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E-drive: High voltage, low charge

Budget incentives show the govt's intention to get India's sluggish electric vehicle market going. But there are many speed breakers

BIG PICTURE PAGES 12-13

A happy class

Rajasthan has been working to make schools less dreary and more child-focused. The results are visible



SPORT



SIMONA HALEP WINS WIMBLEDON PAGE 24

250 PRE-FABRICATED UNITS FOR REFUGEES HANDED OVER

As India builds houses, Myanmar to reach out to Rohingya in Bangladesh

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, JULY 13

WITH INDIA handing over 250 pre-fabricated houses for the first batch of refugees who are willing to return, Myanmar is likely to send its foreign secretary to the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh — at New Delhi's gentle nudge. Faced with social, religious and ethnic persecution, these families left Myanmar for Bangladesh, in boats, two years ago. Sources said that while India has built and handed over these



Each housing unit is about 40 sq m. Photo courtesy: Indian Embassy in Myanmar

houses to the Rakhine provincial government, the visit by Myanmar's top diplomat — possibly later this month — to the

Rohingya refugee camps near Cox's Bazar in south-eastern Bangladesh will work towards assuaging the safety and security

concerns of the displaced families. By getting top Myanmar officials to address the refugees

who have fled the country since August 2017, India believes it will create an atmosphere wherein the families who are willing to return to their country will have the "confidence to go back and settle down". Delhi is also keen that the "community leaders" should address these refugees, acting as a guarantor of their security.

This is one of the key steps being taken by Myanmar, at the prodding of India, so that the displaced families "feel safe" and stay in these newly built houses. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

KARNATAKA: 5 MORE REBEL MLAs GO TO SC

BJP split on staking claim, coalition hopes to win trust vote

JOHNSON TA BENGALURU, JULY 13

ON A day that five more rebel MLAs approached the Supreme Court, accusing Assembly Speaker K R Ramesh of sitting on their resignations and saying they were "being threatened to support the government", deep divisions emerged within the BJP in Karnataka on the issue of staking claim to form a new government.

With a section of the BJP that's aligned to the party's high command not in favour of forming a new government given the hung nature of the current Assembly, the ruling Congress-JD(S) coalition is hopeful of winning the trust vote that Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy sought on Friday. The lack of cohesion in the



Congress rebel MLA MTB Nagaraj on Saturday. PTI

state BJP, coupled with efforts of the Congress to bring back a few of its more amenable rebels (13 of the 16 who resigned since July 6 are Congress MLAs) to the legislature for the trust vote, are likely to help the coalition CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Godrej speaks up again: Intolerance, hate crime rampant, can hurt growth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, JULY 13

LEADING INDUSTRIALIST Adi Godrej, Chairman, Godrej Group, Saturday warned that rising intolerance, hate crimes and moral policing can "seriously damage" economic growth of the nation. He was speaking at a leadership summit to celebrate the 150th anniversary of his alma mater, St Xavier's College.



Godrej on Saturday. Express

Talking about India being among the fastest growing economies in the world and Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently announcing his vision of India becoming a \$5-trillion economy, Godrej said, "But with the growth vision and dreams firing away, it's not all a rosy picture

as yet. One must not lose sight of the impoverishment that still massively plagues our nation, which can seriously damage the pace of growth going forward." "Unemployment is soaring at a four-decade high of 6.1%. It is a problem not only for India but a concern for most countries around the world. Rising intolerance, social instability, hate

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Destination Moon: Chandrayaan-2 to launch India into new space age

AMITABH SINHA PUNE, JULY 13

ONE OF the often recalled statements in the Indian space establishment is a remark by Vikram Sarabhai explaining the rationale of India's space programme: "There are some who question the relevance of space activities in a developing nation. To us, there is no ambiguity of purpose. We do not have the fantasy of competing with the economically advanced nations in the exploration of the moon or the planets or manned space flight. But we are convinced that if we are to play a meaningful role nationally, and in the community of nations, we must be second to none in the application of advanced technologies to the real



In this picture released by ISRO, officials carry out the hoisting of the Vikram Lander during the integration of Chandrayaan-2, at the launch centre in Sriharikota

problems of man and society". It is not clear exactly when or where Sarabhai made this

remark, but for over four decades, this remained the guiding principle of the Indian Space

Research Organisation (ISRO) that directed all its energies at building capabilities to exploit the power of space technology for fulfilling the country's development needs, and not exactly for doing science.

The launch of Chandrayaan-2, ISRO's most ambitious mission till date, at 2:51 am on Monday will signal an equally unambiguous intent — that India is not just ready to compete with the advanced countries in space exploration and human missions, it is even capable of taking the lead.

The Chandrayaan-2, a moon-lander and rover mission, is designed to go where no spacecraft has gone before. There have been 28 landings on the moon so far, including the six that had humans on board, and almost all CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

After brother-in-law died in custody, Dalit woman alleges gangrape by cops

DEEP MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, JULY 13

THE FAMILY members of a 35-year-old Dalit woman from Rajasthan's Churu district have alleged that she was gangraped by policemen and illegally detained for around eight days in connection with a theft case.

According to police officials, the brother-in-law of the woman was arrested on July 6 and died the same night in police custody, for which a judicial inquiry is being conducted by an additional chief judicial magistrate.

Talking to reporters in Jaipur on Saturday, the woman's husband said, "On June 30, police picked my 22-year-old brother in a theft case. On July 3, they came with him but when they took him back the same day, they took my wife too. Later, on the night of July 6-7, police tortured and murdered my brother. My wife, who witnessed the torture, was gangraped by police. They also plucked her nails, hurt her eyes and fingers."

He added that even after the death of his brother, his wife was CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

From YC (young cricketer) to WC final today, journey back to Lord's



SRIRAM VEERA LONDON, JULY 13

THE BOY who would run out to take covers off the pitch at Lord's before games, the child who would sell scorecards at the famed arena, the teenager who would gulp his breakfast at a nearby hostel and rush out to the most famous cricket stadium in the world — he will now play a World Cup final at the same ground on Sunday. Cricketing dreams don't get more romantic



New Zealand's Ross Taylor at a practice session ahead of the World Cup final. AP

than that. Ross Taylor is that lucky man. In 2002, when he was 18 years old, Taylor was sent to MCC Young Cricketers, the club based at Lord's. Every year, the most

promising New Zealand cricketer would get that honour. Martin Crowe did it for a year, Ken Rutherford, and Taylor. They were known as YCs.

Clive Radley, a Middlesex cricketing legend who was the manager of MCC then, remembers picking up Taylor from the Heathrow airport. "I was taking him to the MCC hostel where the other kids were, but thought 'let me show him Lord's on the way,'" he told The Sunday Express.

Taylor was smitten by everything there — the old grey building that still houses the groundsman (Lord's provides a house within the stadium and private-school tuition fees for the groundsman's children to this day), the green grass, the scenic setting, and, of course, that classic old pavilion.

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Darjeeling toy train's heritage tag under threat, UNESCO to send team

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR NEW DELHI, JULY 13

INDIA'S CONTINUING failure to conserve the 140-year-old Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), a World Heritage Site, has prompted UNESCO to take steps to assess the state of the railway system and see whether the property is worth the global heritage tag.

Not satisfied with the information the Indian Railways has been furnishing about the state of conservation of the World Heritage Site, UNESCO has sent its Reactive Monitoring Mission, comprising experts from UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and the International Council on Monuments and

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A wake-up call to conserve heritage

THE INDIAN Railways has been struggling to conserve heritage assets for years — tracks, buildings, bridges and even rolling stock. UNESCO has in the past raised the issue of erosion of heritage value of mountain railways in India, especially the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. The latest move is a wake-up call.

Former R&AW chief has a new mission: Paddy-shrimp farming in ancestral village

SHAJU PHILIP ALAPPUZHA (KERALA), JULY 13

DURING HIS long stint with India's external intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), P K Hormis Tharakan had to stay alert for possible threats to the country. Twelve years into his retirement as R&AW chief, Tharakan is still watchful: this time of water crops. In his gumboots, with an umbrella in one hand and a hat in the other, he stands on the mud banks of his aquaculture

farm in his village in Kerala's Alappuzha district, ensuring the crops don't prey on his shrimp and fish. "They come, swoop down and fly away with their catch," says the 74-year-old.

Tharakan, a former Kerala DGP, is now a budding farmer in his village. He says his is a family of traditional agriculturists but none among the present generation did farming until Tharakan decided three years ago to experiment with paddy-cum-shrimp culture in the brackish waters near his ancestral home. "After my retirement in 2007, I moved to Bengaluru. But in



Began farming on his family land three years ago

2014, I shifted to my village, Olavaip, hoping to spend the rest of my life reading and writing. But now I have become a full-time farmer. The field is my classroom and farming is a really humbling experience for me," says Tharakan.

After the death of his father Kochupappu Tharakan in 1959, none among the eight brothers took up farming and the family's 5-hectare land fell into disuse. "I joined government service in 1968 when I got into the IPS at the age of 23. I was the first among my brothers to get a job. After me, the others

moved to various professions, both in the government and private sectors."

"When I decided to take up farming, I went for paddy-cum-shrimp cultivation (known as One Paddy, One Fish farming in Kerala). All my brothers contributed financially for this group activity," he says.

Under One Paddy, One Fish, alternate cropping of fish and paddy is done in wetlands, with paddy being cultivated for four months and shrimp in the remaining eight months, when the fields remain fallow.

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