

ENGLAND WIN WORLD CUP; FEDERER LOSES LONGEST WIMBLEDON FINAL

Tietanic

After match and Super Over end in ties, New Zealand lose on boundary count



England celebrate their first World Cup title with a champagne shower at Lord's Sunday. AP

human spirit that shone through at the most famed cricketing arena in the world. No one lost — and yet England won. That's how it rolls sometimes.

Here is the simple match summary: New Zealand made 241, England equalled it.

England then made 15 in the Super Over. New Zealand equalled it. England hit 26 boundaries. New Zealand couldn't equal it. Game over.

But what a fairy tale it was. Stokes, born in New Zealand, stubbed out New Zealand's

hopes. There was an overthrow in the 50th over that deflected off Stokes' bat to the boundary.

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DJOKOVIC CLAIMS FIFTH WIMBLEDON TITLE PAGE 19



12 hours before launch, the GSLV-MkIII-M1 rocket sits on its pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. ISRO

On way to history, ISRO is set to touch the Moon

AMITABH SINHA
SRIHARIKOTA, JULY 14

IF ALL goes according to plan, by the time you read this on Monday morning, Chandrayaan-2, India's most ambitious space mission till date, would have comfortably settled down in orbit around Earth, its first pitstop in a more than 50-day historic journey to the Moon.

The spacecraft would be moving at a speed of over 37,000 km/hour in an elliptical orbit that at its closest would be about 170 km from the Earth's surface and, at its farthest, about 40,000 km away.

Chandrayaan-2 will con-

tinue to go around the Earth for the next 17 days, incrementally raising its orbit several times, before heading towards the Moon. The lander and rover modules of the spacecraft are slated to land on the surface of the Moon on September 6, after a 54-day journey.

With Chandrayaan-2, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which has successfully executed a string of remarkable missions over the past decade, is making its first attempt to soft-land on any

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THE GOVERNANCE PAGE
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CM balances Maratha quota: offers general category fee aid, more seats

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
MUMBAI, JULY 14

OPEN CATEGORY Maharashtra students who fail to get admission in medical colleges for MBBS or post-graduation due to the reservations introduced under the Socially and Economically Backward Category (SEBC) from this year will be allowed to take admission in private medical colleges, with the government reimbursing the difference in fees.

At a meeting held in Mumbai, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis also said that the decrease in medical seats in open category due to reservation for various social communities in the state will be compensated by increasing the number of seats.

A delegation under the banner of 'Save Merit, Save Nation' had called upon Fadnis to express disappointment over the shrinking seats for general students in medical colleges.

An official statement issued by the state government after the meeting said, "The CM has assured to make up the loss of open category seats by increasing the seats in MBBS and PG. He further said that those eligible

PRO-KHALISTAN LEADER DROPPED FROM PANEL, PAKISTAN AGREES TO BUILD BRIDGE

India, Pak move closer on Kartarpur corridor

Visa-free travel for 5,000 India passport, OCI card holders on all days of week

SHUBHAJIT ROY & KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
NEW DELHI, ATTARI, JULY 14

IN A major breakthrough, India and Pakistan have narrowed their differences on the proposed Kartarpur corridor with New Delhi Sunday stating that the two sides have agreed to allow visa-free travel for Indian passport and Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card holders on all days of the week.

The Indian government also said that 5,000 pilgrims will be

allowed to visit the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara, near Lahore, per day. The pilgrims will be allowed to travel as individuals or in groups and also on foot, New Delhi said in a statement.

Pakistan also agreed, "in principle", to build a bridge on its side to make the corridor immune to flooding and ensure an all-weather corridor to the gurdwara through the year. This had emerged as a key difference during the technical-level talks earlier.

Differences, however, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



SCL Das, Joint Secretary, Home Ministry, and others in the Indian delegation return from Wagah, Sunday. Rana Simranjit Singh

EXPLAINED: Bilateral hope

AFTER KEY differences emerged in March, the two sides have moved closer on major aspects, including a commitment by Pakistan to not allow anti-India activity by pro-Khalistan elements. Progress on Kartarpur provides a rare glimmer of bilateral hope.

Govt readies plan for second wave of asset monetisation

On list: BSNL, GAIL, state bank assets

PVAIDYANATHANIER
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

AN INTER-MINISTERIAL committee of the government will soon recommend a second list of PSU assets, including pipelines of GAIL, mobile towers of BSNL and MTNL, and ATMs of state-owned banks, that could be monetised to raise resources for fresh investment by these undertakings.

The inter-ministerial com-

mittee (IMC) chaired by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and comprising the Finance Secretary and Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), has already held three-four rounds of meetings with administrative ministries to push through the second lot of assets for recycling and monetisation.

The IMC has discussed hiving off the pipeline and tower businesses of GAIL and BSNL, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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EX-BANGLADESH MILITARY DICTATOR ERSHAD DIES AT 91
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On table in Haryana: Creche in offices with 50 or more employees

Creche for children under 6, women staffers to get 4 visits of 20 minutes each plus rest

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, JULY 14

WOMEN EMPLOYEES in Haryana may soon be able to take care of their children while at work. Last week, the state government notified draft rules to make a "creche facility" mandatory for every establishment — private and public — that has 50 or more employees.

women employees will be allowed to make four visits of 20 minutes each to the creche during working hours, apart from a rest period of 30 minutes for themselves.

Aiming to amend the Haryana Maternity Benefit Rules 1967, the draft states that the facility will accommodate children under the age of six years. It also says the move will cover regular, temporary, daily wage, contractual and consultant employees.

The earlier rules did not provide for any such facility. However, the chief inspector of

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MEET THE MATHURS, WHO DROVE ACROSS 17 COUNTRIES TO WATCH INDIA

There are many ways to get to England from Singapore to watch the World Cup. Driving around 22,000 kilometres over 17 nations is perhaps the toughest one. But for Anupam Mathur and his five family members, it was worth it just to watch Virat Kohli and his men play.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



INDIA, PAK MEET TO DISCUSS KARTARPUR

Meet amid differences between the two sides over a range of issues

FULL COVERAGE



CHANDRAYAAN-2 LAUNCH: CHEAT SHEET

Here's a brief to all the space jargon you hear for the next few days

EXPRESS AUDIO

The race to the moon

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Unpacking why there has been a resurgence in interest in moon missions globally and why the Chandrayaan-2 mission is far from over

NC leader's PSO killed in attack by militants

ADIL AKHZER SRINAGAR, JULY 14

A POLICEMAN posted as the Personal Security Officer (PSO) of a National Conference leader was killed after militants opened fire at him in South Kashmir's Anantnag district during a party convention on Sunday.

NC leader Syed Tauqeer Ahmad escaped unhurt, while his PSO, Reyaz Ahmed, was killed in the attack. Party vice president Omar Abdullah termed the killing as an attack on the "party convention".

Police officials said Reyaz, was shot at in Hiller area of Kokernag. He succumbed to injuries on way to hospital.

"He was brought here with bullet wounds on the chest. On arrival, doctors declared him brought dead," said Dr Abdul Majid Merab, Medical Superintendent, District

Hospital, Anantnag. Police sources said Reyaz was in his civvies and without a weapon at the time of the attack. "He was at the main entrance and inside, there was a meeting going on. After hearing the gunshots, the security personnel deployed with the NC leader also fired in air," said a senior police officer.

Abdullah said three militants attacked the party convention. "My colleague from Kokernag in South Kashmir Judge (Retd) Tauqeer Sb was just attacked by militants. While he escaped unhurt his security officer was hit & killed in the line of duty. I unreservedly condemn this dastardly attack & convey my condolences to the family of the deceased," he tweeted.

J&K Police in an official release said the policeman was killed in a "terror incident".

Police officials said they registered a case and are investigating the incident.

FROM PAGE ONE

Tietanic

Without it, would England have won? The game had everything — from skills to spirit, light to dark, joy to gloom. Pressure and nerves, too.

England almost collapsed in the chase. But then, they had overhauled their ODI cricket in the last four years. Their style, their pitches — they even got an Irishman to run it as he pleased. Eoin Morgan made them take the aggressive route, chose fearless cricket and taught them to seize the moment. It seemed they would choke at the biggest stage but Jos Buttler (59) revived the fight before Stokes (84 not out) seized the moment.

Four years ago, New Zealand went from an adrenalin-charged Brendon McCullum, who played with a gambler's instinct, to the order and method of Kane Williamson.

England wanted some adrenalin shots to change their outdated ODI game. New Zealand wanted calm and composure to recover from the rollercoaster ride that was McCullum's way. Williamson was the best way forward for New Zealand. And Morgan was the most suitable for what England wanted to do. And so, the two teams turned around, played in different styles, and reached the final.

Williamson loves to stay in the moment and react to what's thrown at him. Morgan loves to seize the moment with audacity as he realised England's problem was their meekness. Two contrasting styles clashed and in the end, there was a tie between two philosophies, too.

But that contrast also produced a cracker-jacker of a final, one for the ages. Williamson and Co had sensed that 250 would be a good total on this slow-seaming track and went about defending it admirably. Williamson attacked with seam and medium-pace. The ball seamed around at the start, it stopped in the middle overs — and the England top order wobbled to cope.

First, Buttler stepped in to calm everyone down with an assured knock. It was infectious as Stokes too settled down to produce the greatest knock of his life. Williamson's men hung in there, fielded tigerishly, bowled with great control, waited for the batsmen to crack under pressure. Buttler fell when the asking rate got a touch high but Stokes carried on.

First time around, it was an Englishman, Mark Wood, who was runout. Then, in the Super Over, a New Zealander, Martin Guppill, was runout. Two ties, one winner — just another day in cricketing paradise.

Maratha quota

open category students who could not get admission due to reservation should seek admission in private colleges and the government will reimburse their current year's tuition fees."

The state has enforced the 12 per cent reservation in education and 13 per cent in jobs to Maratha community under the SEBC category. With this, the total reservations in the state have gone up from the existing 52 per cent to 64 per cent in education.

Government sources said this would reduce open category seats in state government colleges by approximately 104 in PG and 314 in MBBS.

Since the process of admissions has already begun, officials indicated the increase in seats for PG is unlikely in the current year. Even if the Centre sanctions the increase, it could be only for undergraduate medical seats.

Announcing the setting up of an eight-member commission, comprising officials and experts, to solve problems of open category students, Fadnavis urged them to not worry over the new quota and said the government

India, Pak move closer on Kartarpur

remained on the Indian proposal to allow 10,000 additional pilgrims to visit on special occasions.

According to India, Pakistan highlighted "infrastructural constraints" and conveyed that they may be able to accommodate many of the Indian proposals in a phased manner. To this, Pakistan was asked to "reconsider its position" as the corridor is a long-pending demand and there is expectation that it would be liberal in allowing more pilgrims and facilities.

There was also no clear agreement on the Indian proposal that there should be "no restrictions on the pilgrims in terms of their faith" — India's statement referred to allowing Indian passport-holders, without referring to any particular faith.

While the two sides agreed that movement should be visa-free, there was no explicit reference to charging any fee or introducing any permit system by Pakistan.

India also raised the importance of ensuring a "safe and secure" environment for pilgrims and flagged concerns regarding individuals or organisations based in Pakistan "who may try to disrupt the pilgrimage and misuse the opportunity to play with the sentiments of the pilgrims".

The Indian side shared a dossier with Pakistan to highlight its concerns, indicating the presence of pro-Khalistan elements in the arrangement. "Pakistan side assured our delegation that no anti-India activity would be allowed," the

Indian statement said.

In this context, it was conveyed to Delhi that Pakistan has dropped pro-Khalistan leader Gopal Singh Chawla from the committee to oversee the corridor. Chawla was the secretary-general of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

India had earlier conveyed strong concerns to Pakistan over his presence in a 10-member committee appointed by Islamabad on the project. Delhi had also forced the cancellation of the second round of talks, scheduled to be held in April, over the presence of Chawla in the committee. Chawla has been seen with Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief and 26/11 attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed in the past.

The Indian delegation Sunday also sought consular presence at the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara to be able to provide assistance to pilgrims. India said Pakistan also "agreed to look at" the issue of encroachment of land belonging to the gurdwara, which was raised earlier.

These were the key outcomes from the second round of talks between officials from both sides on the corridor, which was held at Wagah, Pakistan, Sunday.

While the Indian side was led by SCL Das, joint secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Pakistan's side was led by Mohammad Faisal, Director General (South Asia) in the Foreign Ministry who is also its spokesperson. In the first round in March, key differences had emerged between

the two sides.

Addressing a press conference at the Integrated Check Post in Attari after the meeting, which lasted from 10 am to 1 pm, Das said: "Both sides have agreed to maintain a channel of communication and work towards finalisation of the agreement. The technical teams will meet again to ensure that seamless connectivity for the corridor is operational in time so that the pilgrimage can begin in November 2019."

Das described the progress of talks as "significant" and "substantial". "We have been able to narrow down the differences," he said.

While there was no joint statement, Faisal said in Lahore that Pakistan and India agreed "80 per cent and beyond" on the draft agreement, with the remaining 20 per cent to be resolved in the next meeting. "There are positive developments," he said.

Asked about a joint statement, Faisal said: "Until we agree on the final draft, we cannot share. On unresolved issues, we think we will have to have another sitting."

The Indian statement said, "Progress was made in finalising the draft agreement with regard to the modalities." On the bridge, it said: "Pending the construction of a bridge over the old Ravi creek by Pakistan on their territory, India offered to make interim arrangements for making the corridor operational in November 2019, given the historic importance of the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji."

would ensure justice to all students across communities.

He pointed out that the government was already giving 50 per cent tuition fee reimbursement in 604 courses to the economically weaker open category students, under the Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Educational Reimbursement Scheme. Besides, OBC and open category students get scholarship for education in foreign universities, the CM said.

The financial implications of reimbursement of fees for open category students in MBBS and PG can be ascertained after the admissions are completed, a senior secretary in the Medical and Higher Education Department, pointed out. As per his rough estimate, "The average fee difference between government and private medical college per student will come to Rs 6.5 lakh per year."

It is also unclear if the government promise of reimbursement of fees for private colleges is valid only for this year. The government has not officially made any commitment on fee reimbursement for the entire tenure of five years for MBBS and two years for PG.

In Maharashtra this year, 81,171 students qualified NEET for medical undergraduate admissions, an increase of 10,000 over 2018. In comparison, the number of seats increased by just about 100, an official in the Higher and Medical Education Department said. While government-and civic-run medical colleges offer around 3,160 MBBS seats, the total PG seats therein are 2,030. Maharashtra has 11 private medical colleges, with 1,880 MBBS seats and 1,441 PG.

The state has mooted a proposal demanding an additional 1,740 MBBS and 813 PG seats.

About seats other than medical, officials said the decision was currently being taken only with regards to this field as it had been impacted the most by the Maratha quota. "Unlike engineering, where there are a large num-

ber of seats, medical seats, both in government and private colleges, are limited," an official said.

However, he added, the government-appointed committee would look into all aspects to evolve a uniform policy for all professional courses, including engineering, from next year.

Monetisation

respectively, and leasing them out to private players. It is also considering ways to utilise the large ATM network of state-owned banks. "This is the only way to raise money for big investments by government companies," said an official, who did not wish to be named.

In the first round, the IMC had approved and submitted a list of 19 assets for monetisation to the government. These included 12 sports stadiums (three of Railways — one in Delhi and two in Visakhapatnam), five of Sports Authority of India (Delhi), two of ONGC (one each in Ahmedabad and Vadodara), one of BPCL in Mumbai, and one of RINL in Visakhapatnam.

Also on the first list were NTPC's Badarpur Thermal Power Plant in Delhi, ITDC's Ashoka Hotel in Delhi, and four mountain railway properties in Darjeeling, Matheran, Nilgiris and Kalika-Shimla. It also included 18 central government holiday homes across India, which are currently under the Directorate of Estates.

According to senior officials, in many cases of asset monetisation and recycling, the idea is to give the funds raised back to the company itself. "To beat the slow-down, we need the private sector to restart investment. If PSUs start spending, it will give confidence to the private sector to make fresh investments, which can set in motion a virtuous cycle of investment," an official said.

Officials noted that asset recycle and monetisation should not be confused with disinvestment. In disinvestment, the government offloads or sells part of its owner-

ship, whereas in asset monetisation, the ownership remains with the government — the underlying assets are leased on a long-term basis to private players.

For instance, GAIL had a network of around 11,400 km of natural gas high-pressure trunk pipelines with a pan-India capacity to handle volumes of around 206 mmscmd (million metric standard cubic metres per day), as on March 31, 2018. However, average gas transmission during the last financial year was only 105 mmscmd, roughly 50 per cent of capacity.

The pipelines can be handed over to private players on long-term lease, and the funds raised could be used by the PSU to expand its national pipeline network.

While BSNL leases out some of its mobile towers, it has been at a slow pace. Given its country-wide network — 67,279 towers till September 2018 — it leased out only 1,415 to other telecom service providers and earned Rs 336 crore. Hiving this off to a separate business, like what many private telecom players had done, will attract investors.

"The money raised by leasing such a large tower network can be used to at least pay back the small and medium enterprises to which BSNL owes significant sums. The government need not provide funds from the Budget for this," said an official.

State-owned banks have vast ATM networks, although mergers between some have led to a marginal decline. In 2017-18, public sector banks had 1.45 lakh ATMs, 3,000 less than the previous year. Private sector banks, on the contrary, added about 1,500 ATMs last year, taking the total number to 60,145.

"The IMC is still discussing with relevant departments on how best to utilise the large ATM network of public sector banks. Can they be pooled? Will it be possible to hive it off? How best can these assets be recycled and

monetised?" said sources.

Creche

the state's Labour Department has been empowered to allow multiple establishments to use a single creche, if the official is convinced that it will not result in inconvenience to employees.

The draft rules were notified on July 9, when the government invited suggestions and objections to be submitted at the office of the state's Labour Commissioner within 45 days, after which the initiative will be implemented.

Officials said the move follows instructions from the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment this February asking state governments to extend this benefit to women employees. According to a 2016 census of Haryana government employees, women comprise around 34 per cent of the total strength.

According to the draft rules, the creche has to be established by the employer within the workplace premises or 500m from their entrance. They also state that if a child is less than 15 months old, the mother would be allowed additional visits of 20 minutes each, depending on the need.

"Although several states are yet to amend their rules, Haryana has decided to implement it as early as possible. The draft rules have been notified and shall soon be implemented," a senior government official said.

The draft rules have also laid down norms for the building that will house the creche: heat-resistant and waterproof material for roofs and walls, smooth surface for floors and interiors of walls, lime-washing of interior walls every six months. Besides, the woodwork inside should be painted or varnished once every three years.

The norms also state that the creche should have a minimum space of 6-8 sq ft per child to ensure that children can play, rest and learn without hindrance. It

stipulates that the height of the rooms should not be less than 12 feet. Among the other facilities each creche should have are: first-aid and medicine kits, cradles, cots with bedding, cooking facilities, cooking utensils, feeding utensils, washrooms, facilities to wash soiled clothes, emergency lighting, adequate ventilation and emergency power back-up.

Apart from trained staff, employers will also have to ensure that medical examination of children is conducted every month by a registered medical practitioner, with records to be maintained.

Moon mission

extra-terrestrial surface. And despite the enviable track record, there is nervousness.

ISRO chairman K Sivan has said that the 15-minute period, during which the lander and rover would attempt to touch down on the Moon, would be the "most terrifying moments" for the mission. This is especially because Chandrayaan-2 will try to land in a region near the South Pole of the Moon, which is full of big and small craters, and which has been avoided by every mission so far.

On Sunday, hours before the launch, Sivan travelled to the temple town of Tirupati to offer prayers to Lord Balaji. It is a practice with ISRO to invoke the gods before major launches. This one is extra special; it is also the most challenging.

President Ram Kovind, who was at the Sriharikota launching range to see off the spacecraft, also visited Tirupati, although his visit to the temple was not explicitly linked to Chandrayaan-2.

A large extended family of space scientists past and present had gathered in Sriharikota for the launch that was originally scheduled for some time in 2010 or 2011, at that time with Russian support. The lander and rover modules, the key parts of this mission, were supposed to have been built by the Russians. The collaboration was called off because of some problems in the Russian design, and ISRO began to develop its own lander and rover modules. That caused a delay, but ISRO now has the satisfaction of executing a completely indigenous mission.

Riding India's most powerful rocket, GSLV-MkIII, the composite Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft, which contains the Moon Orbiter, Lander and Rover modules, each carrying scientific instruments, would have detached itself from the rocket 16 minutes after the scheduled launch at 2.51 am.

The spacecraft will take its specified route, but a normal passenger jet travelling in a straight line would make it to the Moon in about 25 days. The route of Chandrayaan-2 is dictated by its weight, the strength of the rocket, and the desire to give the Lander and Rover the best window of opportunity to land and carry out their experiments.

The spacecraft will start moving towards a lunar orbit from day 17 onward, and enter into a lunar orbit on day 22, where it would remain, circling the moon, for 28 days. After that, the Lander, inside which the Rover is housed, would separate from the Orbiter in preparation for the landing. It would first get itself in a lower orbit, and continue to go around the Moon. The final descent on September 6 will be a matter of only 15 minutes.

The Lander is fitted with cameras that will, during the descent, make real-time assessments of the topography of the region, and find a safe landing site in the plain near two large craters. After the landing, the Rover is designed to slide out and move around in the area. It will travel slowly — only 1 cm per second — and is expected to cover half a kilometre during its lifetime of 14 days.

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CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

ON 14.07.19, PAGE 15

THE PHOTOS in the box 'The Other Jayarajans', which went with the article 'The Forever Rebel', were inadvertently swapped. The error is regretted.

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BRIEFLY

Missing teen found dead

New Delhi: Two days after he was reported missing, a 14-year-old boy was found stabbed to death in West Delhi's Basai Darapur Sunday. Police found multiple injuries on the victim's body. "We found the boy inside an old house, following a tip-off. The body was sent for the post-mortem. The accused are yet to be identified," said a police officer. The victim's father said: "We last saw him on Friday morning... He went out to see his friends. We called him to ask him when he would return and he told us he would be back soon... when he didn't return, we called him again, but his phone was switched off." The family lives in Moti Nagar.

One more held in Palwal toll looting case

Gurgaon: Two months after two men looted over Rs 13,000 from a toll plaza in Palwal at gunpoint, a second person has been arrested for the crime, police said, adding the accused also confessed to his involvement in another case of attempt to murder in the district. The incident took place on April 10, at the toll plaza near Rahimpur village.

Two held for robbery

New Delhi: A man and his associate were arrested Sunday for robbing the former's employer of Rs 10 lakh in Outer Delhi's Narela. **ENS**

DEFENCE COLONY

22-year-old stabbed to death after cycle rams bike, 2 nabbed

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

IN AN incident of road rage in South Delhi's Defence Colony, a man and a juvenile allegedly stabbed to death a 22-year-old man in the early hours of Sunday. Police said the man has been arrested and the juvenile apprehended, and a case registered under IPC section 302 (punishment for murder).

According to police, the incident took place in the early hours of Sunday when the victim, Shyam Bodh Shah, was heading home from work. Police said the victim worked at Swagath Restaurant in the Defence Colony market as a pantry assistant.

Police said Shah's cycle



Shyam Bodh Shah was heading home from work early Sunday morning when the incident took place

rammed the motorcycle the accused were travelling on. The men got into a heated argument and one of the accused pulled out a knife and stabbed Shah on the left side of his

chest, said police.

"We received a call at 12.30 am about the incident, which took place near South Extension bus stand. Bystanders rushed the injured man to AIIMS Trauma Centre, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The accused fled the spot after stabbing him," said DCP (South) Vijay Kumar.

Police then deployed search teams and highway patrol bikes near the area. "One of our teams spotted two men on a bike, wearing blood-stained clothes. The officers stopped them. The man has been identified as Rahul. The duo work as domestic helps," said a police officer.

Sumit Tomar, an employee at Swagath restaurant, said: "Shah left the restaurant with his friend after midnight. He would often drop his friend to the bus

stand and then leave for home. He had been working at the restaurant for more than four years. He was very good at his work and was helpful."

Police, however, have not found any other witnesses and are investigating if anyone else was with Shah at the time of the incident.

Shah lived with his brothers in a rented apartment in Zamrudpur, Greater Kailash.

"He was hardworking, he would send Rs 7,000 to his family every month. His parents are unemployed and live in Bihar. His younger brother and sister live with his parents... his elder brother, Ram, works as a labourer. The family was dependent on him. He was also saving for his sister's wedding," said Shah's cousin Ram Lakhan.

Services on Magenta Line hit for two hours after technical snag

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

HARDSHIP WAS in store for people who took Delhi Metro's Magenta Line Sunday, with services on the corridor witnessing a two-hour-long disruption.

The 38-km-long line connects Janakpuri West in South West Delhi to Noida's Botanical Garden.

"Train services on this line between Kalkaji and RK Puram section were affected on Sunday from 8.55 am to 11 am due to a motoring problem reported from a train at Chirag Delhi UP platform (going to-



Metro services were restored around 11 am

wards Janakpuri West)," said an official statement released by the Delhi Metro Rail

Corporation (DMRC).

It further stated that after local troubleshooting measures, the train was withdrawn from service.

After the passengers were deboarded at Chirag Delhi, to avoid further delay on the line, the train was sent to the depot for investigation.

To keep services going, DMRC ran trains on a single line between RK Puram and Kalkaji Mandir stations temporarily.

Two temporary loops were also put in effect between Janakpuri West - RK Puram and Botanical Garden - Kalkaji.

Metro services were restored around 11 am after the issue was resolved.

Heading for interview, man stabbed to death

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

POLICE HAVE arrested two men and apprehended a minor girl for allegedly killing a 39-year-old man in Rajouri Garden after robbing him.

A case has been registered against the accused under IPC sections 397 (robbery with an attempt to cause death/grievous hurt), 302 (punishment for murder) and 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property).

According to police, Bhupender Birdi (39), a resident of Paschim Vihar, was supposed to go for an interview in an MNC in Gurgaon.

"The accused have claimed that the minor girl asked Birdi for a lift near Rajouri Garden. While she was with him, her associates came and threatened Birdi. They asked him to hand over his belongings to them. When he resisted, they stabbed him to death," a senior police officer said.

Police said a search is on for two more men who are absconding.

"On Sunday morning, a patrolling team of Rajouri Garden police station noticed a suspicious-looking car with four men and a girl sitting inside. When officers went to talk to them, the man in the driver's seat started the car and fled. Police gave chase and managed to stop the car after a kilometre. The occupants got out and tried to run but police caught two people, Himanshu and Deepak," said DCP (West) Monika Bhardwaj.

A police officer added that while the two men were being questioned, the officers received a call that the body of a man was found a few kilometres away in his car. On questioning, the men confessed to stabbing him in the thigh and murdering him.

The accused told police that they had planned to extort money from the victim.

"The victim was taken to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival," said an officer.

The minor girl was apprehended after the accused revealed her whereabouts.



TWO SHADES

Sewage water flows into the Yamuna near Majnu ka Tila. *Abhinav Saha*

No improvement in air quality for next two days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

AIR QUALITY in Delhi remained in the 'poor' category Sunday as the effects of a dust storm originating in Rajasthan continued to be felt in the city.

According to officials at the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), air quality is expected to improve only by Wednesday.

"Delhi and its surrounding areas continue to remain under the influence of a dust storm... The overall air quality of Delhi, which was 'very poor' is now in the 'poor' category with PM 10 as lead pollutant... We can expect slight improvement till tomorrow morning but air will remain in 'poor' category until Tuesday because dust parcels continue to move towards Delhi," an official forecast from the agency said.

The lack of rain, officials at the India Meteorological Department said, was also contributing to the poor air quality.

Delhi, where monsoons rains were delayed by a week, has seen only 13.8 mm of rain since June 1, against a normal of 147.2 mm — a deficit of 91%. Rain helps wash out dust particles but the past week has been mostly dry.

On Sunday, the city did not receive any rain and the maximum temperature was recorded at 37.7 degrees Celsius, three de-



WEEK'S FORECAST

Day	Min	Max
Monday	29	37
Tuesday	27	36
Wednesday	27	35
Thursday	27	35
Friday	28	36
Saturday	29	37

grees above normal. At 30.2 degrees Celsius, the minimum was also three degrees above normal. Humidity was recorded between 54% and 64%.

According to IMD officials, very light rain is expected on Monday and Tuesday.

"Monsoons in Delhi will continue to be weak, at least for another week. Wednesday and Thursday might see some rain but it will still be much below normal. The weekend will be mostly dry," an IMD official said.

Monday's maximum temperature is expected to be 37 degrees Celsius while the minimum is expected to be 29 degrees Celsius.

Cops pin hope on DNA to ID body found near college

AMIL BHATNAGAR
GHAZIABAD, JULY 14

WITH NO missing persons complaint matching the description of the woman whose body was found near a Ghaziabad college Friday, police are hoping to find a lead using DNA samples. The woman, in her early twenties, was found dumped near the college. Police suspect the assailants may have bashed her face in to prevent identification.

"We have preserved the DNA samples. Prima facie, it appears she was strangled. We can confirm more once the post-mortem report is out. In such cases, the key is in identifying the body. Some people came forward to claim the body, but it couldn't be identified," said Neeraj Jadaun, SP Rural (Ghaziabad).

Police have prima-facie ruled out sexual assault. Police said it is possible she was murdered at a different place and was dumped at the location, since it is a highway. A similar case was investigated by Ghaziabad Police in November last year, when a body was found close to the highway with bullet injuries. The body is yet to be identified, police said.

"It is too early to comment... Anything is possible," Jadaun said. Two headless bodies were found in Bulandshahr and Meerut in the last two months. Both are yet to be identified.

So far, police said, no connection has been found between the three cases.

Shahdara factory fire: Owner detained, his brother arrested

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

A DAY after three people died in a fire that broke out at a factory in Shahdara's Jhilmil Industrial Area, police have detained the owner of the factory and arrested his brother. "Factory owner Naem Ahmed was detained by officers on Saturday, his brother Adnan was arrested on Sunday. The brothers had rented out the building to run a brass tap manufacturing factory. A case under IPC sections 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire) and 304A (death by negligence) has been registered," said DCP (Shahdara) Meghna Yadav.

Two women and a teen had died in the fire that ravaged the four-storey building and its basement early Saturday morning. Over 100 firefighters spent eight hours dousing the blaze. While seven labourers were rescued by Delhi Fire Services (DFS), two victims were found dead on the second floor and one on the third floor. The victims have been identified as Shoaib Ali (19), Manju Devi (42) and Sangeeta Devi (46).

On Sunday, a post-mortem was conducted after which the bodies were handed over to the families. Shoaib's father Wahid Ali



Three people were killed in the blaze. *Abhinav Saha*

said: "We received Shoaib's body around 12 pm... We want justice; the incident took place due to someone's negligence."

On Sunday, workers staged a protest outside the building. Police rushed to the spot as the protest witnessed some violence even as workers demanded compensation for the victims' kin.

Meanwhile, another fire broke out inside a plastic bag factory near Jhilmil Industrial Area Sunday. The DFS received a call at 11.27 am about the incident near Mansarovar Park. Five fire tenders were rushed to the spot and fire was doused in two hours. "The fire broke out in the factory's basement. The cause behind the fire is unknown and police will investigate the matter," said DFS chief Atul Garg.

In East Delhi, study finds not all on board for waste segregation

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

MORE THAN 60% households in East Delhi's 60 colonies did not segregate their waste last year, while 71% either had their waste collected by the informal sector or disposed it themselves at vacant plots and dhalaos, a study by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has shown.

The proportion was even higher at markets falling under the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), where 78% establishments did not segregate their waste and 41% either had informal collectors picking up refuse or self disposed it at dhalaos, in the streets or drains.

The study, funded by EDMC and accessed by *The Indian Express*, was conducted over a period of three months till September 2018. It covered 60 out of 469 EDMC colonies of various categories.

The Solid Waste Management Bylaws 2017, which came into force in 2018, makes it necessary for waste generators to separate and store solid waste into three streams: non-biodegradable or dry waste, biodegradable or wet waste, and hazardous waste. The laws also direct that waste should

be stored in bins of green, blue and black for wet, dry and hazardous waste respectively. Segregated refuse should then be collected door-to-door daily, by integrating the informal collection system with the EDMC.

EDMC commissioner Dr Dilraj Kaur said the corporation has taken a number of steps to improve waste management.

"We have three wards — Yamuna Vihar, Anand Vihar and Mayur Vihar Phase I — where all houses have started segregating waste... By June next year, we will achieve segregation in six other wards, and gradually across East Delhi," she said.

TERI identified a number of behavioural and administrative gaps in waste management and put forward several recommendations, including providing training to waste collectors, establishing depositions centres for domestic hazardous waste and a centralised waste management system at the colony level.

Sourabh Manuja of TERI's Centre for Waste Management said, "Segregation of waste would ultimately help in reducing our carbon emissions. Better use of transportation would help save fuel and better recycling would reduce the release of greenhouse gases."

For Rohingya kids in capital, a chance to get lives back on track

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

FROM DOCTORS to rap artists, children of Rohingya refugees in North East Delhi's Khajoori Khas don't plan to let their current circumstances affect their future.

Having completed a four-month course — which taught them English, Hindi, Burmese and computer skills — conducted by the Rohingya Human Rights Initiative, the children were felicitated at an event held Sunday.

Riyaz ul-Khan (16), who received a trophy for performing well in the final exam, said he wants to pursue a career in performing arts in the future, particularly rap music. "I listen to a lot of Indian and international



The children were felicitated at an event Sunday

rap artists... I am motivated by them and I would like to pursue a career similar to it," he said.

Khan goes to a local government school in his area. His parents came to India in 2011 and are among 65 Rohingya families settled in

Khajoori Khas. Khan's sister Noor Salima (14) also goes to school.

"School time is usually the best part of the day because we get to learn a lot and play with friends... I want to become a doctor when I grow older because I like helping people," she said.

Under the project, tuition classes are held for children of Rohingya refugees and other underprivileged kids in a few states across the country.

In Delhi, the project was launched in Shaheen Bagh in 2016 but it was later shifted to Khajoori Khas.

"Education is the only solution for us. We left our country because we were not treated as humans, we don't want to let that happen to our children," said Ali Johar, the project's national head.

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Plot no	Details of plot	Plot area in sq.mt.	Up-set price Rs. (Per sq.mt)	EMD in Rs.	Date of auction
1	Commercial plot in Vejalpur TPS no.6, FP no. 237, Nr. Ramdevnagar Cross Road, Ahmedabad.	9529	1,65,738/-	1,57,93,175/-	Auction starts at 11.00 hrs on Dt. 20.08.2019 Auction ends at 12.00 hrs on Dt. 20.08.2019
2	Commercial plot in Vejalpur TPS no.4, FP no. 198, Nr. Preranathirha Derasar Road, Ahmedabad.	3840	1,34,422/-	51,61,805/-	Auction starts at 14.00 hrs on Dt. 20.08.2019 Auction ends at 15.00 hrs on Dt. 20.08.2019
3	Commercial plot in Bopal TPS no.3, FP no. 256/p, Nr. Sobo Centre, South Bopal Road, Ahmedabad.	9000	84,980/-	76,48,200/-	Auction starts at 17.00 hrs on Dt. 20.08.2019 Auction ends at 18.00 hrs on Dt. 20.08.2019
4	Commercial plot in Chandkheda TPS no.22, FP no. 265, Nr. Govt. Engineering Collage, New C.G. Road, Ahmedabad.	3411	1,04,540/-	35,65,860/-	Auction starts at 11.00 hrs on Dt. 21.08.2019 Auction ends at 12.00 hrs on Dt. 21.08.2019
5	Commercial plot in Thaltej TPS no.37, FP no. 192, Zydus-Bagban- Sindhubhavan Road, Ahmedabad.	6775	1,24,449/-	84,31,420/-	Auction starts at 14.00 hrs on Dt. 21.08.2019 Auction ends at 15.00 hrs on Dt. 21.08.2019
6	Commercial plot in Thaltej TPS no.38, FP no. 292, Opp Zydus Hospital, Hebatpur Road, Ahmedabad.	6233	1,20,866/-	75,33,578/-	Auction starts at 17.00 hrs on Dt. 21.08.2019 Auction ends at 18.00 hrs on Dt. 21.08.2019

• For further information about registration and participation please read details on (n)code website <https://e-auction.nprocure.com> or mail on nprocure@ncode.in or call on toll free number 1800 419 4632
• Timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process are available on the website of www.auda.org.in
• The Bidder/ Applicant's desirous to submit their bid have to submit Bids on <https://e-auction.nprocure.com>
• Any queries and clarifications sought by bidder may be sent to audaeuction@gmail.com latest by 30th July 2019. No queries shall be entertained thereafter.
• Individual bid should be submitted for individual plot offer with individual tender fee and EMD.
• Jurisdiction for e-auction would be Ahmedabad.
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No.:AUDA/ESTATE/E-Auction/Plots/07676 Chief Executive Authority
Date :- 12/07/2019 Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority, Ahmedabad

6 HARDLOOK EWS HOUSING

THE YEAR is 2007. Commonwealth Games are three years away and Delhi is being spruced up — constructing roads, subways, flyovers and leaving no stone unturned in transforming it into a world-class city. But sprawling slum clusters, authorities believe, need to make way for newer facilities and public infrastructure.

A mega exercise is planned to relocate thousands of slum dwellers, mostly migrants from the countryside reeling under an agrarian distress, to upcoming low-rise building blocks on the city's outskirts. Authorities are flush with funds with the launch of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), a new city modernisation project named after the country's first Prime Minister.

The plan

Located 40 km from Connaught Place, Bhorgarh is one such relocation spot. Far removed from the din of city life, yet within comfortable distance of the capital, it is more of a location private developers would perhaps describe as a 'retirees heaven'. The government, instead, markets it for the working class.

Under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) component of the JNNURM, authorities start building housing blocks in places such as Bhorgarh, Bawana, Narela, Ghogha, Baprola — localities that fall outside the coverage areas of the then upcoming Metro network.

Between 2007 and 2019, 31,424 one-BHK flats were built under the scheme by various agencies, including the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (DSIIDC), Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Delhi Development Authority (DDA). Around 24,000 more are at various stages of construction, according to official data available with *The Indian Express*.

But a crucial element is missing across the sprawling colonies: people. Not more than 2,000 of these flats are currently occupied, a top official of the Delhi government — under which DSIIDC and DUSIB come — said.

In a city of nearly 2 crore people, half of who live in slums and unauthorised colonies, there are barely any takers for such affordable housing. According to official estimates, there are 675 JJ (jhuggi jhopdi or slum) clusters in the city which house 3.06 lakh families, and nearly 1,800 unauthorised colonies, home to a mix of low- and middle-income families.

The Indian Express visited three colonies at Bhorgarh, Ghogha and Sultanpuri, which came up in 2011, 2010 and 2015 respectively. There are 1,272 flats at Bhorgarh, 3,434 at Ghogha and 1,060 at Sultanpuri. All are unoccupied.

Years of neglect means the colonies are decaying, with overgrown shrubs having taken over most of the area, wide cracks across buildings, broken window panes, doors, damaged floors and rusting metal.

Gates at Bhorgarh are locked from inside, but there are no security guards. At Ghogha, two private security guards man the complex, gates of which have collapsed, round the clock. The Sultanpuri project, the newest of the three, is relatively better off.

In flats at Bhorgarh and Ghogha, most facilities are damaged to an extent that officials admit it will take several crores to repair.

Among the few EWS colonies where people live is the one built by DSIIDC in Bawana in 2008. On paper, of the 1,184 flats, 300 have been allotted. At the colony, conditions are appalling — sewage blocks most lanes and streets are littered with garbage.

Of the 300 allottees, hardly anyone lives there anymore. Many have sold the flats to people, who have rented them out. The area has two prominent shops of property dealers. "We may be running a business here, but there's no demand. Who would like to live in these conditions? Even those staying would go elsewhere, given a choice. The rent is between Rs 1,500-Rs 2,000. Those who have electricity meters installed lease out their connections to others. There is no water pipeline," Jagmohan, a property dealer, said.

Bhavna, a homemaker living on rent, said: "I have never seen a sanitation worker here. We clean everything on our own. Our



Unoccupied houses in Ghogha and (right) Bhorgarh; (below) an EWS colony in Bawana, one of the few where people live. Photos: Amit Mehra

Home Truths

Scrapped tenders, incomplete work, stalled funding and renaming of schemes — a host of hurdles have hit government housing projects for the city's poor.
SOURAV ROY BARMAN visits the colonies to assess the situation

Status of projects

Under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor component of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

DSIIDC

Projects in Bawana, Narela, Bhorgarh, Ghogha, Baprola, Baprola Phase II, Poothkur Phases I, II and III, Tikri Kalan Phase I



Cost of project: ₹1,509 crore
Money released by GOI: ₹666 crore
By Delhi govt: ₹254 crore

DUSIB

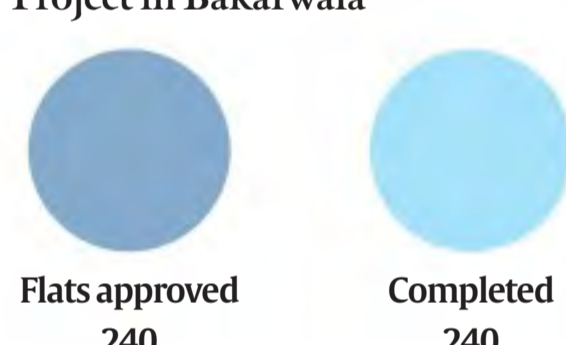
Projects in Dwarka (3), Sultanpuri, Savda Ghevara, Bhalswa, Jahangirpuri



Cost of project: ₹906 crore
Money released by GOI: ₹428 crore
By Delhi govt: ₹113 crore

NDMC

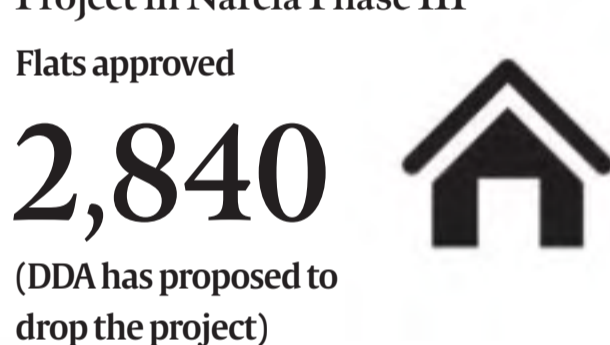
Project in Bakarwala



Cost of project: ₹22 crore
Money released by GOI: ₹8 crore
By Delhi govt: ₹1.40 crore

DDA

Project in Narela Phase III



(DDA has proposed to drop the project)

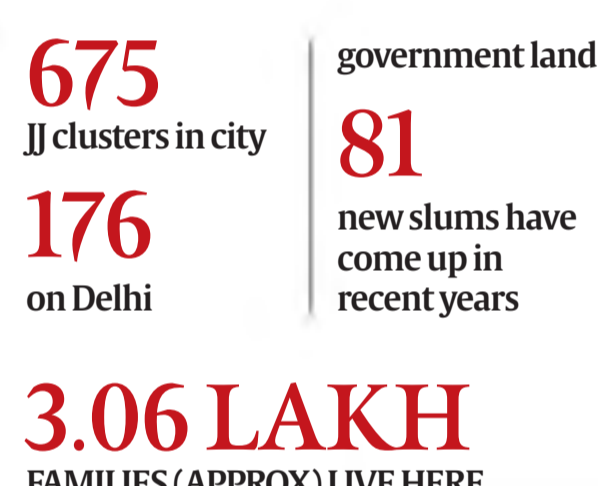
Cost of project: ₹117 crore
Money released by GOI: ₹38.66 crore
By Delhi govt: 0

Eligibility for rehabilitation or relocation under Mukhya Mantri Awaz Yojana

■ JJ bastis that have come up before Jan 1, 2006 shall not be removed without providing them alternate housing. Jhuggis that have come up in such JJ bastis before Jan 1, 2015 shall not be demolished without providing alternate housing

■ Jhuggis that have come up after Jan 1, 2015 shall immediately be removed without providing any alternate housing.

The numbers



WHAT IS A SLUM

According to the 2011 Indian census, a slum is a "compact housing cluster or settlement of at least 20 households with a collection of poorly built tenements which are mostly temporary in nature, with inadequate sanitary, drinking water facilities and unhygienic conditions". The United Nations, however, has a broader concept — it defines a slum household as a group of individuals living under the same roof and having an insecure residential status, inadequate access to safe water, inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure, poor structural quality of housing and overcrowding, according to an 'International Growth Centre' paper on Delhi's slums.

children keep falling ill."

Ramcharan, a house painter who moved to the colony five years ago on rent, said most families are tenants. "With not a single functional streetlight, the area becomes highly unsafe after dark," he said.

Geeta, who works in a small fan manufacturing unit and moved here as a tenant nine years ago, said: "When we moved here, we never thought we would land in a situation like this someday. The rows of building blocks you can see are all full of tenants. You will not see anyone who has been relocated from a slum here. But we are worse off than those living in slums."

What went wrong

Official records show that from the beginning, there was a lack of coordination

among various arms of the government, which also carried out a series of policy flip-flops. "It was like the left hand of the government did not know what the right hand was doing. Funds kept coming in and construction was carried out mindlessly, without thinking if there will be any takers," a senior official said.

Experts believe part of the reason the projects failed was the location of the colonies. Swati Janu, a visiting faculty at the School of Design, Ambedkar University, said the current model of relocating people to the fringes of the city, far from their livelihoods, doesn't work.

"Through my work, I have realised that often people do not want to live in multi-storey housing which disconnects them from life on the street. High-rise housing has al-

ready been proven a failure in western countries such as US (Pruitt Igoe housing) and UK (Aylesbury Estate). Yet, we are bent on emulating the same models and, hence, the same failures. Mid-rise, high-density neighbourhoods are seen to be more successful models of housing with a vibrant socio-urban fabric, preferred by the residents as well," Janu said.

Evita Das, an urban researcher and member of civil society platform 'National coalition for inclusive urbanisation', said in-situ rehab was the only solution.

Das said the housing inventory, mostly on the periphery of the city, does not work because housing is just seen as a structure, not as a right. "What about their livelihood, access to basic services, how will they commute to the city? There has been a clear political shift in viewing the urban landscape. A

place is being built where urban poor will be made invisible further and further," she said.

In fact, construction of houses meant for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) was the simplest part in the early phases, with Central funding being around 40% for every BSUP project.

The DDA, for example, built 2,840 flats under the JNNURM scheme but later proposed that the project be dropped altogether. Work on the pending DSIIDC projects has come to a halt as the Centre stopped funding in April 2017. "Since progress is about 50%, a huge amount of funds is required for completion of the project. The matter is being taken up for a policy decision," an official note of the Urban Development Department said.

While the location of housing colonies, up to 40 km away from the city centre, is a

factor, policy flip-flops and one-upmanship are equally responsible for the current mess.

In 2010, the Sheila Dikshit government created a policy to govern the allocation process. The year 1988 was decided as the cut-off date of eligibility, which left out lakhs of families. Subsequently, 119 clusters were identified in which the DUSIB carried out a survey and found only 30-35% eligible families.

"Ahead of the Commonwealth Games, the government became desperate to relocate slum dwellers to those colonies. Not all families were willing to shift to places far from their sources of earning. Eventually, the government managed to shift around 266 families," an official said.

Later, the cut-off date was relaxed to 2009 in a new policy which replaced the earlier one in 2013. By that time, the UPA government had launched the Rajiv Ratan Awaz Yojana to provide one-time assistance to the urban poor to move into these flats, with the vaunted aim of a "slum-free India".

Authorities in Delhi signed up for the scheme and pledged to bear 50% of the cost of the flats. The remaining 50% had to be paid by beneficiaries. Under the policy, around 50% of JJ cluster dwellers were found eligible for flats. "Still, nothing moved as the state elections took place in 2013 and 2015, and the general elections in 2014. Elections meant relocation of slum dwellers, a political hot potato in Delhi, became a no-go zone," a DUSIB official said.

Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

Further hurdles

In 2015, the AAP government rode to power, with 'jaha jhuggi wahan makaan' as a key promise. In its first Cabinet meeting, a decision was taken to halt all demolitions, pending a review of existing policies and framing of an in-situ rehabilitation scheme.

That policy, called 'Delhi Slum and Jhuggi Jhopri Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy', was eventually notified on December 11, 2017. The policy acknowledged that building resettlement in faraway places does not work since the poor return to their place of work. It also recognised the PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana), which had replaced the Rajiv Ratan scheme after the BJP came to power in 2014, a decision that was reversed later.

Earlier this year, Delhi government decided to rename the policy as 'Mukhya Mantri Awaz Yojana', effectively stalling a proposed survey across the 675 JJ clusters to find potential beneficiaries of the scheme. The government then decided to withdraw from the scheme, saying the assistance amount of Rs 1 lakh per flat could be absorbed without any Central help.

DUSIB was made the nodal agency for relocation/rehabilitation of slums and the cut-off date was again revised to 2015. The policy also said that any jhuggi that came up after January 2015 will be removed without a promise of alternate housing.

DUSIB had floated tenders for construction of 5,310 dwellings at Bhalswa, Dev Nagar and Kasturba Nagar, which would have been the first in-situ project under the Delhi government's policy. But tenders failed. Now the board is trying to use completed projects at Sultanpuri and Bhalswa — having 1,060 and 7,400 vacant flats each — to carry out rehabilitation.

"One clause of the AAP government's policy, which allows for rehabilitation on the same land or in the vicinity within a radius of 5 km or more in exceptional circumstances is coming in handy in this case," an Urban Development Department official said.

DUSIB also aims to partially fill up another vacant colony at Savda Ghevara with around 1,900 families while low-ranking CISF officials, numbering around 2,100, are likely to be allotted flats at DSIIDC's Baprola project. Overall, DUSIB managed to allot flats to 1,927 families in 2018-19 and plans to cover 3,400 families in 2019-20.

But the board is responsible for rehabilitation of only 176 out of 675 slums which are on Delhi government land. Allottees also have to pay Rs 1.12 lakh per dwelling and an additional one-time maintenance charge of Rs 30,000 for five years.



7 GOVT & POLITICS

Another Cong MLA joins Karnataka rebels in Mumbai

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, JULY 14

A CONCERTED effort over the weekend by leaders of the ruling Congress-JD(S) coalition in Karnataka to woo back the rebel MLAs who have resigned, reducing the combine to a minority, showed little progress, with one of them joining forces on Sunday with 11 others in Mumbai.

On Saturday, after being wooed all day, M T B Nagaraj, a minister in the coalition government, had stated that he remained a member of the Congress despite quitting the coalition.

On Sunday, Nagaraj was captured by TV cameras in the company of senior BJP Karnataka leader R Ashok before travelling to Mumbai, and later held a press conference with the other rebels there. However, he insisted he did not travel with Ashok or was in touch with anyone.

In Mumbai, the rebels — 15 of whom have approached the Supreme Court to direct Speaker K Ramesh Kumar to accept their resignations — put up a united front and claimed there was no question of any of them withdrawing their resignations. "We have not divided into groups. We are all united. M T B Nagaraj has joined us and 12 of us are together now. Another MLA, Sudhakar, who has resigned, is in Delhi and he will join us. There are 13 of us in all and a total of 15, with two Independents," S T



Former Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah with rebel Congress MLA Ramalinga Reddy in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI

Somashekhar said.

In a sign that the rebels are driving a hard bargain with the ruling coalition and the opposition BJP ahead of the vote of confidence sought by Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy, Nagaraj too asserted, "We are all together. Yesterday I said that if Sudhakar takes back his resignation, I will do too. Now there is no question of taking back the resignation."

The ruling coalition, however, continued to try mop up support of other disgruntled MLAs who have resigned, and those who are likely to resign, but have not travelled to Mumbai, such as Rama-

linga Reddy and Roshan Baig. Kumaraswamy, as well as Congress leaders Siddaramaiah, Mallikarjun Kharge and D K Shivakumar, met Reddy on Sunday.

The CM also met Congress MLA B Nagendra, who is admitted in hospital, in an effort to convince him to support the government in a trust vote.

"BJP friends keep saying they are not involved in destabilising the government but today's developments show their involvement," Congress leader Shivakumar, who was in talks with Nagaraj for over five hours on Saturday to convince him not to

leave the coalition, said, hinting at the latter's meeting with Ashok.

The pleas filed in the Supreme Court by the rebels for acceptance of their resignation are scheduled to be taken up on July 16 and, sources said, they have no option but to stick to their stand during the pendency of the matter. The rebels face the prospect of being disqualified as legislators in the current Assembly if their resignations are not accepted and if they defy a party whip issued to vote in favour of the government during a trust vote.

Kumaraswamy has indicated that he would like to face a trust vote on Wednesday, after seeing the outcome of pleas filed in the Supreme Court by the rebels.

Sunday's developments have left the state BJP leadership enthused about the early demise of the coalition government. BJP Karnataka president B S Yeddyurappa told party MLAs that there would be good news in four-five days. "The BJP will get a chance to serve the people," he said. "More than 15 MLAs have resigned so the Chief Minister does not have a majority. Let him resign immediately or schedule a trust vote on Monday to prove his majority," he said.

BJP state leaders indicated that they do not foresee the coalition surviving, despite the party itself likely to face problems in providing a stable government should it come to power with the tacit backing of rebels from the Congress-JD(S) combine.

Out in the cold, Sidhu says have quit ministry

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, JULY 14

AMID HIS ongoing feud with Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, cricket-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu announced his resignation from the state Cabinet on Sunday.

After remaining incommunicado and in a self-imposed political exile for over a month, ever since Amarinder stripped him of his Local Bodies and Tourism and Culture portfolios, Sidhu Sunday tweeted his resignation letter, dated June 10 and addressed to "the AICC president". Sidhu had met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi that day.

Assigned Power and New & Renewable Energy portfolio in a reshuffle, Sidhu had not assumed charge.

His resignation announcement came after a wait of over a month for the Congress high command to intervene. However, it is unclear where the resignation stands as, under the rules, a minister has to mark the same to the CM.

As the Chief Minister's Office made it clear Sunday that Amarinder had not received any communication from Sidhu regarding this, he issued a second tweet that he would do so soon.

Sources close to Sidhu said he was in the process of vacating his official residence and that he would now be based in Patiala, Amarinder's hometown. Though Sidhu also belongs to Patiala, he had shifted base to Amritsar after being elected as Amritsar MP on a BJP ticket.

Sidhu had protested against the withdrawal of the Local Bodies and Tourism and Culture Departments from him as Amarinder had hinted that non-performance was the reason behind the move. The CM had stated that the Congress could not do well in cities in Punjab in the Lok Sabha elections as the minister in-charge had failed to perform in urban local bodies. Sidhu had in turn released his report card and argued that the Congress did well in all the major cities. After that, he had gone incommunicado and met Rahul in Delhi.

The animosity between Amarinder and Sidhu goes back to before he joined the Congress, with the CM making clear his opposition to the former cricketer being inducted. While Amarinder continued to sideline Sidhu in the state government,



Sidhu sent his resignation to AICC chief on June 10

EXPLAINED

Move ends speculation, shows Captain is in command

THE cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu's decision to make public his June 10 resignation from the Cabinet not only brings to an end months of speculation about his future in the ministry, but also proves that Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh is clearly in command. His detractors can no longer hope to expect the high command to meddle in the state affairs. The Chief Minister, who had successfully bucked the BJP wave in the country, calls the shots.

the latter's star remained ascendant due to his proximity to the high command.

Amarinder had also taken on Sidhu publicly for participating in the oath-taking ceremony of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, and greeting Pakistan Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa with a warm hug there. Sidhu, in turn, had stolen a march by coming back with an assurance from Pakistan on opening of the Kartarpur Corridor.

The announcement of his resignation ironically came on the day India and Pakistan announced a breakthrough on the corridor.

KARTARPUR 54 immigration kiosks, seating for 2,000, on cards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
ATTARI, JULY 14

THE PASSENGER terminal complex for pilgrims to Kartarpur Sahib at Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab will have a fully air-conditioned building of approximately 16,000 sqm and 54 immigration counters to facilitate the travel of up to 5,000 pilgrims per day.

According to a government release, the complex will have adequate seating capacity for 2,000 pilgrims and amenities like child care and first-aid.

This apart, a parking lot to accommodate 10 buses, 250 cars, and 250 two-wheelers is on the cards and CCTV cameras are to be put into place. A 300-ft national monumental flag will also be installed at the International Border.

The government has also envisaged a landscape area with water bodies, artefacts, sculptures of local culture, shaded seating spaces, canopies and benches. Architecture schools at Amritsar have been consulted for display of the rich Punjabi heritage, the life and works of Shri Guru Nanak Devji in the state-of-art building and for the landscaping of the complex.

The government has reiterated that construction work is on full swing. The target to complete the project is October 31, before commemoration of 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Speaker Om Birla and other MPs participate in a cleanliness drive at Parliament on Sunday. Renuka Puri

HOUSE CLEANING

LOK SABHA Speaker Om Birla rather seriously got down to the task he had undertaken when he wielded a broomstick to mark the Swachhata Abhiyan on Parliament House campus on Sunday. While several MPs, including Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lallan (JD-U) and BJP's Satyanarain Jatiya, P P Chaudhary, Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma and Hansraj Hans, posed with him for a photo-op with new broomsticks, Birla also helped himself to a dust-pan to actually lift some garbage and put it into a waste bin.

MESSAGES TO PARTY

AFTER BJP JOINT secretary (organisation) Shivprakash surprised everyone with his "talk with me" message to a state party chief on Twitter, it was another senior party leader's turn to keep everyone guessing with his series of tweets on Sunday. BJP national vice-president and Rajya Sabha MP Prabhat Jha posted three one-liners in Hindi on his official twitter page tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president Amit Shah, working president J P Nadda, former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with the official handles of national BJP and Madhya Pradesh BJP. "Aap jo nahin hain, use banane ke liye prayas karein, par natak nahin (Do try to become what you are not, but there should be no pretension)," said one of the tweets. Another said: "Dayitva ka matlab 'main hi hoon' ka bhav nahin hona chahiye (Being responsible does not mean I am the only one)." The third one said: "Jaahi vidhi rakhe Ram, tahi vidhi rahiye ke bhav ko samajhkar apna karya karna chahiye (Whichever way God keeps you, remain like that — you should work with that kind of attitude)." The cryptic remarks left tongues wagging in the party. After posting the tweets, Jha did not respond to calls.

HEALTH CAMP

VICE-PRESIDENT M Venkaiah Naidu organised a two-day free liver test camp for his staff and security personnel at his official residence over the weekend. A total of 335 personnel availed the benefit. New Delhi-based Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences conducted the camp that would have cost about Rs 8 lakh outside for testing for liver fibrosis, Hepatitis B and C and ALT. Liver stiffness was tested using Fibriscan machine that gives an instant report. Naidu and his wife too got themselves checked.

GOA CRISIS MGP chief wants law against defection amended

SMITA NAIR
PANAJI, JULY 14

THE MAHARASHTRA Gomantak Party (MGP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Goa Sudin Dhavalikar has demanded that the anti-defection law be amended as regional parties are becoming its biggest casualties.

"The manner in which the changes are taking place is not good, it is not good for Goa, not good for society and if an intervention is not made, it will be a big mistake," Dhavalikar said, speaking on 10 Congress MLAs joining the BJP.

Dhavalikar pointed out that the number of MLAs keeping ideology aside and jumping ship has only increased over the years. "If you sit with a sheet, only Pratap Sing Rane (Congress MLA) and I am left," he said.

Rane, he said, completed his full term, resigned and then chose the Congress "based on ideology". "I have been in MGP since my *karyakarta* days. There are difficult

years but I have never left my party," he added.

"This is no longer just about politics in a small state. The national and regional parties across the country need to probe the manner in which Goa is losing its equations, its ideology and its MLAs," Dhavalikar said.

The MGP, which currently has Dhavalikar as its lone MLA in the Assembly, is fighting the defection of two MLAs in court — the MLAs joined the BJP early this year.

"We are saying it aloud. The Act needs to be studied again. It needs to be amended. Our proposal is that a defecting MLA should not be allowed to complete term and he should resign and contest again," he said.

Commenting on the prospects of Goa Forward, three MLAs of which were dropped as ministers, the MGP leader said, "Goa Forward should either stand again or join some other party and get lost."

Goa Forward has withdrawn its support to the NDA government and has joined the opposition.

AT THE CENTRE OF CRISIS

A Speaker known to stick to rules

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, JULY 14

AMID UNCERTAINTY over the future of the Congress-JDS government in Karnataka following resignations by rebel MLAs, one of the concerns of Congress leaders is that Assembly Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar will show no favouritism despite being a Congress leader for many years.

The 69-year-old five-term MLA from Srinivasapura constituency of Kolar district holds a science degree and describes himself as an agriculturist. He has twice served as Speaker of the Assembly and has the reputation of being a knowledgeable, well-read man, who has occasional flashes of temper but is a smooth operator in general.

Kumar rose from student politics in Bengaluru in the 1970s and associated with the Congress early in his political career. He later shifted to Janata Party and



Karnataka Assembly Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar

Janata Dal before returning to the Congress around two decades ago.

His name was also linked to a murder probe in the Srinivasapura constituency he represents. Kumar was eventually acquitted in 2007 in the case.

As a legislator, Kumar was known to be an orator who made thought-provoking speeches in the House and tried to guide young legislators about the history of the legislature, politics

and the world in general — often diving into folklore and religious texts to drive home points.

Often frustrated over not being made a minister despite winning many elections, Kumar was finally appointed a minister in the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in 2016. He served as the health minister and is best remembered for his efforts to make private hospitals and clinics more accountable.

With his sizeable experience as Speaker, Kumar is known to generally follow the rule book when it comes to making decisions. "I cannot stray from the rules even if it benefits some but not others," Kumar said after deciding to examine in-depth the resignations of 10 MLAs who met him on Thursday on the directions of the Supreme Court.

"I am not a follower of anybody or a leader of anybody. I am a follower of the Constitution of India," the Speaker said this week when asked if any political bias

Karnataka hand is new BJP organisation gen secy

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

BJP PRESIDENT Amit Shah on Sunday appointed B L Santosh as the new general secretary (organisation) of the party. Santosh replaced Ram Lal, who has returned to the RSS after serving in the post 13 years. Santosh, who had served as Karnataka BJP's organisation secretary in the past, was national joint secretary (organisation) before his appointment on Sunday.

Santosh's appointment to the crucial post comes at a time when the BJP wants to focus on the south as it has so far not been able

to make deep inroads into the region, except in Karnataka.

On Saturday, Santosh tweeted, "It was 12 years of learning with @RamLal from 2006. I was deputed to political field along with him. Calm, composed attention to details were his hallmark. He was a father figure to many like me. Back to Sangh work. Wish you all the best. We will miss you."

Like his predecessor Ram Lal, Santosh maintains a low profile, but his role in building the BJP's political base in Karnataka and neighbouring Goa has been lauded by the party leadership.

An RSS pracharak with an experience of electoral politics,



B L Santosh

Santosh is considered a strong ideologue who is well-versed with the poll dynamics. The BJP said in a statement that his appointment comes into effect immediately.

Santosh was the party's general secretary (organisation) in Karnataka for eight years before he was made a national office-bearer in charge of southern

states in 2014.

A full-time RSS pracharak is appointed to the post of general secretary (organisation) on deputation in the BJP and will coordinate between the RSS and the party.

A chemical engineer by qualification, Santosh hails from Dakshina Kannada, but was raised in Bengaluru. He worked as a full-time pracharak in Mysuru and Shimoga districts before becoming the state organisation secretary of the BJP.

During the last few years, Santosh had emerged as a power centre within the Karnataka unit of the BJP. His strong stance on is-

'Eloped couple's coverage will lead to rise in female infanticide'

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JULY 14

IN AN apparent reference to last week's TV coverage of a wedding between a Dalit boy and an upper caste girl from Uttar Pradesh, Leader of Opposition in Madhya Pradesh Assembly, Gopal Bhargava, on Sunday claimed that such reports will lead to an unprecedented rise in cases of female infanticide and a skewed gender ratio over the next three years.

Calling it his personal opinion, the BJP leader posted a thread on Twitter in which he asserted that illegal abortions will rise in nursing homes and clinics because of such coverage. "To increase their

TRPs and to make money, these channels are engaging in anti-social and anti-national work. Their deeds will ensure that the decade-old Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and the national campaign will go back by 50 years," he wrote.

Without naming any channel, he tweeted that in their lust for TRPs and money, channels were making a mockery of a sad father over a modern version of "Laila Majnu". His tweets come in the wake of a video that surfaced last week on social media in which, Sakshi Mishra (23), daughter of UP BJP MLA Rajesh Mishra, claimed that she was being harassed for marrying a Dalit boy. A TV channel called the couple to its studio and also spoke to the father.

Trains depicting Kargil war scenes to roll out today

New Delhi: Ten trains covered with vinyl livery depicting the Kargil War will be flagged off on Monday on the occasion of Kargil Diwas, marking 20 years of the war, a spokesperson for the national transporter said on Sunday.

The coaches will be fully wrapped in vinyl sheets depicting "the tale of the war and sacrifices of the fallen soldiers" said the spokesperson. One of these trains, the Delhi-Varanasi Kashi Vishwanath Express, will be flagged off by Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and MoS Railways Suresh Angadi from New Delhi station. Families of some of the martyrs will be present on the occasion. ENS

MP govt may consider building temple at site linked to Ramayana in Sri Lanka

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JULY 14

THE CONGRESS government in Madhya Pradesh is considering taking a closer look at the previous BJP government's plan to build a temple at Divurumpola in Sri Lanka, believed to be the site of Sita's Agnipariksha.

The Shivraj Singh Chouhan government first spoke about the temple in 2010, but there was little progress on the ground for six years. In between, he had claimed that necessary permissions had been obtained from Sri Lankan government and the

Centre. When the then Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa visited Sanchi in 2013, Chouhan had again raised the issue.

Finally, in 2016, an official team visited the site of the proposed temple. The BJP government then claimed that a Bengaluru-based firm had prepared a design and that construction would be over within a year or so. The expected cost was between Rs 12 and Rs 14 crore.

The site of the proposed temple is located on the premises of a Buddhist monastery in Divurumpola, about 15 km from Nuwara Eliya, a city in the

Central Province of Sri Lanka. Local people believe that the ornaments worn by Sita are still buried under a raised platform there.

S K Mishra, former principal secretary to Chouhan, told *The Indian Express* that the government had sanctioned Rs 1 crore for the temple but the money remained with the tourism department and was never used. He said the priest-in-charge of the monastery was all for the temple but was allegedly booked by the Sri Lankan authorities for cutting an old tree without official permission. Before the BJP government could

revive the project, it lost power in the state.

Law Minister P C Sharma, who also holds the charge of religious affairs and trusts in the Kamal Nath government, said the government could think of reviving the project but only after studying all aspects in detail. "We don't want to do *nautanki* like the previous government by making announcements only for the sake of announcement. It is under consideration but we won't make any announcement before anything concrete happens. I am discussing what has been done and what is possible," the minister said.

8 EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH

MP's Indori poha likely to join race for GI tag

Indore: An organisation of food manufacturers here in Madhya Pradesh is planning on seeking the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the famous Indori poha and three other popular food items from the Malwa region — *doodh se bani shikanji, laung sev* and *khatta meetha namkeen*. Indore Mithai Aur

Namkeen Nirrata-Vikreta Vyapari Sangh secretary Anurag Bothra said, "We are gathering documents which can throw light on the local history of these foods," he said. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development Institute in Indore is helping the sellers' body in seeking the tag. **PTI**



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Army chief Bipin Rawat at an event commemorating the 20th anniversary of Operation Vijay at the National War Memorial on Sunday. Prem Nath Pandey

EAST

Man killed in Kolkata Metro: FIR against authority

Kolkata: The Kolkata Police registered an FIR against the Metro authority on Sunday, a day after the death of a 66-year-old passenger, whose hand had got stuck in the train door and was dragged for nearly 60 metres as it started moving. An unnatural death case was registered on Saturday. However, new

IPC sections were added following a complaint filed by the family of the deceased, Sajal Kumar Kanjilal, at Kasba police station. Police said they might soon interrogate Metro officials and examine CCTV footage of the incident in which the victim was dragged by the train and electrocuted. **ENS**

WEST

Gujarat Dalit youth's murder: Wife found, says Police

Ahmedabad: Almost a week after a 25-year-old Dalit youth was hacked to death allegedly by his in-laws in a village near Ahmedabad, police traced the missing wife who is currently staying with her mother and recorded her statement on Saturday. "After the prime accused, Dashrathsinh Zala, was arrested, we traced Urmila Zala, wife of deceased Haresh

Solanki (25), to her relative's place where she is staying with her mother. In the statement given to the police, she mentioned that she is not pregnant. Since she is not one of the accused in this case, we will pursue for a medical test only when she agrees," said P D Manvar, deputy superintendent of police, SC/ST Cell, Ahmedabad rural. **ENS**

SOUTH

Four accused of asking sexual favours booked in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A contestant in the Telugu version of reality show Big Boss, who was eliminated from the final episode, has alleged that four program coordinators misbehaved with her and sought sexual favours on behalf of their boss to include her among the finalists. Swetha Reddy, journalist and news anchor, alleged in her

complaint that during the selection of finalists, the organisers asked her how she would "satisfy" the boss. "Satisfying means asking for sexual favours," she said. The police has registered a complaint against the four accused, under IPC Section 354 (Assault and criminal force to outrage modesty of woman). **ENS**

Solan building collapse: Armymen among dead

SAURABH PRASHAR
KUMARHATTI, JULY 14

THREE PERSONS, including two Army personnel, were killed when a three-storey building on the Kumarhatti-Nahan highway in Solan district collapsed amidst heavy rains on Sunday evening. Till late in the night, around a dozen others, most of them Army personnel, remained trapped in the debris.

The dead included two junior commissioned officers (JCOs) of the 4 Assam regiment, Subedar Raj Kishore and Subedar Balwinder Singh, and Archana Devi, wife of the building owner.

An Army official said 27 people, including 18 Army personnel, had been rescued till 8 pm. Rescue operations are still on, led by an NDRF team from Panchkula and troops from the Army's Dagshai Cantonment.

Locals said soldiers of the 4 Assam regiment had come to the Sehaj Tandoori dhaba, housed in the building, for a meal hosted by some JCOs. Sources at the Dharampur Police Station said 30 Army personnel and around a dozen others were inside the restaurant.



Soldiers of the 4 Assam Regiment had come to an eatery in the three-storey building. Pradeep Kumar

The building was owned by one Sahil, and initial reports said he was getting some extension work done on it. He had leased out a part of it for the restaurant. Both Sahil and the dhaba owner were not in the building at the time of the collapse, while Sahil's two schoolgoing sons had just stepped out to play.

Satbir Singh, one of the cooks at the restaurant, said he thought they had been struck by an earthquake. Another cook said around 30 Army personnel were having snacks in two rooms in the basement when the building collapsed.

Hardeep Singh from Ambala,

who had stopped at the restaurant for a meal, said the building crumbled within seconds, adding that he managed to clamber out on his own.

Ranjit, a worker at the restaurant, said he had just finished washing utensils and was making rotis when it happened.

Soldiers from the Dagshai Cantonment were the first to arrive at the site.

Solan Superintendent of Police Shiv Kumar said policemen, home guards and civilian workers were part of the rescue operations.

Four Army medical teams are at the spot.

Assaulted for not chanting Jai Shri Ram: Muslim cleric

AMIT SHARMA
MEERUT, JULY 14

A 30-YEAR-OLD Muslim cleric was allegedly beaten up and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' near Sarora village on Meerut-Karnal highway in Baghpat on Saturday evening. Though police have lodged an FIR against 10 unidentified persons for rioting and criminal intimidation, they said that a purported video of the alleged incident shows that "no one forced the victim to chant Jai Sri Ram".

According to the FIR filed at Doghat police station in Baghpat, cleric Imlakur Rehman Ali, a resident of Jola village of Budhana in Muzzafarnagar district, was returning home on a motorbike after teaching students at a mosque in Sardhana, Meerut, on Saturday evening when he was forcibly stopped by around 10 youngsters near Sarora village in Baghpat district.

"They removed the cap from my head and pulled me down by holding my beard. They forced me to repeatedly say 'Jai Sri Ram' with them and warned me against taking the same route again. And if I dared to

come back, I should remove my beard before entering into their territory," Ali was quoted as saying in the FIR.

"We have lodged an FIR based on a written complaint given to Doghat police by the victim. We are investigating the veracity of the allegations. We also have a video of the incident in which it is clear that no one forced the victim to chant Jai Sri Ram. Prima facie, it appears that someone has pre-scripted the content of the complaint to give the incident a communal colour," Deputy Superintendent of Police (Ramala) Anuj Kumar Chaudhary said.

Police also said that two residents of Sardhana — Suhail and Nadim Khan — had come to Ali's rescue and took the cleric to Doghat police station.

"We have lodged the FIR against 10 unidentified persons. The FIR has been lodged under IPC sections 147 (rioting), 341 (wrongful restraint), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt)," said Ramesh Singh Siddu, the in-charge of Doghat police station.

No arrests have been made in the case, so far.

FIR against three Muslim barbers for 'refusing' to cut hair of Dalits

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JULY 14

An FIR was lodged on Sunday against three Muslim barbers in the Peepsana village in Moradabad district after Dalit residents alleged that they refused to cut their hair.

The three barbers — Riyaz Alam, Ishaq and Jahid — were booked under IPC and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

According to 45-year-old Mahesh Chandra, he filed a complaint to stop caste-based discrimination. "This has been going on for several years, but now we have decided to raise our voice," he said.

Mahesh also said that after he filed a complaint, police held a meeting in the village. "In the meeting, barbers agreed that they would cut the hair of Dalits. But after police mediation, barbers shut their shops for three days," he said.

There are around 20 barber shops in the village, all run by Muslims. According to Circle Officer of Thakurdwara (Moradabad), Vishal Yadav, barbers claimed that they closed shops to decide on their next step. Jahid, who has been named in the FIR, said, "I have never refused any customer. False allegations have been made against me." **(WITHENS, DELHI)**

Cops booked for alleged gangrape of Dalit woman in Rajasthan

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, JULY 14

AN FIR was registered on Saturday night against several police personnel including a suspended SHO of a police station in Churu district of Rajasthan for the alleged gangrape and wrongful confinement of a 35-year-old Dalit woman, senior officials said on Sunday.

The brother-in-law of the woman had died in police custody earlier this month, with the family alleging he was murdered by the police.

The woman has said in her statement that the policemen beat her brother-in-law throughout the night of July 6 and that he died after 2am. The police say that they had arrested the man in connection with a theft case.

"An FIR against the then SHO of the police station and 5-6 other police personnel was lodged yesterday (Saturday) late night on the basis of the statement of the woman. The accused have been charged under relevant sections of the IPC including 376D (gangrape) and relevant sections of the SC/ST Act. The case will be investigated by the CID-CB," Prakash Kumar Sharma, additional Superintendent of Police, Churu told *The Indian Express* on Sunday.

Following the death of the woman's brother-in-law in police custody, the SHO, along with one head constable and six constables, had been suspended by the SP. The government had also removed the Churu SP late on Friday night.



A flooded road after heavy rain in Araria district of Bihar. PTI

Heavy rain in Nepal leads to flood in several Bihar districts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, JULY 14

LAKHS OF people have been displaced after floods ravaged Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Muzaffarpur, East Champaran, Madhubani, Araria, Darbhanga, Supaul and Kishanganj districts of Bihar. According to the state's Disaster Management Department, four people were killed and 18 lakh people were affected, a PTI report said.

The flood has been caused by incessant rainfall in Nepal and the additional water discharge from Birpur barrage in the neighbouring country. All 56 gates of the barrage were opened on Saturday evening, leading to a rise in levels of Kosi, Gandak and Bagmati rivers. The release of four lakh cusecs of water from the barrage has inundated areas such as Supaul, Kisanpur, Marauna and Nirmali.

60 DEAD, 35 MISSING IN NEPAL: REPORT

Katmandu: Floods and landslides caused by incessant rains in Nepal have till now claimed 60 lives and left 38 others injured, police said on Sunday. Thirty five people are reported to be missing in the rain-related incidents in central and eastern parts of the country. Nepal Army and police personnel have so far rescued 1,104 people from several places across the country. **REUTERS**

A swollen Bagmati has flooded over 200 villages of Sitamarhi and Sheohar in north Bihar.

Thousands of people are living in camps and eating at community kitchens being run by the state government. The

Sheohar district has lost road connectivity to adjoining districts in several places.

The road linking Nanpur block of Sitamarhi and Gayghat block of Muzaffarpur is underwater at several places.

Besides Bagmati, Kamala Balan and Lakhndei rivers have swelled because of additional water discharge from Nepal.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi and state Water Resources Minister Sanjay Jha conducted aerial survey of the flood-hit districts on Sunday.

Disaster Management Principal Secretary Pratyaya Amrit said, "We are sending teams of NDRF and SDRF for rescue operations. We are also running dozens of camps and community kitchens for the flood-affected people." **(WITHPTIINPUTS)**

Rajasthan constable beaten to death; CM orders probe

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, JULY 14

THE RAJASTHAN police on Sunday arrested four people for fatally assaulting a police head constable in Rajsamand district on Saturday evening.

According to Rajsamand Superintendent of Police Bhuvan Bhushan, Head Constable Abdul Gani, in his early 40s, was attacked by one of the two groups he was investigating with regard to a fight between two women. Following a dispute with her neighbour Naina Devi, one Kamla Devi had filed a police complaint at the Bhim Police station, which falls under the district's Bhim block.

The police was also quoted by PTI saying the incident was not a lynching and that the killing was a conspiracy.

"It was a very simple case where two neighbouring women in Padmela village had indulged in a verbal spat. There was no assault and no one was injured..." said Bhim SHO Labhu Ram. Gani reached the village on Saturday afternoon. "Around 5:30 pm, Gani was returning on his motorcycle after speaking to Kamla Devi. However, Naina Devi, her son Nageshwar Singh, and friends Laxman Singh, Mukesh Singh, Mithu Singh and Raju waylaid his motorcycle, about a kilometre and half from the highway. The confrontation soon escalated and Gani was assaulted by the six," the SP said.

Ram said a passer-by spotted Gani and informed them. "He was attacked by an iron pipe,"



Abdul Gani

said the SHO, adding Gani soon succumbed. On Sunday, a Medical Board conducted a post mortem and handed over his body to his family.

Police have since arrested Naina Devi, Nageshwar, Laxman and Mukesh, while the other two are absconding. As per the SP, the FIR for Gani's death has been filed under IPC sections 302 (murder), 395 (dacoity), 396 (dacoity with murder), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 333 (voluntarily causes grievous hurt to a public servant in the discharge of his duty) and 352 (punishment for assault or criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation).

Tweeting on the incident, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said, "It is very sad to learn of death of Head Constable, Abdul Ghani. My heart goes out to his family members and I want to assure them that justice will be done. Have given directions to the officials for thorough and impartial inquiry." Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot too expressed grief and condemned the incident. **(WITHPTIINPUTS)**

Moga man suspected of reporting power theft chained, assaulted; FIR against five

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUDHIANA, JULY 14

A 55-YEAR-OLD man was allegedly chained and thrashed by five people in Moga's Redwa village on the suspicion that it was on his complaint alleging power theft that officials raided their premises and disconnected their motor.

After a video of the incident went viral, an FIR was registered on Saturday at Dharamkot police station against the five people, all of whom are absconding. The incident is believed to have taken place on July 6.

The victim, identified as Harbans Singh, in his statement to police said that the accused were operating a motor using stolen power and suspected that he was the complainant who got



In the video clip, the accused can be seen dragging Harbans Singh with a chain wrapped around his neck. Screengrab

their residence raided by PSPCL officials. He alleged that the accused chained and assaulted him and also threatened to kill him. Other villagers rescued him when he screamed for help as

the accused tied him to a tree and started beating him, he added.

In the video clip, the accused can be seen dragging Harbans Singh with an iron chain

wrapped around his neck and hands. One person can be seen raising his hand, threatening to hit him, after which another person is seen and both then proceed to pull the man from both sides. One person is also heard hurling abuses while the victim says, "I swear I didn't do it."

Police said the accused believed Harbans had complained about their motor running on kundi connection (stolen power) following which PSPCL staff had raided their residence and disconnected it. Gurmeet Singh, Satwant Singh, Mahinder Singh, Chinder Singh and Mangat Singh were booked under sections 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 342 (wrongful confinement), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention) of IPC.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JULY 14

TWO PEOPLE died and 15 others were injured after a joyride crashed at an amusement park near in Ahmedabad Sunday.

According to officials, the incident occurred around 4.50pm when the 'Discovery' joyride, in the form of a pendulum which seats 31 people, was running at the Balvatika Amusement Park. The ride was suspended on a pole-like structure that snapped and sent the pendulum crashing to the ground.

Confirming two deaths, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) commissioner, Vijay Nehra, who was supervising the rescue operations,

said they were taken to a hospital. "The AMC fire department conducted swift disaster response operations. The heads of departments of paediatrics, ortho and surgery reported to the hospital and the injured are being treated," Nehra said.

Home Minister Pradipsinh Jadeja visited the injured, who have been admitted to the LG Hospital. "Chief Minister Vijay Rupani is in constant touch with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and police regarding the accident. He has offered full assistance to the affected. AMC will bear the treatment cost for the injured. A probe is on to find whether a licence and approval was given to the amusement company to operate the joyride. The mainte-

nance of the joyride is being checked by Forensic Science Laboratory," said Jadeja.

Rajesh Bhatt, additional chief fire officer of Ahmedabad, said that the contract of the joyride was given to Superstar Amusement Private Limited. "Superstar Amusement Private Limited was given the contract to operate five joyrides in the Amusement Park area near Kankaria riverfront. We are collecting information regarding the ride's individual parts, how were they assembled and the sequence of assembling to understand more about the mishap," said Bhatt.

Vijay Nehra added that the police along with the forensic team were probing the incident. Demanding murder charges

against the contractor, AMC's leader of opposition, Dinesh Sharma, sought action against officials concerned of the corporation.

He also demanded strict regulations for inspection and safety of these rides. Alleging lapse by AMC officials, Sharma said contractors allow more people than the stipulated number on the rides to increase their profit. "The AMC or the fire department have not laid down rules for these rides. The ruling BJP is responsible for this accident as these contracts are awarded as per their interests to their people," Dinesh Sharma said in a statement.

Officials of the Superstar Amusement Private Limited could not be contacted.

AMERICA'S ECONOMY

Riding high

America's expansion is now the longest on record



Traders work at the New York Stock Exchange. The stockmarket is going gangbusters, rising by 19% so far this year. Reuters

AROUND THE world investors, businesses and central bankers are grappling with a startling fact: at the end of July America's economy will have been growing for 121 months, the longest run since records began in 1854, according to the NBER, a research body. History suggests there will be a recession soon. And plenty of people are gloomy. Bond markets have been sounding the alarm, as long-term interest rates sink below short-term ones, often a harbinger of a downturn. Manufacturing firms are wary; indices of business confidence are tumbling. Yet equity investors are still buoyant. The stockmarket is going gangbusters, rising by 19% so far this year. And in June America's economy created a whopping 224,000 new jobs, more than twice as many as needed to keep up with the growth of the workforce. The result is a puzzle that matters a great deal. America's economy accounts for a quarter of global output, so if it stumbles the world will, too. But if it proves able to extend the cycle a lot longer, it may be time to rewrite the rules for how all rich economies behave.

The conflicting signals reflect an unusually sluggish and stretched expansion. Some of that is to be expected after the worst financial crisis in 80 years, but as our briefing

explains, it is also owing to deeper changes in America's \$21 trn economy. Growth is slow but more stable as activity has shifted to services and intangible assets. Thanks to new regulations and the recent memory of the bust, there are few signs of wild mortgage lending, over-investment or reckless financial firms. Inflation is remarkably subdued. These forces mean that a placid expansion can continue well beyond historical norms, but also suggest that the way it will eventually end will be different. Recessions used to be triggered by housing bubbles, price surges or industrial busts. Now you should worry about globally interconnected firms, a financial system addicted to cheap money and a political system that is toying with extreme policies because living standards are not rising fast enough.

Average GDP growth during this expansion has been a mere 2.3%, much lower than the 3.6% that was seen in America's three previous expansions. That reflects some deep malaises. The workforce is ageing. Big firms hoard profits and invest less. Productivity growth has been slow. Robert Gordon, an economist, worries that America's genius for innovation is flagging. Emojis and bitcoins are no substitute for breakthroughs such as

jet engines or the internet.

That is the bad news. The good news is that the economy may be less volatile. A third of America's 20th-century recessions were caused by industrial slumps or oil-price shocks, according to Goldman Sachs. Today manufacturing is just 11% of GDP and each dollar of output requires a quarter less energy than in 1999. Services have become even more vital, at 70% of output. Instead of fickle factories and Florida condos, investment has shifted to intellectual property, which now accounts for more than a quarter of the total. After the searing experience of 2008, the value of the housing stock is 143% of GDP, well below the peak of 188%. Banks are rammed full of capital.

Most remarkable of all is very low inflation, which has averaged 1.6% over the course of the expansion. In many past down-

turns the jobs market overheated, causing inflation and leading the Federal Reserve to hit the brakes. Today the dynamics are different. The unemployment rate has fallen to 3.7%, close to the lowest in half a century, but wage growth is only a tepid 3%. Workers have less bargaining power in a globalised economy. The Fed's credibility helps, too—most people believe that it can keep long-run inflation at about 2%. Given that racing prices are less of a worry and that it lacks the ammunition to deal with a serious downturn, the Fed is being more active at signalling that it will ease policy when growth dips. This week the Fed signalled it would soon nudge rates down from today's 2.25-2.5%, to keep growth going.

All this supports the idea that the familiar triggers for recession are still absent and that the moderately good times can roll on

for years yet. The trouble with this logic is that, just as the economy has changed, so have the risks. Inevitably it is hard to identify exactly what might go wrong, but three new kinds of problems loom large.

First, America's glossy corporate champions have unfamiliar vulnerabilities. Although fewer make physical goods, most rely on global production chains that are being shaken by the trade war. This is depressing investment and could yet produce a shock—imagine if Apple was cut off from its factories in China. Tech firms, meanwhile, now account for a third of all investment by listed firms, including intellectual property. Other businesses outsource their need for IT services to a few giants. One of them, Alphabet, spent \$45bn in the past year, five times more than Ford. But 85% of its sales come from advertising, which has been cyclical in the past. It and other tech firms also face a regulatory storm.

The second risk is financial. Although house prices and the banks have been tamed, total private debts remain high by historical standards, at 250% of GDP. An edifice of asset prices and borrowing rests on the assumption of permanently low and stable interest rates, making it more fragile

than it looks. If rates rise there will be distress among some firms, and trouble in debt markets—there was a sell-off in late 2018. If, by contrast, the Fed has to cut rates to near zero for a prolonged period to sustain growth, it could weaken the banks, as Europe has found.

A recession made in Washington?

The last danger is politics. As the economy has trodden a narrow path, the boundaries of economic policy have been blown wide apart, partly out of frustration at a decade of sluggish wages. President Donald Trump has tried to gin up growth, by cutting taxes and attacking the Fed. Most Democrats are keen to let rip on government spending. More extreme policies hover in the wings. On the left, modern monetary theory (a kind of money printing) and massive state intervention are popular. One of Mr Trump's new nominees to the Fed board supports a gold standard. The greatest threat to America's long and placid expansion is that a new era of wild policy may be just beginning.

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As the economy has trodden a narrow path, the boundaries of economic policy have been blown wide apart, partly out of frustration at a decade of sluggish wages. President Donald Trump has tried to gin up growth, by cutting taxes and attacking the Fed. Most Democrats are keen to let rip on government spending

AFGHAN PEACE TALKS

Happy talk

The Taliban negotiates with Afghan officials for the first time

IT WAS a breakthrough, albeit only by the forlorn standards of the 40-year conflict in Afghanistan. After two days of talks with Afghan officials at a posh hotel in Qatar, envoys of the Taliban promised that their insurgents would not attack schools, hospitals or bazaars. The Afghan government, too, said it would try to stop killing civilians. But more important than their woolly resolutions was the fact that the two sides were speaking at all. Officially, the Taliban insists that the Afghan government is an illegitimate puppet regime; it was only "in a personal capacity" that its envoys met Afghan officials, alongside politicians and representatives of NGOs.

The meeting was partly to break the ice and partly to brainstorm over a "road map for peace". In addition to the resolution about avoiding civilian casualties, the vague, non-binding declaration also provided an outline of sorts for future negotiations on a peace deal. Women's rights, the Taliban agreed, would be protected, albeit within an "Islamic framework". By the same token, "institutionalising an Islamic system", the delegates decided, would not involve dissolving government institutions such as the army.

The American government, which is hoping to find a face-saving formula to withdraw from Afghanistan, has long called for such a meeting. With the Afghan government sidelined, talks between America and the Taliban

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had naturally focused on America's chief concern: how to withdraw its forces without allowing Afghanistan to become any more of a haven for international terrorists, such as Islamic State and al-Qaeda. Yet a deal between the Taliban and America is not enough to secure peace in Afghanistan. Even before American troops invaded in 2001, the country was aflame. To allow American troops to depart without leaving chaos and bloodshed in their wake, the Taliban must find a way to rub along with the Afghan groups they once fought and persecuted.

Discrepancies in the translation of the declaration agreed in Qatar give an idea of the difficulties. The English version did not

mention an American withdrawal. The Pushtu version reportedly had no mention of protecting women's rights. Under the Taliban, women have been unable to leave home without a chaperone and have been denied work or education.

Filling in the details will be contentious. Who, for example, will decide what is acceptably Islamic? "People will accept concessions, but they are not going to accept an emirate," says one Western official. Under the Taliban's interpretation of democracy, only people with sufficient Islamic knowledge should be allowed to vote. "As you can imagine, all those people are men with white beards."

The Taliban's delegation to the talks was indeed a collection of men with white beards—some of them former detainees at the American military prison in Guantánamo Bay in Cuba. The Afghan officials included several women, most notably the country's first female governor.

Taliban fighters in the field often say they cannot negotiate for anything less than a strictly Islamic system. "Without that Islamic regime, a deal for me personally would offend and dishonour those thousands of Taliban and leaders we sacrificed," says a commander in Ghazni, a town 150km south of Kabul, the capital.

The Taliban also refuse the main demand of the Afghan government: a ceasefire. While



Members of Afghan delegations on the second day of Intra-Afghan conference for peace in Doha, Qatar on July 8. Reuters

vowing to protect civilians, the Taliban nonetheless say the war must continue. It is the pressure of war, they say, that has led to negotiations, so they must keep it up. In the past week the Taliban have attacked government buildings in Ghazni and Kabul, wounding scores of children in schools nearby. By

the same token, an Afghan commando raid on a hospital in the province of Wardak, just west of Kabul, reportedly killed at least two of its staff.

The Taliban and America are in the middle of their seventh round of talks. There have been hints of progress on a timetable for an

American withdrawal and on assurances that the Taliban will not harbour terrorists. Talks among Afghans will be longer and messier. But they are the only way to end the country's decades of agony.

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Vijender wins comeback bout

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, JULY 14

THE INTERLUDE between bouts had been long for Vijender Singh. His 10th bout as a professional boxer came back on December 23, 2017, and there was always an unspoken fear that a lack of match practice might steal his momentum. But he was mentally prepared for it, and showed no signs of rustiness when he did finally get back into the ring for the 11th time. "It's show time," he says, explaining what his first thought was when he stepped into the ring.

On Saturday night in New Jersey, the holder of the Super Middleweight Oriental and Asia Pacific titles entered a fight for the first time in 567 days. It was an eight-round tie against American Mike Snider, but Vijender finished it off in four – winning through a technical knockout.

"I was focused and should have ended this in three rounds," he explains. "The rules in the US are a bit different. In the third round, I punched (Snider) and he was shaking, so I turned around and walked to my corner. In England, the referee would have started the count there. But here he told me that I could continue. By the time I realised the bell had rung, so I finished it in the next round."

Plans of taking his professional career to the United States were still in the developing stages when India's first Olympic medal-winning boxer found a new endeavour to keep him occupied during the long, unintentional hiatus from the sport; politics. Ahead of the general elections in April, the 33-year-old was handed a ticket to contest for the Congress party. It was a short lived experience but one that he cherishes.

"It was a good experience because I wanted to serve my people," he says. "As an Olympian, people used to come to me ear-

lier to ask help in getting better facilities. 'Bhaiya boxing sikhado' younger players would keep saying. I always felt those responsibilities to help. So when I was approached for the elections, I thought why not."

But as the dust settled on his political campaign, Vijender returned to the ring – the place he feels most loved in. Now he finds himself in a crucial juncture in his professional career. His 11th bout marked his entry into the USA.

Mecca of boxing

"This is the Mecca of boxing," he added. "There have been so many famous boxers from the US, and all the best come here. It's a tough place but this is a big opportunity for me. This is also a chance for me to see what kind of potential I have." Ever since Vijender turned professional in 2015, he'd been training and residing in Manchester. On the way he picked up an unbeaten 10-0 record (now 11-0) and two titles.

"There seems to be a much larger Indian community here and pretty much everyone is an engineer from IIT," he explains. "People had flown in from Washington DC and San Francisco to watch my fight. There were so many Indians it felt a bit like home." Getting back to the ring after over a year-and-a-half though meant that he had found some rhythm during training.

"I know I have the experience and patience to (make changes), but the main thing I had to do was just get back to the basics because I was starting back from zero," he adds. "When the fight was on I just kept listening to my coach about what jabs and movement. It all worked very well." That skill and experience was well compensated for his lack of match time when he came up against the 38-year-old pro boxer who had previously fought 22 bouts, won 13 of them including eight knockouts, drawn three and lost five.

Hamilton takes record sixth British GP win

REUTERS
SILVERSTONE, JULY 14

FORMULA ONE champion Lewis Hamilton hailed his home fans after celebrating a record sixth British Grand Prix win on Sunday and stretching his lead over luckless Mercedes team mate Valtteri Bottas to 39 points.

Bottas, on pole position, finished a distant second after a safety

car period turned the race decisively in Hamilton's favour by handing the home favourite a free pitstop in a thrilling race.

It was Hamilton's seventh win in 10 races this season and 80th of his career. The five-times world champion, now on 223 points to Bottas's 184, also banged in a late fastest lap, on a set of tyres that had already done 30 laps, to secure an extra point. "Ah, what a day! I love you Silverstone," Hamilton ex-

claimed over the radio after rapper Stormzy had waved the chequered flag, with Bottas 24.9 seconds behind.

Ferrari's Monegasque Charles Leclerc was third after team mate Sebastian Vettel rammed into the back of Red Bull's young charger Max Verstappen. Vettel, who had been third but finished 16th, had to pit for a new front wing and collected a 10-second time penalty for causing the collision.

Verstappen ended up fifth and behind his French team mate Pierre Gasly. Victory lifted Hamilton clear of Frenchman Alain Prost and the late Jim Clark, who both won five times in Britain, and the champion pulled over to collect a Union Jack from a marshal on his cool-down lap.

"I can't tell you how proud I am to be here today," declared Hamilton, interviewed by 2009 champion Jenson Button.

"So many British flags out there and I could see them lap after lap. Every year I've been coming I've seen it and noticed it and appreciated it. You'd think you'd get used to something like that but I tell you, it feels like the first time." Hamilton and Bottas battled for the first few laps, with the Finn losing and re-taking the lead, but the decisive moment came when Antonio Giovinazzi spun his Alfa Romeo into the gravel on lap 20.



It was Hamilton's seventh win in 10 races this season.



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