mah) 11-6, 11-9, 11-6, 7-11, 11-9. **Semifinals:** Umesh bt Divyaj Roy (PSPBA) 11-9, 13-11, 11-9; Dhruv bt Kshetrimayun Singh (PSPBA) 13-11, 11-8, 5-11, 8-11, 11-9.

**Cadet girls (final):** Diya Brahmachary (Ben) bt Nandini Saha (Ben) 11-9, 5-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-5, 13-11. **Semifinals:** Nandini bt Jennifer Varghese (Mah) 7-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-3, 11-9; Diya bt M. Hansini (TN) 12-10, 11-8, 11-7.

# War Hammer bags Colts Championship Stakes

**Taking the honours:** V. Harimohan Naidu, BTC chairman, presenting The Colts Championship Stakes to Gayatri Basapa, one of the owners of War Hammer, as the other owners Appu Subaiah, B.S. Manjunath, Gautam Basapa, Yashi, Dr. C.A. Prashanth, jockey P. Trevor, trainer Prasanna Kumar, breeder Dr. Dinesh, look on. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

## RACING

**BENGALURU:** Prasanna Kumar-trained War Hammer (Trevor astride) won the Colts Championship Stakes, the second classic of the season. The winner is the property of Dr. C.A. Prashanth, Mr. Gautam Basapa, Mr. Manjunath B.S. and Mr. Apana Subaiya P.

The son of Air Support-Soviet Lake, with Trevor Patel in the saddle, was racing second last till the final turn, improved gradually, came with gigantic stride and collared his rival Impavid in the last 50m to register his fourth win in a row.

**THE RESULTS:**

1 **ADLER STAKES** (1,600m), rated 15 to 35: **KIRKWOOD** (John) 1, Crack Of Dawn (Sandesh) 2, Ido What I Do (Akshay K) 3 and Revan Star (Shobhan) 4. 1, 3/4 and 12. 1m 38.23s. ₹34 (w), 12, 11 and 14 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 34, FP: 79, Q: 35, Trinella: 237 and 117, Exacta: 1,977 and 1,448. Favourite: Crack Of Dawn.

Owners: M/s. Rajagiri Rubber & Produce Co. Ltd. rep by Mr. & Mrs. Dilip Thomas. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

2 **RED DIVINE PLATE** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **GIFT OF GRACE** (Zervan) 1, Constanza (Sandesh) 2, Stroke Of Genius (Sai Vamshi) 3 and Donna Bella (Suraj) 4. 8-3/4, 4 and 1. 1m 11.91s. ₹38 (w), 13, 12 and 90 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 191, FP: 78, Q: 39, Trinella: ₹2,268 and 2,297, Exacta: 8,863 and 1,834. Favourite: Constanza. Owner: Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Parvati Byramji.

3 **GUINDY PLATE** (1,200m), rated 00 to 20: **SIMPLY MAGICAL** (Yash) 1, Himachali (Trevor) 2, Regal Force (Koushik) 3 and Duty Call (Arshad) 4. 1-1/4, 1 and 1/2. 1m 13.76s. ₹76 (w), 17, 12 and 16 (p), SHP: 48, THP: 36, FP: 196, Q: 71, Trinella: 950 and 407, Exacta: 2,139 and 1,404. Favourite: Himachali. Owner: Mr. Daulat Chhabria. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

4 **JUSTICE P. MEDAPA MEMORIAL TROPHY** (1,400m), rated 30 to 50: **CORONA DEL CORSA** (Suraj) 1, Land Of Liberty (Rajesh K) 2, Akita Pro (Trevor) 3 and Star Cavalry (Sandesh) 4. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 1-3/4. 1m 25.96s. ₹22 (w), 12, 22 and 10 (p), SHP: 72, THP: 45, FP: 193, Q: 172, Trinella: 460 and 92, Exacta: 1,229 and 658. Favourite: Akita Pro. Owners: Mr. K. Harish Nayak, Mr. Pratap Madhukar Kamath, Mr. Sunil K. Vasant and Mr. Barkatali Kanji Chatur. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

5 **COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES** (1,600m), 3-y-o colts, (Terms): **WAR HAMMER** (Air Support-Soviet Lake) Trevor 1, **IMPAVID** (Air Support-Polenta) Sandesh 2, **LIGHTNING BOLT** (Excellent Art-Shamaal) Zervan 3 and **TRAFALGAR** (Western Aristocrat-Bluegrass Phenom) Suraj 4. 3/4, 6 and 1-1/4. 1m 36.11s. ₹16 (w), 11, 16 and 28 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 54, FP: 55, Q: 31, Trinella: 412 and 239, Exacta: 908 and 255. Favourite: War Hammer.

Owners: Dr. C.A. Prashanth, Mr. Gautam Basapa, Mr. Manjunath B.S. and Mr. Apana Subaiya. P. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6 **CLASSIC ACT PLATE** (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: **WAR HERO** (R. Manish) 1, Wings Of Desire (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Kvasir (Akshay K) 3 and Constantinople (Trevor) 4. 4-1/4, 1 and hd. 1m 12.22s. ₹71 (w), 24, 18 and 17 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 61, FP: 268, Q: 300, Trinella: 1,395 and 454, Exacta: 4,383 and 1,552. Favourite: Kvasir.

Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt. Ltd. rep by Mr. & Mrs. Shapoor P. Mistry and Mr. & Mrs. Cyrus P. Mistry & M.R. Stud Farms Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. N. Chandrashekar Rai. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

7 **RACING PATRONS TROPHY** (1,600m), rated 75 & over: **AUTOMATIC** (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Auburn (Akshay K) 2, Kambaku (John) 3 and Isn't She Lovely (Sandesh) 4. Lnk, 1 and 2-1/2. 1m 36.74s. ₹273 (w), 38, 19 and 17 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 35, FP: 2,403, Q: 943, Trinella: 6,694 and 2,086, Exacta: 34,616 and 8,901. Favourite: Isn't She Lovely.

Owners: Mr. D. Shailesh Shivaswamy, Mr. P. Ashwin Pai, Mr. K. Ravi and Mr. Sudarshan M. Raju. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

8 **CLASSIC ACT PLATE** (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: **STAR MAN** (Trevor) 1, Birchwood (A. Qureshi) 2, Bold Move (Zervan) 3 and Amber Crown (Sandesh) 4. 1-1/4, 3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 13.67s. ₹18 (w), 12, 88 and 16 (p), SHP: 216, THP: 41, FP: 580, Q: 365, Trinella: 1,332 and 584, Exacta: 5,992 and 3,021. Favourite: Star Man.

Owner: Mr. T.C.V. Ramani. Trainer: G. Nityanand.

Jackpot: ₹46,487 (17 tkts); Runner up: 9,961 (34 tkts); Treble (i): 515 (41 tkts); (ii): 4,336 (seven tkts).

## So holds Anand

SPORTS BUREAU
ZAGREB

Wesley So resorted to perpetual checks and held Viswanathan Anand to a 27-move draw in the fourth round of the Croatia Grand Chess Tour here on Saturday.

On a day when all games ended in draws, Ian Nepomniachtchi continued to lead with 3.5 points, a point ahead of Magnus Carlsen and Wesley So.

**The results (fourth round):** Wesley So (USA, 2.5) drew with Viswanathan Anand (1.5); Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 3.5) drew with Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 2); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 2.5) drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 1.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 2) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5); Levon Aronian (Arm, 2) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 2); Ding Liren (Chn, 1.5) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 1.5).

## Abhijeet stays strong on shock-filled day

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Favourite Abhijeet Gupta survived a day of upsets but second seed S.L. Narayanan became the biggest name of the long casualty list in the second round of the Commonwealth chess championship here on Sunday.

After the morning's first round saw the three top women's seeds – 14-year-old Divya Deshmukh, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni – settle for draws against players rated more than 500 points below, several men's seeds were left embarrassed in the afternoon round.

When the dust settled after fierce battles resulted in a series of surprise outcomes, 17 players shared the lead with two points.

IM P. Saravana Krishnan reached the threshold of checkmating Narayanan after 45 moves when the youngster resigned.

Botswana's little-known Providence Oatihotse held former champion M.R. Lalith Babu, seeded four, in 73 moves following perpetual checks.

**Stunning results**

Surprises continued when Ajay Karthikeyan stunned fifth seed Deepan Chakkravarthy in 84 moves and the young sensation from Kerala, Jubin Jimmy, proved equal to sixth seed Debashis Das in just 30 moves.

Two Grandmasters in-waiting P. Iniyan and Swayams Mishra, seeded eight and nine, crashed to shock defeats at the hands of rising talents L.R. Srihari and V. Varshini.

DELHI THE HINDU
MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019

# *The Office* COMES TO INDIA

Actor Gopal Dutt on giving the international sitcom an Indian twist, his love for theatre and why he's going beyond comic roles

NEHA BHATT

He is Internet's funny man, stamped with a trademark tongue-in-cheek brand of humour. Actor Gopal Dutt, last seen as a police officer in the Netflix series *Delhi Crime*, is back on screen with the Indian adaptation of the hit British series *The Office*, which premièred yesterday. The theatre actor known for his role as 'the quirky guy' in comedy sketches and web shows seems an appropriate choice to inhabit the memorable character, Dwight Schrute, from the popular international sitcom.

**An Indian twist**

A few days before the 13-episode mockumentary – created for Applause Entertainment by BBC Studios India – released, Dutt said over the phone from Mumbai that he was "a little excited, a little nervous." This is because, he explains, there have been several comments from fans of the US and the UK versions of *The Office* asking why they were doing an Indian version at all. Despite the air of apprehension, he hopes that the Indian audience will appreciate how the show has been moulded to a relatable Indian context.

In the series directed by Rohan Sippy and Debbie Rao, Dutt plays TP Mishra, the obsequious, poker-faced, bespectacled assistant to the regional manager Jagdeep Chadda (played by Mukul Chadda) at the firm, Wilkins Chawla. Mishra has an interesting chemistry with his boss, which forms the crux of his role. "I have known Mukul for a long time and we have done theatre together, so there was a comfort level," he says. Though the main arc and quirks of his character are the same as the American version, Dutt got the chance to infuse his own energy into the role. "For example, my character likes to speak in *shuddh* Hindi, is very *sanskaari*, and he likes to use everything *swadeshi*," explains the actor, adding that he didn't want to merely copy Dwight's mannerisms, so he read the script several times to tap into the nuances of the man and his eccentricities to interpret them in his own way.

**Comic timing** (Clockwise from far left) Dutt in *The Office* and a still from *Filmistaan*.

**Beyond comedy**

With nearly two decades of acting experience, Dutt, 40, has starred in films such as *Mujhe Kuchh Kehna Hai*, *Tere Naam* and the National Award-winning *Filmistaan* (2012). "After that, I started getting the same kind of roles, mostly the hero's friend, so I decided I was not going to do them. I went back to theatre till the internet scene exploded," shares the actor who moved to Mumbai 18 years ago.

The actor has made his mark with web series *TVF Pitchers* (2015) and *TVF Bachelors* (2016), and a number of sketches such as 'A Day in a Government Office' and 'Things Indian Fathers will Never Say'. Dutt is currently in the almost typecast zone as the "nice, slightly cynical and annoying man", something he is hoping to shake off. "I think I've done enough of comedy and I am now more selective. That's why I did *Delhi Crime*, which is a totally different role. I want to challenge myself."

> *I think I've done enough of comedy and I am now more selective. That's why I did* Delhi Crime, *which is a totally different role*

His roles may be small, but he makes his presence felt on screen. In his one scene-bit in the comedy drama, *Shubh Mangal Savdhan* (2017), Dutt steals the show playing a veterinary doctor with straight-faced hilarity, who has only practical wisdom to offer a troubled to-be groom (Ayushmann Khurrana) who suffers erectile dysfunction. There are a few more films on the anvil, along with season two of *Delhi Crime*. "I like films or series based on real incidents. I find what has happened in reality is more strange and surprising than fiction, such as *Delhi Crime* and *Wild Wild Country*," he says.

**Theatre calling**

Dutt is, however, most at home doing theatre. Born and brought up in Nainital, he stumbled upon acting in high school when he happened to meet the local theatre group, Yug Manch. He started doing plays with them while pursuing a BSc degree. He later moved to Delhi to study at the National School of Drama, after which he moved to Mumbai to do theatre.

Even though films and web shows take up a chunk of his time now, he continues to be involved in theatre, currently in a play called *Kaumudi* with director and playwright Abhishek Majumdar. It's been a long journey to where he is now and as he straddles the film, web and theatre world, he feels like an insider as well as an outsider. "When you are involved in a project you feel like an insider, but when you don't have a job, you feel like an outsider. It keeps changing. I do get recognised now and my roles are being appreciated, but I am still looking for good work," Dutt ends with a sheepish laugh.

*Season 1 of The Office is now streaming on Hotstar*

DOWN MEMORY LANE

# Lost charm of Hauz Khas

The architectural beauty of Hauz Khas inspired Taimur the Lame to built edifices at Samarkand, but this historically relevant place has now become a commercial hub

R. V. SMITH

When Taimur the Lame camped on the bank of Hauz Khas in 1398, his historian Sharfuddin Yazdi remarked that the place was not only a good retreat, but worthy of respect for its creator. The historian had wrongly thought it was built by Firoz Shah Tughlak. Built by Alauddin Khilji, the tank complex had Firoz only add to it.

At that time, Taimur had just defeated Mahmud Tughlak and was gloating over his victory, but he did have an eye for architecture.

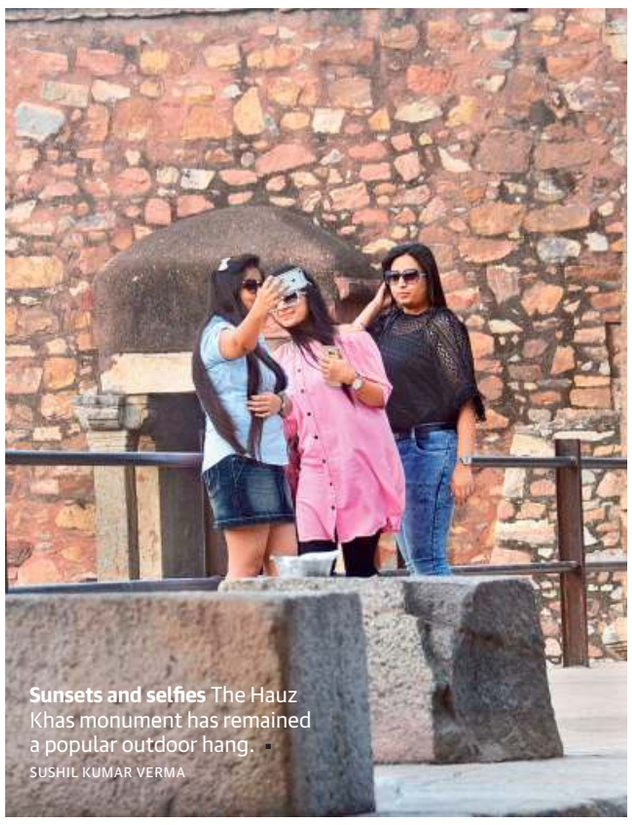
**A departure in the tale**

Students of history will recall that after his return to Samarkand, Amir Taimur built many majestic edifices, including a famous mosque with the help of the artisans he had taken from India. But there was one which was the brainchild of his beautiful Begum. When the monument was completed, she was overjoyed because the architect had been able to give concrete shape to her dream edifice. It was early evening when she went to view it.

She was all alone and asked the architect what reward she could give him for the masterpiece. The man replied that the reward was beyond her. The Begum's curiosity piqued; she asked him to name it and told him that it would be his. The master builder hesitated and then whispered, 'a kiss'.

The Begum looked at the man, not a handsome one at all. Even so, she thought he deserved it and nodded assent. The shadows were lengthening when the architect (was he also from India?) took the Begum in his arms and kissed her with such passion that he left a black mark on her cheek.

In Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*, the protagonist, tells the apparition of Helen of Troy that he conjures: "Sweet Helen, make me immortal with a kiss." . In the case of the architect, the request worked the other way round, for instead of immortality he got death.



**Sunsets and selfies** The Hauz Khas monument has remained a popular outdoor hang. ▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

**Back to Hauz Khas**

The spies had seen it all, and Taimur's vengeance followed. But the Begum carried that black mark on her cheek for as long as she lived. However, the monument on which her fame rests is one built by the unfortunate architect – according to one version he did not have to pay with his life after all.

That evening in 1398, Taimur enjoyed the sunset over Delhi – it was the best site in the capital to do so even as late as the 1960s. The British too had felt the same way. One heard the song, "*Jab sham dhale aanaa, Jab deep jalen aanaa*" (come at twilight by lamp light) sung by Yesudas in that setting at sundown many years ago. The echo is still heard deep in the heart even in the mundane surroundings of Hauz Khas.

The modern Hauz Khas village seems to be the culprit. Ever since it came up, the monument has lost its sanctity. The village that had co-existed with the monument for centuries has vanished, and in its place have come up shops, restaurants, boutiques and what not. The neo-rich flaunt their affluence at a place where once "the plowman homeward plods his weary way" and instead of the "lowing herd" there are cars aplenty parked right up to the monument, so much so that one finds it difficult to make one's way to it.

The high prices offered to the villagers made them sell both their lands and ancestral homes. Now, nobody seems to be able to enforce any order or discipline. According to the Delhi Conservation Society, while the monument is under the charge of the Archaeological Survey of India, the ground surrounding it is the DDA's which means right up to the steps of Hauz Khas. Though the ASI maintains the monument properly, it cannot do anything about the surroundings.

A strange state of affairs, indeed!

Especially given that Alauddin excavated the space after a dream in which he saw the hoof of the Prophet's steed strike a piece of ground and water flow out from it. The dream took the shape of a tank, Hauz-e-Alai, to meet the needs of the inhabitants of the second city of Delhi, Siri, which he founded in 1304.

In 1354, Firoz Tughlak desilted the Hauz and built several buildings around it in an L-shaped pattern covering the entire 70-acre area. He also built a double-storeyed madrasa, with colonnades and residential quarters for students and teachers. The rubble-built tomb of Firoz Tughlak is also there, in the form of a plastered square chamber. Buried alongside are the emperor's second son and grandson. The entrance is through an eastern door. In 1507, Sikandar Lodhi repaired the tomb. At one time the villagers grew crops over the dry tank. Now, because of the new Hauz Khas village evenings do not come there as coyly as they used before.

*The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi*

# A storm-stuck Marauder's Map in ITO

Harry Potter Wizards Unite launched on June 21, and the Augmented Reality game lets us Muggles banish trolls lurking in the *gallis* and overpower curses in *pakoda* stalls

TEAM METROPLUS

It's a 42°C summer day in Delhi (the 'feels like' is at 46°C, in case you're the kind that looks for nuance), but I've just stumbled onto a Marauder's Map stuck in a Confoundable storm. It feels like a whole other reality has overlapped onto mine – it has, only, it's the augmented kind. It's also one that's bringing much needed magic on a dreary summer day – the precipitation, aside I mean, with the Marauder's Map.

I'm on the Harry Potter Wizards Unite (HPWU), a game that works along the lines of Pokémon Go; hold up your phone and you are deployed virtual images over real-world objects. Currently, the game is ranked second on Apple App Store's list of role-playing games, and there have been 5,000,000-plus installs so far (which could also include Beta versions) via Google Play.

Right now, there's not a single person braving this mid-morning heat, so I cast a spell, unabashed. I half-moon-zig-zag my finger across my phone screen to do a Meteolojinx Recanto. The storm 'counfoundable' (a curse that basically confounds the wizard's ability to return the magical found-object to its rightful place) lifts when I overpower it with my spell-casting skills. Great, it says. I have helped Harry Potter, by returning the map to him. I haven't been this invested in J. K. Rowling's universe for almost a decade now.

The game's overlay works in real-time with the input received from your phone's camera, so you can assume the dangers that may come with such a 'distraction-cum-attraction'. Safety warnings in the form of news analyses and social media posts littered the Internet, and given the PUBG mayhem with the Indian courts, the fears of AR-driven games are legitimate. Just as predicted, HPWU does make you do some outlandish things, which the quotidian version of yourself wouldn't be caught dead doing – that is, if the country's existing mobile data speeds allow it.

I was stuck on 3G for a while before my mobile data snapped back to 4G. So it took me a while, even on the major Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, to know where the magic on the street was littered. Once there, the map was also a little outdated – the overlay for a neighbouring media office shows it to be in working condition, while the reality when I look up from my screen is large blue construction barriers.

Meanwhile, in Hyderabad, a colleague pulled over off the main road in pre-rain traffic to run to a *mirchi-bajji* (or *pakoda)* stall and asked the vendor not to move, while she overpowered a curse to return a Remembrall (a large marble-sized glass ball that contains smoke which turns red when its owner has forgotten something) to Neville Longbottom. Of course, there were stunned whispers from those gathered around, and annoyed glares from irritable commuters.

When I got back into my empty bay in office on a slow Saturday morning, there was still much to tackle. The editor was yet to come in, but lurking in her cabin was a gigantic Mountain Troll with a megaphone. I quickly cast a Diffindo to clear him out before she got into work, before settling back into my muggle-work-seat, feeling mildly heroic.

In true netizen fashion, the Internet has already launched its own sub-Reddit page complete with how-to guides, hacks and, of course, memes. We won't go into details; if you're a member of the Potterverse, it's only fair you experience it and become just as spellbound!

*(With inputs from Vangmayi Parakala and Divya Kala Bhavani)*

**Expecto Perfection!** Screengrabs of the Marauder's Map in the game; the game as it appears on a device. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

*Read the full story on thehindu.com*

An effective consultation
Providing even minute details about the child to the doctor is important ▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

# Get the best out of your paediatrician

To say your child is unwell is not enough. Equip yourself with these observations to make the consultation smoother

SARASWATHY NAGARAJAN

The eight-year-old running a temperature and complaining of a headache turned out to be suffering from encephalitis. "It was her alert mother's observation that saved her life. The mother realised that her daughter was irritable and confused when she returned from school and rushed her child to the clinic," recalls senior consultant paediatrician Dr Pradeep Kidangoor, from Thiruvananthapuram.

Paediatricians often rely on parents and caregivers for a clear picture of symptoms of illnesses. Sometimes, they have to play Sherlock Holmes and ask the right questions to get details from the parents.

Dr GR Nandakumar, a veteran paediatrician based out of Thiruvananthapuram, says: "It is not enough to say 'my child is unwell'. Explain and describe what is wrong and why she has been brought to the doctor." In fact, Dr Kidangoor says that it is better to write down all that you want to ask the doctor and your observations about why you feel your child is unwell.

So, for a smooth consultation, what would a paediatrician like parents to ask them and share with them?

**In case of fevers**

"Infants and children with fever account for about 50% of consultation in a paediatric outpatient clinic," says Dr Dinesh Kaul, Consultant Paediatrician, Infectious Diseases and Immunology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi.

"In a nutshell, the duration of fever, intensity, periodicity of fever, rash, headache, vomiting, dysuria (discomfort during urination), sensorial changes, history of seizures, ear discharge and history of recurrent fever or hospitalisation should be shared with the doctor," he says.

He elaborates: "We need to know if the fever is associated with any rash or mucosal eruptions. Infants with fever and ear discharge or increased irritability or colic or vomiting need to be seen on priority basis, and may warrant intravenous antibiotics for serious brain infection i.e. meningitis or encephalitis.

Children with fever and acute pain in the abdomen need to be evaluated for any evidence of acute appendicitis, peritonitis (inflammation in the abdomen) or pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas). Children with longer duration of fever of one to two weeks are screened for urinary tract infections, tuberculosis and typhoid fever. So mention every symptom.

Children who have unpasteurised milk and milk products are susceptible to a bacterial infection called brucellosis, which goes undetected for a few weeks before proper history is taken and appropriate tests are ordered for. Talk about this, too.

Were there any symptoms like a cough, cold, running nose and history of wheezing? The doctor may suggest an antiviral agent initiated within 48 hours of symptoms. So do visit the doctor within the time period.

Seemingly minor details are also important. Children going to summer camps being bitten by scrub typhus mites or lice infestation or travel to mid-western areas of the US are important to be taken in the history. These children get fever and rash after a week or two after initial travel to endemic areas.

**HELLO DOCTOR**

Let the primary caregiver accompany you and your child to the doctor. Write down the symptoms and your observations. Also, your doubts, details about your child's diet and routine, and any kind of emotional or mental distress (such as a new school).

**DON'T...**

Take your relatives and neighbours into the consulting room.

Hide any previous illnesses or medicines given earlier.

Stop your child from talking about his aches and pains.

Stop the medicines after the symptoms ease, or extend the course prescribed.

Go online to treat your child.

**Breathe easy**

Respiratory illnesses and problems related to it are common among young children and babies. What does one need to observe to tell the doctor? Dr Ganesh Mohan, RMO of Government Medical College, Ernakulam, explains:

Tell him succinctly what is wrong. When did it start? Were you travelling or has there been a change in the surroundings of the child? Was the house being painted? Is there some kind of road work in the vicinity? Is there a fever? What kind of a fever: intermittent or with spikes in temperature? Is there someone in the house with TB? It is curable and treatment should be started immediately. Changes in diet and what the child has been eating. For instance, sometimes children develop pneumonia when a peanut goes into the windpipe and gets trapped in the lungs.

**What about headaches?**

A headache can manifest in a child for several reasons. Dr Kidangoor explains what a parent should jot down while consulting a paediatrician.

What kind of a headache? Other symptoms that might occur with the headache, the time it occurs and its severity. Is there a trigger like exposure to sunlight or too much screen time? Location of the pain is also important: one side, the entire head, like a band around the forehead or below the eye. If there is a cold, the frequency of the cold must be conveyed to the doctor.

Any signs of vomiting, pain in the ear or difficulties in vision are important pointers for the doctor. Has your child fallen somewhere or has she hit her head against something? Are there any signs of emotional distress, irritability or confusion, fits or fainting spells?

The bottom line, say the doctors in one voice, is to trust the doctor and let him get on with the job of treating your child.

WHAT IS IT?

# Anti-vaxxers

▪ GETTY IMAGES/VETTA

SOMA BASU

The world seems to be divided over vaccines. While eight in 10 people in developing countries, including India, trust vaccines to be safe and effective, only 59% of people in the West and Europe agree to the same. They're the anti-vaxxers: people against vaccines.

A recent survey by the Wellcome Global Monitor, a UK-based non-profit Trust involving 140 countries, has brought out the data at a time when the anti-vaxxers are all over social media, talking about the dangers of vaccines.

Who are the anti-vaxxers? Typically, parents who do not wish to vaccinate their child. The report identifies the South Asian countries with the strongest confidence in vaccines, whereas in high-income countries, the number of people who do not believe in the effectiveness of vaccines and even refuse to immunise their offspring, is rising.

"Vaccines are the most powerful public-health tools and vaccinations lead to herd immunity," says Dr Rohini Sridhar, a pathologist and COO, Apollo Hospital-Madurai. "When parents choose not to vaccinate their children, they put not only their own, but also other children at risk."

The anti-vaccine movement gained momentum in the West, largely due to misconceptions about the link between vaccines and autism in children. This can be traced backed to the now-discredited paper published by Dr Andrew Wakefield in *The Lancet* in 1998. It discussed a possible association between MMR vaccines and autism.

People's faith in science is influenced by their background, culture and context. And with the misinformation becoming mainstream, there could be a negative impact on the global fight against diseases that are vaccine-preventable.

For instance, measles that was declared to be eliminated in 2000, due to an innovative vaccine programme, made a comeback in 2014 in California. In 2013, Texas faced the largest outbreak of whooping cough since 1959 and a 12% increase in parental vaccine refusal compared to 2006.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that more than 21 million hospitalisations and 732,000 deaths among children born in the last 20 years will be prevented because of vaccinations.

The Indian Government's national immunisation programme, Mission Indradhanush, makes it mandatory to administer in children the Pentavalent vaccine (protection against five preventable diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, Hepatitis-B, pertussis and haemophilus influenza-B in a single prick), the Measles-Rubella and oral polio vaccine. It has set 2020 as the deadline to achieve more than 90% full immunisation coverage in the country and made it mandatory for school students in 201 high-focus districts across the country.

Dr Rohini says, "Vaccine hesitancy is not a significant problem in clinical practice in India. If at all parents raise concerns about the safety of vaccines, it can usually be overcome by a detailed discussion and dispelling of myths."

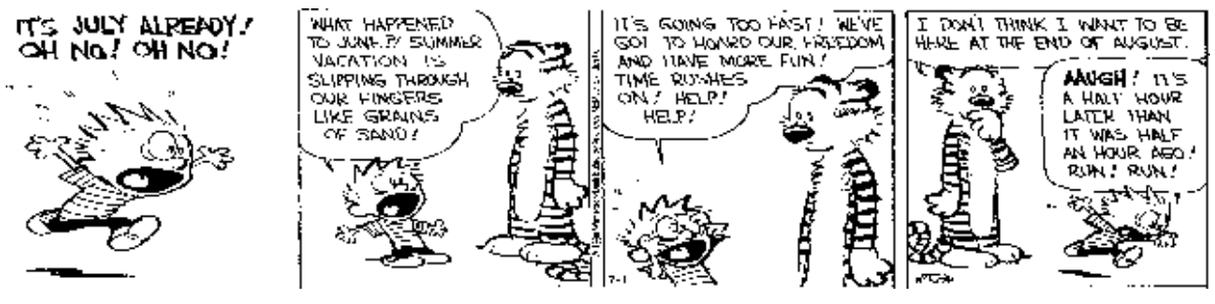
*In this column, we demystify the buzzwords in wellness*

## POOCH CAFE

## PEANUTS

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

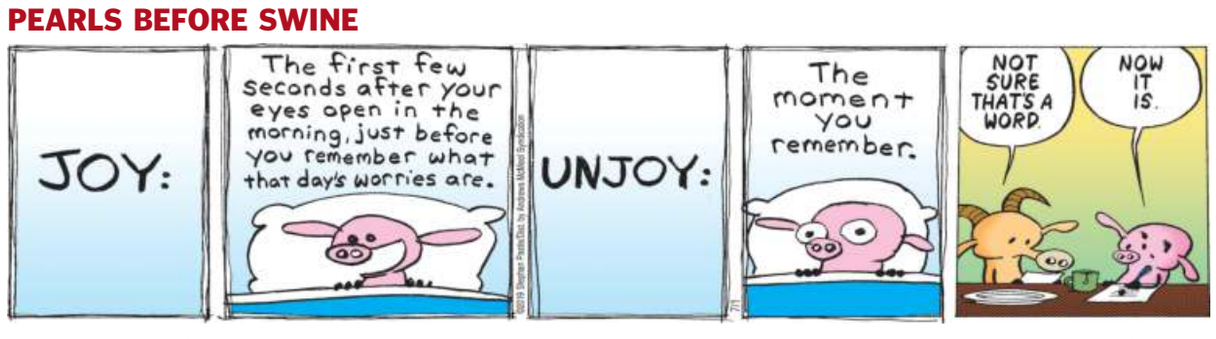
## CALVIN AND HOBBES

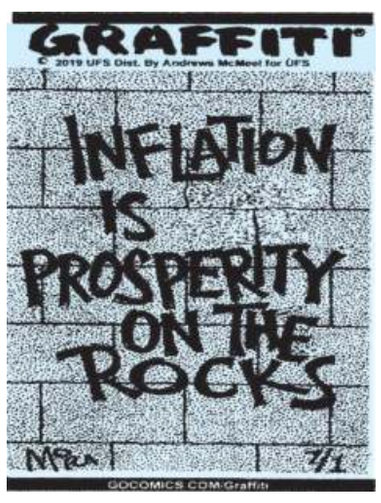


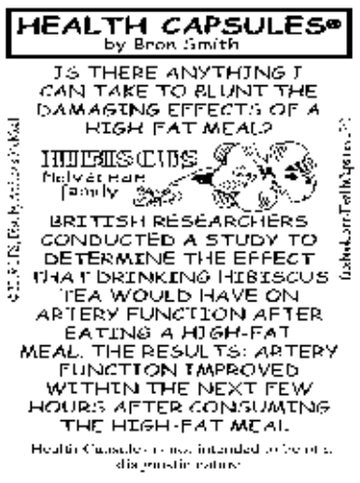

## TIGER

## WUMO

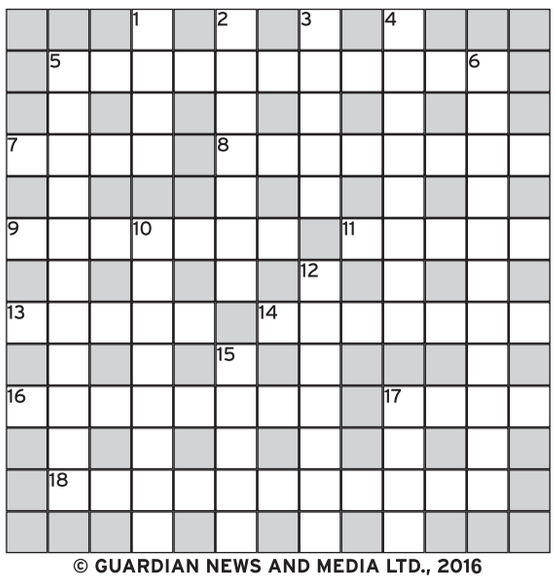
## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE




## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13110



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**Across**
5 Excessively large amount (11)
7 One of the seven deadly sins (4)
8 In an off-hand manner (8)
9 Loose-fitting dress without a waist (7)
11 Ice cream portion (5)
13 Extra payment (5)
14 Minerva, for example (7)
16 Bat-and-ball game (8)
17 Make a reservation (4)
18 Unit of area (6,5)

**Down**
1 Remove the ovaries of a female animal (4)
2 Exact (7)
3 Partially melted snow (5)
4 Paid for (8)
5 Occurring at the same time (11)
6 First US national park, 1872 (11)
10 Lugubrious (8)
12 Disgusting – ie moons (anag) (7)
15 Acquire knowledge (5)
17 Wagers (4)

*Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 2, 2019.*

**Solution No. 13109**

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## IN BRIEF

**Elton delivers message of love at Jazz festival**

MONTREUX

Elton John made his first and last appearance at the Montreux Jazz Festival on Saturday, delivering a slick and energetic performance that ended with a message of tolerance and love. The British singer's two-and-a-half-hour show, part of his "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour, begun last year with his *Bennie and the Jets*. REUTERS

**Sudarsan to compete in Sand Sculpting contest**

BHUBANESWAR

Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik from Odisha will represent India at the International Sand Sculpting Championship 2019 to be held in the Boston city, U.S., between July 21 and 28. As many as 15 sand artists will participate in the championship . He is also a Guinness Book of World record holder. IANS

# Europe sizzles, sweats in record heat

### Weakening of the high-level jet stream is leading summer temperatures to soar across the region

REUTERS
PARIS/MADRID

Wildfires burned tracts of land in France and Spain at the weekend as Europe sweltered in record-breaking temperatures that pushed the mercury towards all-time highs on Sunday in Germany, killing at least seven people.

Temperatures in France's southern Gard region hit an all-time high of 45.9 degrees Celsius on Friday – hotter than in California's Death Valley – sparking scores of fires that burned 550 hectares of land and destroyed several homes and vehicles.

One man died while competing on Saturday in a cycling race in the southwestern Ariege region, in the foothills of the Pyrenees. The 53-year-old crashed after feeling unwell, local public prosecutor Laurent Dumaine said on Sunday, adding police were investigating the precise cause of death.

**Race called off**

The race was called off after several participants were taken sick due to the heat, organisers said.

Another cyclist died in the southern region of Vaucluse, with authorities attributing the man's collapse to the heatwave.

Meteorologists say a weakening of the high-level jet stream is increasingly causing weather systems to stall and leading summer temperatures to soar. Five of Europe's hottest summers in the last 500 years have happened in this century.

Some 25 out of around 90 administrative departments in France have adopted limits on water use including for agriculture, which could affect harvest yields for summer crops like maize that are often irrigated.

"The heatwave has also hit the vineyards of Herault, widespread damage observed," Jerome Despey, a wine producersaid on Twitter, posting photos of shrivelled grapes.

**Extreme risk**

In Spain, 40 out of 50 regions have been put under weather alert with seven of them considered to be at extreme risk. Temperatures in Girona, in northeastern Spain, reached 43.9 degrees on Friday – the highest ever recorded in the Catalan city.

Most of the wildfires that hit Spain in recent days were stabilised over the weekend, but firefighters were struggling to control a blaze in the central provinces of Toledo and Madrid.

Temperatures eased slightly on Sunday although the Spanish national meteorological agency predicted the mercury could stay over 40 degrees Celsius in some parts of the country, in particular in the northeast.

At least seven heat-related deaths have been reported in recent days: In addition to the two French cyclists, two people have died in Spain and three in Italy.

Germany's weather service warned of "extreme" heat on Sunday.

In Frankfurt, 3,000 athletes took part in an IronMan endurance race despite the heat. Female race leader Sarah True of the U.S. collapsed within a km of the finish line of the closing marathon stage.

True, who had already completed a 3.8 km swim and 185 km bike ride, was carried off the course and had to be restrained by first-aid workers concerned for her wellbeing.

"It felt like a race against global warming," said Sebastian Kienle, who finished second in the men's race.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said this week that 2019 was on track to be among the world's hottest years on record, which would make 2015-2019 the hottest five-year period. The European heatwave was "absolutely consistent" with extremes linked to the impact of greenhouse gas emissions, according to the WMO.

**Mercury on the rise:** Athletes trying to cool down as they compete in the Ironman European Championships in Frankfurt, Germany, on Sunday. ▪REUTERS

# Germany to hand over painting looted by Nazis

### Italy to get back Jan van Huysum's artwork

**Heading home:** A copy of the *Vase of Flowers* by Dutch painter Jan van Huysum in Florence. ▪AFP

REUTERS
MILAN

A still-life painting by the Dutch master Jan van Huysum which was looted by retreating Nazi troops during the Second World War, will be given back to Florence, the Italian government has said.

The *Vase of Flowers* oil painting, worth millions of dollars, was originally put on display in Florence in 1824 after it was bought by Grande Duke Leopoldo II for his art collection.

It hung in the city's Pitti Palace until 1940, when it was evacuated to a nearby village following the outbreak of the major war.

Three years later, the painting was seized by German troops and eventually taken to Germany where it only resurfaced following German reunification in 1991 in the hands of a family.

"At long last (the artwork) comes home after 75 years. The battle was tough, today is a great victory for the whole of Italy," said Eike Schmidt, head of Italy's Uffizi Galleries.

Mr. Schmidt, himself a German, has been calling for the return of the artwork to Florence.

# Kenya's tech war on poachers

### Conservancy unveils the world's 'first wildlife tech lab'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
OL PEJETA

A handful of surveillance cameras may not seem very sophisticated for a sanctuary which is also home to the largest population of critically endangered black rhinos anywhere in East Africa. But it's just the tip of the spear.

Last month, Ol Pejeta, a private conservancy on Kenya's Laikipia plateau that shelters the only two northern white rhinos left on earth, launched what it calls the world's first wildlife tech lab – a research hub at the heart of the sanctuary dedicated to bringing conservation management into the information age.

Inside a retrofitted shipping container, computer engineers are testing the next generation of animal tracking chips and developing remote sensors that could one day monitor everything from ranger health to river levels.

The world's last female pair of northern white rhinoceros in Ol Pejeta. ▪AFP

Data on everything from security breaches to fence damage, lion sightings and ranger locations is fed into a digital dashboard, accessible at a finger's touch.

A pair of flashing handcuffs on the screen indicates an arrest. A "poacher contact" alert would trigger the immediate deployment of an armed ranger. It is among the latest technology deployed to combat poaching at Ol Pejeta.

A new camera scans around the clock for intrusions, relaying real-time images to armed guards at park headquarters.

Among other projects, researchers are working towards a chip small enough to fit in a rhino horn, but capable of live transmission of the animals' exact location and core vitals.

Richard Vigne, the chief executive of Ol Pejeta, said the challenge for s researchers would be developing solutions that can be replicated cost-effectively, at scale.

## *Star attraction*

**Ready to fly:** Beijing is set to open an eye-catching multi-billion dollar airport resembling a massive shining starfish, to celebrate the Communist government's 70th anniversary in power. ▪AFP

# Commercial whaling is back in Japan

REUTERS
KUSHIRO

Japanese whaling ships prepared on Sunday to set to sea, with crews gathering on decks in a northern port a day ahead of Japan's first commercial whaling hunt in more than 30 years.

The hunt will be confined to Japan's exclusive economic zone.

It announced last year it was leaving the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and would resume commercial whaling on July 1, sparking global condemnation and fears for the worlds whales.

Japan has long maintained that eating whale is an important part of its culture and that most species are not endangered.

# Baby India found in bag spurs adoption offers

### She has been placed in a temporary home

NEIL VIGDOR
GEORGIA

A Georgia newborn who defied the odds of survival after being abandoned in a plastic bag in the woods is getting hundreds of inquiries for adoption, the head of a State adoption agency said.

Tom C. Rawlings, director of Georgia's Division of Family and Children Services, said there had been more than 700 inquiries since the infant was found on June 6.

A family in Cumming heard the baby crying and called authorities. The newborn was apparently named Baby India by them.

Officials are also using the 3 weeks old Baby India's case to draw attention to the State's Safe Haven law, which allows a mother to leave a baby up to 30 days old with a hospital, institutional infirmary, health centre or police or fire station in the State without being prosecuted. NY TIMES

The newborn has received more than 700 inquiries for adoption. ▪NYT

# WHO brings in norms on self-care interventions

### The world will face a shortage of nearly 13 mn healthcare workers by 2035; 400 mn lack access to essential health services globally

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its first guidelines on self-care interventions for health in response to an estimate that by 2035 the world will face a shortage of nearly 13 million healthcare workers and the fact that currently at least 400 million people worldwide lack access to the most essential health services.

In its first volume, the guidelines focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Some of the interventions include self-sampling for human papillomavirus (HPV) and sexually transmitted infections, self-injectable contraceptives, home-based ovulation predictor kits, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) self-testing and self-management of medical abortion.

**Timely intervention**

These guidelines look at the scientific evidence for health benefits of certain interventions that can be done outside the conventional sector, though sometimes with the support of a health-care provider. They do not replace high-quality health services nor are they a short cut to achieving universal health coverage.

"We foresee a future where around 1 in 5 of the world's population will be living in settings that are experiencing humanitarian crises, this when the world is witnessing growth in new diagnostics, devices, drugs and digital innovations which are transforming how people interact with the health sector," notes WHO.

Explaining what self-care means, the organisation says it is the "the ability of individuals, families and communities to promote health, prevent disease, maintain health, and cope with illness and disability with or without the support of a health-care provider".

In its first volume, the guidelines focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights. ▪GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

It adds that self-care interventions represent a significant push towards new and greater self-efficacy, autonomy and engagement in health for self-carers and caregivers.

"In launching this guideline, WHO recognises how self-care interventions could expand access to health services, including for vulnerable populations. People are increasingly active participants in their own health-care and have a right to a greater choice of interventions that meets their needs across their lifetime, but also should be able to access, control and have affordable options to manage their health and well-being," it said.

WHO noted that self-care is also a means for people who are negatively affected by gender, political, cultural and power dynamics, including those who are forcibly displaced, to have access to sexual and reproductive health services, as many people are unable to make decisions around sexuality and reproduction.

The guidelines, meanwhile, will be expanded to include other self-care interventions, including for prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases.

WHO is establishing a community of practice for self-care, and will be promoting research and dialogue in this area during the self-care month between June 24 and July 24.

# Superchef Alain Ducasse is in pursuit of perfection

### The doyen of France's 'grande cuisine' uses social media to discover new dishes and receive feedback

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MACAU

As one of the world's most decorated chefs, Alain Ducasse is known for his forensic attention to detail – from thrice-ironed tablecloths to hand-picked decor and cutlery.

But he has an unexpected weapon in his pursuit of perfection: he closely monitors social media to keep an eye on customer reviews of his culinary empire.

The 62-year-old is arguably the doyen of France's "grande cuisine". His eateries currently have 20 Michelin stars, more than any living contemporary, and three of his restaurants have the coveted three-star accolade.

Alan Ducasse

But just as Mr. Ducasse – who now boasts more than 30 restaurants across seven countries – blends tradition and modernity in his menus, he sees tech as a way to finesse the dining experience.

It's through social media that he discovered Benoit, his popular New York bistro, was messing up a classic French dish.

"Looking at the customer reviews we realised there was an issue. Everyone was complaining about the roast chicken," said Mr. Ducasse during a visit to Macau.

"It was unbelievable," he recalls, adding that this helped them spot and fix the issue immediately.

The last two decades have seen chefs with global status rapidly expand their international footprint, sometimes at a cost.

Gordon Ramsey's culinary empire has had a financial journey of peaks and troughs almost as notorious as the British chef's famous temper – and his career high of 16 Michelin stars is now trimmed to seven.

Fellow British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver saw his U.K. business go into liquidation earlier this year with the loss of more than 1,000 jobs.

**On a steady rise**

Yet Mr. Ducasse – much like the late Joel Robuchon, whose restaurants earned 32 Michelin stars during his career – sails on, expanding with no shortage of critical acclaim. His Macau restaurant Alain Ducasse at Morpheus, which just celebrated its one year anniversary, earned two Michelin stars within six months.

# Kuwait invalidates IIT degrees, following non-approval of NBA

### HRD sends list of reputed engineering institutions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The HRD Ministry has sent a list of premiere engineering institutes in the country to authorities in Kuwait, where thousands of Indian engineers, including IITians, are staring at possible job losses after the Gulf country decided to recognise degrees only if India's National Board of Accreditation (NBA) approved of the courses.

The Public Authority for Manpower, a government body in Kuwait, had last year issued a circular asking the labour department to not give work permits to expatriate engineers unless they got no-objection certificates from the Kuwait Engineers Society. The decision by Kuwait authorities has brought degrees by prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the invalidation scanner. For India, engineers were to be issued no-objection certificates only if the course had been accredited by the NBA.

"A high-level Indian delegation had visited Kuwait to resolve the issue and it was decided to send lists of 'Non-NBA premier institute' and 'Institutes of National Importance' to Kuwait authorities," a senior official of the Ministry said.

THE HINDU
EDGE
EXCELLENCE THROUGH LEARNING

I don't think of myself as unbreakable. Perhaps I'm just rather flexible and adaptable.
AUNG SAN SUU KYI

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DELHI
MONDAY • JULY 1, 2019

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCKPHOTO

# A shot of innovation

With the draft National Policy on Education laying special emphasis on a robust liberal arts curriculum, it is about time professional institutes look to creating holistic professionals

SAIKAT MAJUMDAR

In post-independence India, the fetish for technocratic education has been a long and deep one. But in the last decade, the nation has shown clear signs of fatigue with this obsession with professional training, most of which has centred on engineering. India's most celebrated institutes of technology education, however, were always meant to go beyond mere technological competence and create a holistically educated technocrat. But this vision has tended to fall by the wayside in the feverish dream of quick upward mobility offered by an engineering degree from an elite institute.

However, recent curricular transformation at these institutes has been something of a personal experience that has come to me following a book I published last year, *College: Pathways of Possibilities*, outlining a vision of liberal arts education in 21st century India. It has given me a string of unexpected associations with leading institutes of engineering and management in the country. Far more than the traditional universities of arts and sciences, these professional institutes have shown a keen interest in this particular vision of "contra-disciplinary" artscience education, especially as a way of bolstering the high-powered engineering and management curricula that form the core of their educational vision. In return, during the visits to these institutes, I have learnt much about their holistic liberal arts curricula that have received renewed energy in a globalised, economically resurgent India.

- Professional institutes show keen interest in "contra-disciplinary" artscience education to enrich core curriculum.
- IIM Indore offers five-year integrated programme — three-year undergraduate education in the fundamental arts and sciences, and a two-year MBA.
- Fields of professional training have been subjected to the colonial bureaucratic model just as restrictively as arts and sciences education.

### Vision for education

At an event hosted last November by the prestigious Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences (BITS) Pilani, the Director, Ashoke Kumar Sarkar drew my attention to the fact that BITS has placed its core curriculum for professional engineering training in close association with a subsidiary curriculum of liberal education in the humanities and the social sciences at least since the 1970s. Which is not at all far from the original vision behind the IITs, the brain-children of India's first Prime Minister, the science and research-focused Jawaharlal Nehru. Some of these institutes were shaped after the vision of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which has claimed not only ground-breaking linguists and economists on its faculty, but also a robust curriculum of the humanities and the social sciences where such liberal intellectuals could play out their pedagogy.

What is happening in these elite Indian institutes today, however, goes far beyond this historical foundation. Take, for instance, the newly endowed Partha S. Ghosh Academy of Leadership at IIT-Kharagpur, which plans to develop an innovative curriculum in the humanities, including ancient philosophy, to blend with the core curriculum in the engineering fields. The anticipation of fundamental shifts in the world economy in the near future, driven by a need to reinvent the foundations of capitalism, is the prime impetus behind the shaping of this interdisciplinary curriculum – according to alumnus Partha S. Ghosh, a US-based academic whose donation shapes this academy.

The elite institutes of management have shown an even keener interest in the liberal fields of fundamental humanities and social sciences to enrich a core curriculum of management training.

### Multi-dimensional

Last year, I conducted a couple of workshops and panel discussions at the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, initiated by the interdisciplinary interests of the institute director, Rishikesha T. Krishnan, an expert on innovation, and Dibyadyuti Roy, a literary scholar specialising in digital humanities. While at the institute, I learned about their five-year integrated programme in management, initiated in 2011 to combine a three-year undergraduate education in the fundamental arts and sciences with a two-year MBA, integrated with each other. The idea is to build professional training on a foundation of multi-dimensional breadth where the humanities and the social sciences occupy a key place. It promises a 21st century Asian articulation of a Peter Drucker-like vision of management studies that enriches from a multi-dimensional humanistic consciousness. Similar programmes, I heard in my conversation with Krishnan, are also in the works at IIM Bangalore.

**The idea is to build professional training on a foundation of multi-dimensional breadth where the humanities and the social sciences occupy a key place.**

The fields of professional training, I learned at an event discussing the liberal arts with a group of Mumbai physicians at Breach Candy Hospital, have been subjected to the colonial bureaucratic model just as restrictively as arts and sciences education in the great public universities in the country.

The entrance exam for the MD programme, said the noted physician and writer Dr. Farokh Udwadia, is as narrow an exam in rote learning as are the clerically modelled exams in English, philosophy, or economics.

It was never as clear as it is in India today that both professional and the liberal fields of study yearn for a real shot of innovation. The enrichment of the professional with the liberal seems to be ambitious, yet the necessary solution. It is only natural that along with the fundamental sciences, the humanities have acquired a new urgency in the innovative liberal arts curricula in these elite programmes of professional training.

*The writer is Professor of English and Creative Writing at Ashoka University.*

VOICES

# Step towards empowerment

**The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the Direct Benefit Transfer Tribal (DBT) web portal, to expedite the release of scholarship allowance into the beneficiaries' accounts. How will this affect students from these communities?**

NEHA RUPEJA

**SIDDHARTH JAMAD,** II, BSC ECONOMICS, INDIAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & FINANCE (ISBF), NEW DELHI

Besides being a crucial step towards digitalisation, and to bring about transparency, this portal will ensure that the funds are availed by beneficiaries, and on time. This is often not the case when the whole process is conducted manually by government institutions. Furthermore, the portal will also allow the Centre to keep a tab on the use of funds. By doing so, the government can ascertain the true economic value of the several financial support programmes that it offers.

**KAVYA A.,** III, BA (JPE), IFIM COLLEGE, BENGALURU

DBT, as a part of the 'e-government initiative', aims at eliminating the redundant involvement of middlemen, and serves as a permanent record of data. The state government can raise queries to ensure time-bound transactions, transfer of grants to recipients, and ensure efficient usage of funds.

However, beneficiaries should be well acquainted with the new system for it to function smoothly. This may also promote cashless economy and encourage people to open bank accounts.

**SUNRITA SARKAR,** PGDM, GREAT LAKES INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, GURUGRAM

The portal, designed to simplify the issue of scholarship grants to beneficiaries, is a step towards tribal empowerment. For accessing the grant, it becomes mandatory for all students to have bank accounts and Aadhar cards, which will bring them under the purview of e-governance. The direct transfer allows them easy and direct access to their money. This may reduce dropout rates owing to financial pressure, encouraging students to continue their higher education.

**KSHIPRA AJREKAR,** PGP IN DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP, INDIAN SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT, NOIDA

It is noteworthy that students will have direct access to the benefits through the web portal, as opposed to a common pool of tribal welfare schemes which are received usually by the male head of the family. Direct access, especially by female tribal students, will be a vital step towards gender equity through financial self-dependence. However, this move needs to pan out in geographies of limited access to banking services. Therefore, it becomes imperative for the government to also develop necessary infrastructure such as community resource centres with computer and internet access.

**Direct access, especially by female tribal students, will be a vital step towards gender equity through financial self-dependence.**
KSHIPRA AJREKAR

# Red Dot campaign

In a country where menstruation as a topic is highly stigmatised, period pain is completely ignored. In its endeavour to make 'Women Health and Hygiene empowerment' the biggest social movement of the 21st century, Sanfe, a leading feminine Hygiene brand incubated by IIT Delhi, has launched #RedDot Campaign to normalise period pain talk for women. The campaign intends to generate widespread awareness around the discomfort caused by a period pain in the life of women and how it restricts them from reaching new heights in various walks of life.

To spark conversations around period pain, #Red Dot campaign invites women to post a photo on social media with a RED DOT on their hand and tag two friends or family members to do the same. Sanfe has partnered with the NGO Pinkishe and *The Better India*, to make period pain talks a mass movement. One can join the campaign by logging in at periodpain.in

SCHOLARSHIPS

### The Ian Parry Scholarship

Ian Parry Organisation is providing scholarship awards to young photographers who wish to take independent photography projects. The scholarships will provide applicants additional benefits covered under Sunday Times Award for achievement and the Canon Award for potential.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian students below 24 years of age and attending any full-time photographic course.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected scholars will be provided a scholarship sum of $,3500, scholarships and loans for photography equipment from Canon, direct entry to Joop Swart Masterclass nominations and all-expense paid, year-long mentorship programme.

DEADLINE: July 05

APPLICATION: Online
http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/IAP9

### L'Oréal India For Young Women In Science Scholarship

L'Oréal India is providing educational scholarships to young women who wish to pursue their graduation in any field of science from Indian institute.

ELIGIBILITY: Female candidates who have passed class XII with 85% in PCB/PCM/PCMB in the academic year 2018-19 are eligible to apply. Annual family income of the applicant should be less than ₹4 lakhs, and the candidate should not be more than 19 years of age when applying for this scholarship.

APPLICATION: Online or student can send by post at L'Oreal India, The Scholarship Cell, C/O Buddy4Study, Stellar IT Park, C-25, Office No.8,9 & 10 Tower-A, Ground floor, Sector 62, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301 India

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected women scholars will be provided up to ₹2, 50,000 in instalments towards their tuition fees and academic expenses for pursuing graduation courses in science.

DEADLINE July 01
http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/LIF9

Courtesy: www.buddy4study.com

**Postcard**

The Hindu EDGE invites Indian students in foreign universities to share their experiences about the campus, course, quality of education, city life and adapting to changes abroad. The article should be not more than 500 words. Send three different pictures of yourself on campus (each should be minimum 2MB size, JPG/JPEG format) to goalpost@thehindu.co.in.

# Calling your own bluff

## Focus on quantity, quality will improve

LIVE LIGHTLY

NIVEDITA DAS NARAYAN

We humans live life in the shadow of two imperatives – under pressure to 'catch up' and in the imperative to 'slow down'.

Catch up with exercise.
Slow down on food.
Catch up on reading.
Slow down on work.
Catch up with friends, relationships.
Slow down on screen time.
Catch up on action.
Slow down on indolence.

Some of these modes are so predictable that I wonder why we do not simply reverse the tide of our actions and preoccupations, and turn life around.

The fundamental nature of the 'catch-up' pressures is that they demand time and perseverance. Performing consistently in academics, as a student of any discipline, requires hard work, rigour, persistence, and meticulous planning. If you look at these requisites, they are time-consuming riders to get to where we want. Yet, despite due diligence, we are routinely straddled with delayed results and uncertainty at the other end. For every outcome hinged on rigour and discipline, gratification is delayed.

The 'slow-down' imperatives, on the other hand, are on a reverse gear. For instance, the need to slow down on food is made difficult by the easy access to food. In the early years of life, our moms prepare the food and we are well looked after. As we move away and set out on our own, we have a multitude of options – a cook to cook our meals, access to food courts and the entire universe of home delivery options to get everything at our doorstep. Hence, for the majority of our life span, the challenge to slow down intake and food impulses is overridden by accessibility. The promise of instant gratification gets ingrained. Consumerism thrives on such impulses.

### A shift in dynamics

We can assume that our forefathers had a different story in consumption when the cycle of food-accessibility from farm to table was long and labour-intensive and multiple intermediation was needed to covert food from raw to ingestible. This nipped over-consumption at its core. If we go further back into the life of prehistoric man, he was braving a reverse dynamic to stay alive – having to hunt for food daily before even imagining a single meal in a day. For him, food was a do or die priority and squarely a 'catch-up' imperative!

There is another way to view these two modes in the context of modern life. We are always behind time on good habits and seem to find plentiful time for unproductive habits. Despite this awareness, we find it beyond our capacity to reverse the flow. In this mix of time and accessibility, our environment demonstrably shapes our desires. A smartphone in hand is a death knell for any intention to read a book. Try as you might, you can never go hungry living in a location where home delivery is advertised in every corner.

Clearly, bad habits come easy. Within this premise, how can you make access inconvenient and tedious? Importantly, you will first need to isolate the areas you want to slow down on. Which are the habits you want to voluntarily disable? Once identified, it is time to manoeuvre and increase the gap. For instance, if you want to impact excessive habits of food ordering or online addiction, you can erase and disable the applications and contact numbers from your phone. So, next time you reach out in impulse, inaccessibility and time lag will dim and diffuse the impulse until, over repeated instances, you feel in control.

Which are the new habits you want to embrace and internalise?

The answer to this will shape your future choices. As corresponding action, you will sync the time that got freed up with activities that you've missed catching up on. Building a habit is about repetition – repeat, regulate, and repeat again.

Focus on quantity; quality will improve. Aligning with people and locations that are supportive would make it easier, enjoyable. Whatever you do acknowledge your action at the end of each day. Each day you are replacing your impulses with stronger, considered and rewarding choices. You are back in control of your life as productive habits replace default impulses.

The writer is a life coach, blogger and writer who simplifies the patterns and archetypes she encounters at work and in life. nivedita@lifealigncoaching.com

FREEPIK

**Impulse versus choice:** Your phone versus a new book

# Re-programme your thoughts

## Beneficent behaviour can prompt a chain of positivity

THINK

ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

In last month's column, I described Sonja Lyubomirsky's research that examines happiness levels of people, which can vary due to innate temperament and life's circumstances. While we don't have any control over the genetic lottery bestowed on us at birth, we often cannot dictate life's vagaries as well. In truth, almost everyone is hit by curveballs that are neither desired nor anticipated. However, in her book, *The How of Happiness*, Lyubomirsky argues that we can influence our happiness levels by following certain strategies regardless of our temperamental profiles or the cards that fate metes out to us. While many of these strategies may sound prosaic, studies have validated their effectiveness in elevating people's moods, both in the short term and long term.

Of course, Lyubomirsky is aware that not every one of her dozen strategies will work for everyone. She exhorts you to pick ones that mesh with your personality, predilections and principles. Today, I outline four strategies. The remaining eight will be covered in subsequent articles.

### Be grateful

The first strategy involves cultivating gratitude. I had discussed how expressing gratitude enhances well-being, in a previous column. We have so many things going right in our lives, but we are blind to our fortunes until we are deprived of them. Whether it involves good health, a steady job, a roof over our heads or a supportive family, we usually overlook our pluses, and complain about what is lacking in our lives. Yet, if we make a conscious effort to list five positives every week, we may find ourselves with a growing sense of appreciation compounded by greater well-being. In addition to feeling grateful, we may also express our thanks more consciously, more explicitly and more often. Next, even if we haven't been blessed with a sunny disposition, we can grow more optimistic, which results in greater resilience.

The doyen of positive psychology, Martin Seligman, argues that people have a preferred attributional style to explain the causes of events to ourselves. While optimists tend to view negative situations or failure as temporary, local and external, pessimists rue that their effects are permanent, pervasive and personal. But the cynic in us can learn to reprogramme our thoughts so that we view misfortune through a less damaging lens.

What did I do wrong? Why did I mess up? Why didn't I think of a contingency plan earlier? What will my friends think of me? Why do others seem to have it all together? When we err, such thoughts may whirl in our heads.

While some amount of self-reflection is salubrious to our well-being, Lyubomirsky dissuades us from "overthinking." Repeatedly regretting and ruminating is not conducive to our well-being. So, when we catch ourselves falling into a vortex of obsessive thinking, we need to distract ourselves and direct our attention towards more productive activities. Another phenomenon, closely linked to overthinking, involves indulging in social comparisons. Instead of determining our worth, relative to others, we need to develop our "own internal standards" by which we gauge our actions and achievements.

Lyubomirsky has also found that engaging in acts of kindness, on a regular basis can augment our spirits. Offering a seat on a metro to an elderly person, helping a kid haul her school bag up the stairs of your apartment, leaving a ₹100 note in a hotel room for the cleaning staff, volunteering to do groceries for a neighbour with a broken leg – there are umpteen ways in which we can assist others over the course of a typical day. Moreover, beneficent behaviour can galvanise others to act in prosocial ways, thereby prompting a chain of positivity.

The writer is Director, PRAYATNA.
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FREEPIK

# New isn't always better

## It pushes us to a place where the old can be junked

BACKPACKER'S GUIDE

USHA RAMAN

These days, there is a huge premium placed on the new, on creating something that completely breaks the mould. This focus on "new" extends to many aspects of our lives – the constant need to upgrade devices, the search for unique experiences, the urge to make over our homes, our looks and our life. It is hard to resist newness when everyone makes such a big deal of it.

### Omitting the old

Recently, I heard an engineering professor talk about how, when students are asked to build or design something, the instinct is to try to do something that has never been done before, rather than trying to improve what is already there. Complete novelty is the goal. But, there could be problems with this approach, apart from the fact that it puts enormous pressure on you. One, given the multitude of ideas that exist in the world, and the enormity of what has come before, it is extremely difficult to be a genuine first timer. New discoveries and inventions in science, for instance, always acknowledge that they are, in Isaac Newton's words, "standing on the shoulders of giants". Even the most surprising of innovations build upon the successes and (often more importantly) the mistakes of the past. Second, even though you may not be aware of it, even the most radical idea we might have, comes from a base that draws on everything you have seen, read and experienced.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, when we are so focused on the nature of the outcome (its newness), we fail to pay sufficient attention to the purpose of the activity–the problem or need we are trying to address. Perhaps this is not so surprising, given that all through school we are so caught up with the outcome (marks) that we lose sight of the real purpose of being there (learning).

If you think closely about the nature of innovation, and look at how innovators have gone about their business, you will find that it is not so much the search for the new as the drive to find a solution that perfectly answers the need. In this process, they look at the old, understand why it hasn't worked, and apply a series of tweaks – both mental and material – in order to arrive at improvements. The new – and improved – emerges as part of that exercise. In most cases, when you dissect this "new", you will find that it is really more than 80 % old. The newness lies in that gap between the problem and its solution – making it better.

The other, perhaps less acknowledged issue with the obsession with newness is the waste it generates. It pushes us towards a mindset where the old can be junked for the new that replaces it, instead of encouraging us to think about accommodation and repair.

Of course, this works differently in different contexts. Where the logic of the old does not fit a new problem, you may need to throw out old principles to generate new ones. Where the old has created unforeseen problems (gas automobiles creating pollution), then too we may need to think outside the box – in other words, look for fresh ways to understand the solution space (electric cars). But even this can happen only if we have thought through all the gaps in the existing tools and techniques, and understood what is working, what needs to be fixed, and then... what needs to be created afresh.

**Where the logic of the old does not fit a new problem, you may need to throw out old principles to generate new ones.**

The writer teaches at the University of Hyderabad and edits Teacher Plus.
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## BON APP-ETIT

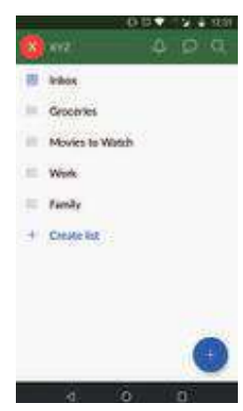
ARATHI MINI

India's non-stop rise in the number of internet users has brought about revolutionary changes in education, with e-learning being the most critical advantage. Learning is not restricted to traditional models in classrooms anymore, and can be acquired on the go. Here are some apps for you to remain updated, learn and work whenever you want.

### Trello

This visual tool helps you organise your assignments, projects, study material, and so on, anywhere you want. Imagine you have some holiday projects you need to work on, and your teammates are scattered across the country. Trello solves this nightmare by providing you an online platform to work on assignments in teams, and monitor the progress of the tasks. The offline app comes with study cards, to-do boards and checklists to help you get your work done. There is also the option of adding location to cards to get a map view of your project. (http://bit.ly/2NaTBDZ)

### Wunderlist




This app lets you create as many to-do lists as you want, and reminds you to finish them, apart from providing some much-needed self-motivation. You can keep track of your coursework and assignments. Apart from this, you can access the lists from any device by using your login details. You can also share the lists with classmates and friends to collaborate on projects and assignments. Photos, PDFs, presentations, and so on can also be added and accessed from anywhere, through the app. (http://bit.ly/2KyOmMr)

### Moodle

Have you enrolled in a distance learning course? Then, this app will be your best friend. Moodle allows you to read material while you travel, remain up-to-date with coursework, check deadlines, track the progress of assignments, and even submit them. The course content can be browsed offline, and you can contact people who have taken up the same course and are registered on Moodle. Images, audio, video and such files for assignments, projects or even for reference can be uploaded onto the app, and shared with others. (http://bit.ly/2Lby6As)

## VIDEO CAFE

SARADHA UDAYAKUMAR

### Jordan Peterson's guide to leadership

Jordan Peterson, a clinical psychologist, delves into the psychology of leadership and shares his ideas on the roles and duties of an ideal leader. Leaders, according to him, must be strongly rooted to the ethics or qualities that they want to inculcate in others. He also emphasises on the importance and need for leaders to communicate, and draws the difference between setting an organisation on authoritarian lines and liberal lines. Leaders in an organisation run in an authoritarian manner, would quintessentially force workers to perform with punishment and fear, whereas leaders in the latter would explain the company's vision and communicate how employees can integrate their vision to move ahead, in unison.

To explain this, the speaker draws attention to Jean Piaget, the development psychologist's theory on equilibrated state, where everyone participates voluntarily, instead of being forced, as voluntary participation enhances participants' productivity and sustainability.

Watch the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWVwFVgA4b4

## EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN

HOSPITALITY

# Check in to the FUTURE

Glion Institute's tailor-made programmes bridge the gap between the hospitality sector and a shortage of skilled talent

ARCHANA SUBRAMANIAN

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Hosting affair:** At the restaurant

The hospitality industry includes businesses such as hotels, restaurants and bars that offer guests food, drink or lodging, and is therefore, closely linked to tourism and international travel.

The United Nations World Travel Organisation (UNWTO) estimates the worldwide international tourist arrivals to have reached a record high of 1.4 billion in 2018, growing at nearly double the rate of the global economy. This, in turn, leads to a continued growth of the travel and tourism sector across the globe, and ultimately to job creation in hospitality. But, this industry is facing a shortage of skills and talent across the globe. In India alone, the travel and tourism sector is expected to create more than 10 million new jobs over the next decade, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

To deal with an influx of foreign travellers, it is vital for hospitality professionals to gain international exposure and offer the service standards they have come to expect. This will require institutions to create international synergies, a globally-focussed curriculum and innovative teaching methods. And, this is where schools like the Glion Institute step in to provide a platform for students to pursue a career in hospitality.

Emmanuel Jurczenko, Director of Graduate Studies, Glion Institute of Higher Education (Switzerland and the U.K.), elaborates on what the Institute offers to students to prepare them for the burgeoning travel and hospitality industry, "To ensure and maintain high employability of our students, we work closely with global hospitality brands, who visit our campuses."

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Emmanuel Jurczenko

**Programmes**

Across campuses in Switzerland and London (the U.K.), the school offers a portfolio of Master of Science (MSc) programme, in addition to an existing MSc in International Hospitality Business. These include new degrees in hospitality, entrepreneurship and innovation; real estate, finance and hotel development; and luxury management and guest experience. In addition, the bachelor's (BBA) in international hospitality business is adapted to best meet the changing needs of the industry and the market.

**Duration and scholarships**

Each master's programme includes two taught semesters, followed by an internship or a capstone project. Glion provides a range of scholarships and financial aid packages on a case-by-case basis, varying in amount and duration. Merit-based scholarships include a 10-20% reduction of first semester tuition fees, and are awarded to outstanding students based on grades, motivation and recommendation.

**Curriculum**

All the specialist master's degrees on offer have a strong business focus and application. The MSc programme in hospitality, entrepreneurship and innovation is designed specifically for aspiring entrepreneurs and professionals who already run or are looking to take over a family business. The teaching is all about enhancing their entrepreneurial knowledge; as such, it covers the most cutting-edge business models and innovations, including field trips to technology hotbeds Berlin, Germany and Silicon Valley in California. Additionally, a partner incubator will also allow entrepreneurs to test their concepts and routes to market.

**Benefits**

The programmes provide students with the necessary skill set for managing people, operations, business and investments in hospitality companies, luxury brands, family business, start-ups and real estate assets. The courses are taught by experienced faculty members, leading academics and external industry experts. The programmes conclude with hands-on experience and a chance to apply the newly acquired skills in a real working environment.

> **To deal with an influx of foreign travellers, it is vital for hospitality professionals to gain international exposure and offer the service standards they have come to expect.**

Industry networking is another major component of the master's degrees at Glion.

Hospitality management schools no longer only groom students for careers in hotels and restaurants. Related sectors such as luxury retail, finance, consulting and real estate are showing an increased interest in hospitality management graduates. So, the institute has developed these new programmes and prepare students specifically for these areas.

POSTCARD FROM... ISRAEL

# Home away from home

From state-of-the-art laboratories, to an easy administrative process, Manas Seal got the best of everything at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science

NAME:
**Manas Seal**
COLLEGE:
**Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel**
COURSE:
**Department of Chemical and Biological Physics**

I completed my Ph.D. from Indian Association for the Cultivation Of Science (IACS), Kolkata, after which I was on the lookout for a post-doctoral position in biophysics laboratory where I could learn state-of-the-art electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectroscopy. This is when I found Prof. Daniella Goldfarb's EPR lab at Weizmann Institute of Science (WIS), Israel. His lab has advanced facilities and, thus, I decided to pursue my further studies from WIS.

**Work-life balance**

I am in the right place here, as I am able to balance work and life. I am extremely happy with the advanced instrumental facility provided, and it is inspiring to learn from a renowned expert such as Prof. Goldfarb. The staff help me in every step, making learning easier. Though my lab members are from different cultures, they are helpful. Professors are approachable and encourage discussions. WIS encourages collaborations, internationally and within the institute; talks, seminars and conferences are a part of our daily routine and provide us with a good opportunity to learn.

Feinberg Graduate School (FGS) is the academic wing of WIS, and is responsible for fellowships and funding. I have received the PBC fellowship from Israel government. FGS also provides travel allowance to each student for attending international conferences. They also cover major expenses starting from medical insurance to arrival expenses.

**A swift change**

There was huge shift from the long administrative procedures in Kolkata to the easy admission process in Israel. I instantly felt at home when I saw my professor and non-academic staff trying to help me resolve initial issues while I was settling down here. It was hard to believe, but joyful to see, that my joining was completed within the first half of the day. The international office (IO) and housing branch of WIS took care of my visa and housing respectively, which are major concerns for students before coming abroad.

WIS also has a rich Indian community which helped me feel included – the IO also organises Holi and Deepavali celebrations every year. They also organise day tours, cultural events and different creative programmes every month.

The campus is green and well-maintained. We have seven restaurants on campus that cater good food at subsidised rate. WIS is located close to the center of Rehovot city, and is well connected with public transport. The accommodation is costly, but easy availability of Indian products never makes us feel away from India.

Manas Seal is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the department of chemical and biological physics at Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel.

ADMISSIONS

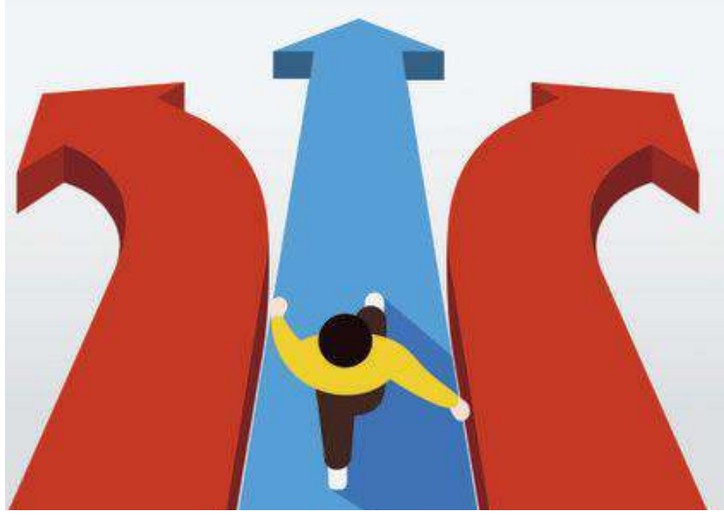
**UG and PG courses in Psychology**

INSTITUTION: Amity University, Gurugram
DURATION: UG - three years, PG - two years postgraduate diploma - one year.
ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must have passed class XII for undergraduate courses and psychology at the undergraduate level for postgraduate courses.
DEADLINE: July 1
https://www.amity.edu/gurugram/

VALUE ADD

# All effort, no yield

Trying to change the world in different directions could be a problem, especially in schools



GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

NIMESH VED

A few weeks ago, friends, who work to get children to fall in love with books and stories, visited our school. I love reading and enjoyed being a part of the conversation as it moved from what we could do with books at our school to why books are crucial for children. As someone who, today, puts in more time with books than with friends, I found little to disagree.

However, the line – 'world without books is poorer and dangerous', brought out the dilemma I had been encountering of late. I shared it with the small group: "Do these actions tantamount to pushing our 'agendas' on schools and children, in this fashion? Do we do this more with children, for they do not have the space to vocally disagree? How fair is this?"

> **Gender and sexuality could be crucial for some, while health and hygiene could matter more to others.**

Last week, at a school in a village in Himachal Pradesh, I was reminded of this discussion. I had accompanied a friend and noticed storybooks in the classroom. Impressed with the books and more with the folding and transparent stand, I asked the teacher about them. Her response was telling: "Someone like you had come a few months ago and given these; we do not have much of an idea". This also underscored the question of the difference these efforts bring - unless they are planned, in-depth and owned by the school.

**Driving change**

Of the individuals and organisations who land up at school, some believe in planning – they are in touch with the school, discuss the visit and undertake preparations for sessions; others do not. Many are well-intentioned; while some come for ticking boxes. And most convey that the issue they pursue is 'THE' issue to be taken up with the students. Gender and sexuality could be crucial for some, while health and hygiene could matter more to others. The issues, of course, are several, but like someone wise once said, "Many of us are trying to change the world, in different directions; this is the problem".

Conservation education (CE) is an issue close to my heart. An issue I have dabbled in and used to push without empathy for, either those at schools or those passionate towards other causes. A friend, who has put in more time on CE than I, had once stated, "One of the reasons so many of us who work on wildlife conservation have failed with the schools is that we have alienated teachers with our attitude. An attitude which stressed that we know more than them."

There could be other reasons as well and, of course, it is fun being with children and some of the efforts have had desired outcomes. This is not only about outsiders. These changes could also be driven from within the schools, through a change in management, for example.

Ever since I joined the school, this dilemma has had me go slow in pushing my interests in CE. While we do grow vegetables, mulch leaves, lessen plastic use, and so on, I am keen to neither undermine nor derail existing efforts. At another level, I have also realised that doing more is not necessarily the better option and that while children would benefit from well-done programmes – be it CE or book reading – they are not doing too bad without these either.

The writer blogs at nimesh-ved.blogspot.com and can be reached at nimesh.explore@gmail.com.

ENTERPRISE

# deCODE your future

Coding is fast emerging as a rite of passage and this is what inspired then 21-year-old Masa Kato set up Progate in Japan

OLYMPUS DIGITAL CAMERA

MADHUVANTI S. KRISHNAN

"Coding is a powerful tool that can change your life!" exclaims Masa Kato, CEO, Progate, a Japanese edtech startup. "I am testimony to this for, my life changed when I learnt to code. As an ordinary college-goer, I learnt how to code and created a web service used by over 8,00,000 people around the world. Until then, I was bound to the idea of getting into a big company and living a steady life. But after learning to code, I gained the confidence to take risks. You don't necessarily have to start your own business after learning to code – coding is for everyone because it helps logical thinking, which is important for every job. Even a non-programmer could hugely benefit from having basic coding knowledge."

Today, his company has expanded to India too, and is on its journey to disseminate coding knowledge to as many youngsters as possible. Excerpts from the interview with Masa Kato, who recently made it to the Forbes 30 under 30 list...

**Inspiration**

I was a college student when I founded Progate, in 2014. Although I was majoring in computer science, I struggled while learning practical aspects such as developing web services and apps. In college, I was taught how to code using the programming language C, but I had no idea how that could be used to develop real-world applications. I didn't understand how these dots come together until I finally met someone who guided me about where to start, which tools to use, and which path to follow. From there, I worked extremely hard for about a month and was finally able to create an app. I stopped going to college and started teaching people around me how to code. I wanted to give everyone the same opportunity that I was lucky enough to experience.

**Courses**

We provide 16 courses including HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, Python, Java, SQL, jQuery, Sass, Swift, Go, Ruby, Ruby on Rails, Git, and Command Line. The demographics of our students are mainly secondary school and university students, and young professionals under 30.

**Employment**

Many of our students are now working as web developers. HTML and CSS, JavaScript, and React courses are the most popular languages today, for front-end web developers. We also provide lessons to learn server-side languages used by data scientists and marketers. On completion of each lesson, participants receive a certificate that they can share on LinkedIn, or submit with their CV. Those interested, can sign up from progate.com. The first lesson of each course is free. You will have full access to all the lesson content by subscribing to them, and can choose any language or course you wish to learn, depending on your purpose.

**India**

India is the first market where Progate has formed a local team. We decided to expand to India because we received significant feedback from here than other markets, when we released the English version of our product. We have partnered with over 50 educational institutions such as Amity University, Noida, Chitkara University, Chandigarh, BMS Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, among many others. Also, our product is now used in coding bootcamps including CodeAsylums, in their teaching curriculum. The most challenging issue we have been experiencing here is to acquire paid users. We are currently working on creating more valuable content, as well as offering special pricing for students in India.

**Future of coding**

Basic knowledge and concepts will not change, and will continue to remain useful in any industry. Technology and education should be accessible for everyone and we are happy to deliver quality contents at an affordable price, across the world, particularly in talent-rich markets like India.

OFFBEAT... ART CURATOR

# Curate your dreams

Collect masterpieces from across the world, manage works of art, engage with world-renowned artists, and more...

DEEKSHA TERI

If you have an eye for masterpieces and love managing works of art, then becoming an art curator might just be for you. "Today everyone – celebrity homes, office spaces, art galleries, museums, publication houses, web-based retail firms – everybody needs a curator," says Rahul Bhattacharya, art curator and associate professor, World University of Design, Sonipat.

An art curator's main duties are acquiring, cataloguing and maintaining works of art. One will also be responsible for carrying out research about acquired art pieces, write articles and help the artists in organising exhibitions for their art pieces.

This job also brings the responsibility of installing art work, negotiating for the pieces being taken on loan from other artists, or organisations, and ensuring that the labels, as well as information panels, are factually correct and interesting for the audience.

In order to take on this job, in addition to a passion for art and organisation skills, aspiring curators can pursue a course in art, history or design elements. A master's degree in curatorial practices can be beneficial too. Pursuing a master of visual arts in Curatorial Practices in Arts, a two-year programme, prepares students to expand the role of curators in connecting art, artists, and communities.

Curators learn the skills of engaging audiences more effectively by proposing alternative models of exhibition and institution building through art. The programmes offer a hands-on curriculum that balance collaboration and socially-engaged practices with academic research. in history and theory. "Text, exhibition design and public interface are the key tools and skills for a curator," adds Bhattacharya.

**Eligibility**

Aspirants must hold a bachelor's degree with minimum 50% marks. Candidates can be from diverse backgrounds such as applied arts, liberal arts and science, or working professionals in education, social work, or art or non-profit management.

World University of Design, Sonipat (Haryana), provides a two-year, full-time course. The fee is ₹1 lakh per annum. Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bengaluru, also offers similar a course on Curatorial Practices - Film, Media and Visual Arts. This course teaches students the skills of carrying out surveys, documenting, interviewing and archiving which become an important part of curatorial practice in the corporate world.

"The world, today, is saturated with data and information, making it extremely hard to process all of it into knowledge or experience. Perhaps, this is what makes curation the fastest growing profession in the creative domain," speculates Bhattacharya.

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BLACKBOARD

# Make an impact

The ever changing process of educating is one that mentors have to take upon themselves to ensure that the full learning potential of the learner is utilised and not wasted away

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

K. ELANGO

In the context of improving teacher effectiveness of education, the term currently in circulation, namely Continuing Professional Development (CPD), highlights the significance of teacher development as a truly lifelong process. Not withstanding the unquestioned belief of teaching being a noble profession, teaching effectiveness cannot be improved by teachers who are not habitual readers, who hardly share their teaching experiences through professional writing, who have difficulty in using the target language proficiently, and who are unwilling to update their own subject and pedagogical knowledge. In short, CPD cannot become a reality unless such uninspired (and, as a result, uninspiring) minds are sufficiently ignited and fuelled through passionate endeavours and appropriate means.

**Ineffective**

Opportunities are aplenty for professional enhancement but the top-down approach, which seems to be the norm, keeps teachers 'stuck', leading to the 'death' of passion for learning in the classroom. Government and non-government agencies organise events such as workshops and seminars all through the year but they hardly result in pedagogical transformations, as teachers maintain the status quo once they are back in their classrooms. Teachers, often projected as agents of change, ironically remain change-resistant and continue to graduate learners who are not job-ready, life-ready, and future-ready.

Recently, an informed teacher staggering out of one such training programme asked wryly how long the resource persons would be rattling off, touting the same failed paradigm of:

a) transferring their received knowledge, hoping that we would translate it into student-centred classroom practices;

b) rolling out content, methods and techniques unrelated to our contexts; and

c) presenting models perceived to be successful elsewhere for our consumption here.

**Teachers, often projected as agents of change, ironically remain change-resistant and continue to graduate learners who are not job-ready, life-ready, and future-ready.**

Another teacher, mirroring a similar view, voiced her concern, "... any CPD programme to be impactful has to demonstrate how our textbooks can be differently taught. In other words, they need to focus on offering us experiential knowledge and making us reflect on our methods and learners' issues rather than getting us excited about the model that worked in some contexts, as the ground realties are different here." The resource persons, however, when contacted, justified their training, saying that they were expected to standardise teaching practices in order to ensure a cascading effect.

Conscientious teachers fear that no real teaching-learning takes place and that they are merely watching the learning potential of multitudes of learners go untapped and wasted away, which is a colossal waste of human and national resources. This, in a way, is a crime committed against the youth by those belonging to the teaching profession and policy makers.

**Different approach**

The required shift to modify CPD into something purposeful calls for a bottom-up approach, rather than perpetuating the generic, decontextualised and stereotypical top-down one. Anything thrust from above and not owned by teachers will prove to be a failure. Moreover, currently, CPD programmes are mostly urban-centric, but with 70% of the population living in rural India and with most of 1.5 million schools located in those areas, any attempt to professionalise teachers should be rural-centric as a priority.

The much-acclaimed 'Project Discussion' practised in Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai for many years is worth taking note of. On the very first day, students were placed in one of three streams (A, B, or C) based on their proficiency level in English assessed through a placement test. Teachers formed groups based on the streams they handled and met separately at least once a week (an integral part of their workload) to share the materials to be handled in each class, methods to be adopted, homework to be assigned and tests to be conducted. This practice enabled even unmotivated teachers to perform their best.

**Solutions**

Taking a cue from the Loyola experience and women's self-help groups (SHGs), similar groups among teachers can be promoted. That is, those who teach the same subject in a school or in schools in the neighbourhood could join to form subject-based teacher groups to identify and share good teaching practices which would suit their learners and contexts.These will become learning hubs for the teachers and ultimately, leading to professionalism.

Rather than depending upon outside trainers/experts or adhering to the culture of isolationism, which the teaching profession is notoriously known for, efforts have to be made to form local self-help groups as an alternative, bottom-up model, which will prove to be a workable, indigenous model for continuing professional development, even in educationally and socially deprived contexts. And this has to be done in a systematic and impactful way.

*The writer is the National Secretary, English Language Teachers' Association of India (ELTAI)*

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- Conscientious teachers fear that no real teaching-learning takes place and that they are merely watching the learning potential of multitudes of learners go untapped and wasted away.
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TIME OUT

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Peek into robotics

From visits to the space centre, to gaining first-time exposure to robotics and cybersecurity, the class XI students had a whale of a time at IIIT Sri City

R. SUJATHA

The Indian Institute of Information Technology, in Sri City, recently organised a three-day summer camp 'Future Bright Innovators' for class XI students. A dozen students, from select schools in Chennai, participated in the event, which also included students from schools in Bengaluru, Nellore and Tirupati.

They also visited the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, and declared it the highlight of the trip. "It was an enchanting experience as we got to see the whole Centre, up close.

The guide took us to the launch pad and explained its function. Later, we also visited the Mission Control Center. We even got to see rocket pre-launch events," a student wrote in the feedback form.

**New experiences**

Kala Senthil of the Hindu Senior Secondary School, Chennai, said, "It was a wonderful experience. For the first time, class XI students were getting exposure to concepts such as robotics, cybersecurity and Internet of Things.It was about shaping students' careers and exposure to teachers too." She further admitted that as robotics was not part of the CBSE curriculum, the experience was new to them.

IIIT director G. Kannabiran said the objective was to provide a preview to computer science and engineering, electronics and communication and encourage creativity and innovation.

Students could interact with people who had set up startups of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras Research Park. The workshop packed a quiz on artificial intelligence, machine learning and a boat ride on the Pulicat lake.

A demonstration of prototypes such as mini radar, smart village wells, communication between vehicles in water, mobile controlled robot car, all created by research scholars of IIIT Sri City, was especially held for the students.

Mr. Kannabiran said in the next camp, students from 25 schools would be invited. "IIIT Sri City plans to conduct leadership programme for principals of select schools and a training programme for senior science teachers," he added. said.

IN BRIEF

## Textbook launch

Santhosh Babu, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Information Technology Department, recently unveiled a book titled *Digital Marketing: Fundamentals to Future*. The book aims at providing a foundation for using digital technologies and media based on the sound principles of marketing.