



England clinched its maiden World Cup by defeating New Zealand on boundary rate after scores were tied in both 50 overs and the Super Over. England's Ben Stokes was named the man-of-the-match



Lords of the ring: England wicket-keeper Jos Buttler exults after running out Martin Guptill off the final ball of the Super Over to limit New Zealand to a tie. Buttler (59) and Ben Stokes (84 n.o.) commanded England's chase with steady fifties. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Super Sunday

England and Novak Djokovic won scintillating contests in the ICC Cricket World Cup and Wimbledon men's singles finals respectively. Both matches extended into tie-breakers. England defeated New Zealand on boundary rate after scores were tied in the Super Over. Djokovic overcame Swiss Roger Federer in the first-ever fifth set tiebreaker at Wimbledon

- England won the title on number of boundaries after a Super Over to break the deadlock (both teams made 241 in 50 overs) also ended up in a tie with both teams making 15 runs
- England had scored 26 boundaries (24+2 in Super Over) to New Zealand's 17 (16+1 in Super Over)
- New Zealand has now lost the last two World Cup finals
- England is the sixth team to win the ICC Cricket World Cup
- Djokovic won his fifth Wimbledon title to tie Bjorn Borg in third place in the Open Era. Only Federer (8) and Pete Sampras (7) have more titles
- With 16 Grand Slam titles, Djokovic moves closer to Federer (20) and Rafael Nadal (18) in the all-time list
- The Serb has beaten Federer thrice in a Wimbledon final (2014, 2015 and 2019)
- He has now won four of the last five Grand Slams

Novak Djokovic saved two match points in the fifth set to defeat Roger Federer to successfully defend his Wimbledon crown. It was his fifth Wimbledon title and 16th Major overall



Special Serb: Novak Djokovic celebrates with the trophy after winning a marathon Wimbledon men's singles final against Roger Federer of Switzerland on Sunday. The Serbian won 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 13-12 (3) in four hours and 57 minutes. ■ GETTY IMAGES

REPORTS ON PAGES 17 & 18

NEARBY

2 killed in building crash

CHANDIGARH
Two persons, including an Army man, died and 27 were injured after a building collapsed in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh on Sunday. **NEWS** PAGE 12

Now and Then

He grew up in Amritsar, but former cricketer Madan Lal says Delhi has given him everything: love, affection and a career. His discipline shines through, as he shows up on the field thrice a week to coach a future generation. **▶ PAGE 2**

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EDGE ▶ 4 PAGES

Visa-free year-long access for pilgrims to Kartarpur Sahib

Pakistan agrees to proposal at Wagah meeting; India raises Khalistan issue

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Pakistan on Sunday agreed to give year-long visa-free access for Indian pilgrims to the holy Gurdwara of Kartarpur Sahib.

The Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement that the agreement was reached at the second formal meeting held at Wagah, at which India took up the presence of Khalistan supporters in Pakistani territory. "It was agreed to allow visa-free travel for the Indian passport-holders and OCI card-holders seven days a week. Throughout the year, 5,000 pilgrims will be allowed to visit the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara



Fruitful exercise: The Indian delegation on the Wagah border near Amritsar on Sunday. ■ PTI

per day. The pilgrims will be allowed to travel as individuals or in groups and also on foot," the statement said.

India proposed that the holy shrine be open to Indian citizens of all faiths. However,

a message from the government of Pakistan reiterated that there will be provision for a permit system for the pilgrims travelling through the religious corridor.

India urged that at least

5,000 pilgrims be allowed to visit the Gurdwara and insisted that 10,000 more be allowed to visit on special occasions and festivals.

India also asked Pakistan to prevent Khalistan supporters from misusing this historic initiative.

"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 was shared. A dossier was handed over to the Pakistan side to highlight concerns in this regard," said the statement, without naming the Khalistan supporters.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Karnataka coalition in jitters as Minister is back with rebels

Yeddyurappa demands vote of confidence today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Leaders of the Congress-JD (S) coalition in Karnataka were left jittery, with their efforts to salvage the situation suffering setbacks on Sunday as Congress MLA and Housing Minister N. Nagaraj flew to Mumbai to join the rebel camp, a day after the Congress had "convinced" him to stay back.

Hours later, 12 rebel MLAs from the ruling coalition camping in Mumbai held a press conference to declare that they would not retract their decision to resign, leaving the fate of the government in balance.

Soon after Mr. Nagaraj, who was seen being accom-



CM H.D. Kumaraswamy and Minister for Energy D.K. Shivakumar coming out of a meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

panied by former Deputy Chief Minister R. Ashoka in the airport, left Bengaluru for Mumbai, an upbeat BJP demanded that Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy move the confidence motion on Monday itself.

A confident BJP State president B.S. Yeddyurappa said the party would get an opportunity to serve the people of the State in the next two to three days. Mr. Yeddyurappa also said he would attend the business advisory committee meeting of the Assembly on Monday morning to demand that the trust vote be held immediately.

Embarrassed by Mr. Nagaraj's 'volte face', the Congress quickly held out an olive branch to seven-time legislator Ramalinga Reddy.

WILL FORM GOVERNMENT SOON, SAYS YEDDYURAPPA ▶ PAGE 8
KARNATAKA CONUNDRUM
▶ EDITORIAL

Navjot Singh Sidhu quits Punjab Cabinet

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu on Sunday announced his resignation from the Punjab Cabinet, amid an ongoing tussle with CM Amarinder Singh. Mr. Sidhu released a copy of his resignation letter on Twitter,

which he said was submitted to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on June 10.

In the letter addressed to Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Sidhu did not assign any reason for his quitting the Cabinet. "I hereby resign as Minister from the Punjab Cabinet," he wrote.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 12

Railways may buy readymade trains from private players

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

In a policy shift, the Indian Railways is mulling the idea of buying readymade trains from private players instead of making them at production units.

As of now, three production units – the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly, and Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala – roll out rakes for the Railways.

At a high-level meeting of Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal and Minister of State of Railways Suresh C. Angadi and top officials and manufacturers of trains/coach components held in New Delhi recently, the idea of procuring Trainsets, Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) and Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) from the industry was mooted, official sources said on Sunday.

It was concluded at the

meeting that a considered view should be taken on procurement of complete train sets from trade instead of procurement of propulsion equipment and manufacture of car body and equipping the same in production units.

This would enable the Railways to procure the right global technology available.

Referring to a request from the industry, it was stated officially that the Railways should consider procuring complete rakes of EMU and MEMU as per past practice, by considering the requirement and capacity of production units.

2,000 rakes to roll out

It was revealed at the meeting that the Railways planned to roll out over 2,000 rakes, including 320 Vande Bharat Express-type of trains and 124 rakes for Kolkata Metro in the next three years.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

NOW AND THEN

RAKESH RAO

The rigours of cricket in Amritsar made Madan Lal the tireless performer that he is best remembered for. His Delhi stint gave him the mental toughness he tries to inculcate in his wards as coach. "I came to Delhi in 1972 with just a train ticket in my pocket," he says.

Things are vastly different now, and at 68 today, Madan greets you with that familiar, disarming smile. Life has given him reason to be pleased. He retains a great deal of the physicality of youth, through his active lifestyle.

"I want to look smart and young. I love training and the beads of sweat on my forehead inspire me." He was always known for his fitness, and today it's a passion: "Every day, I set aside 90 minutes in the morning for my workout. I love to train in the rain. You can't imagine the joy it brings," says the man who had a chequered international cricket career spanning 13 years.

Few remember that Madan's delivery to England's John Jameson was the first ball of the inaugural World Cup in 1975. Most Indian fans recall his game-changing dismissal of Vivian Richards, caught brilliantly by Kapil Dev, in the final of the 1983 World Cup.

Woods and iron

Today, he takes great pride in running his coaching academies, one in the Capital's Siri Fort Sports Complex and the other in a school at Rudrapur, in Uttarakhand. "I have a passion for coaching. I believe in character building. The stronger the character, the better you are as a player," declares the man who has worn several hats — player, coach, selector, administrator and commentator.

Madan has the same commitment to coaching as he once had for playing. "I've always found time to do what I love doing. If my academy has my name, and parents send their wards to me, then I am morally bound to be there with the trainees. Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday

'I LOVE TO TRAIN IN THE RAIN'

Veteran cricketer Madan Lal is dedicated to fitness even today, doing a 90-minute daily workout, and showing up to coach at his Delhi academy thrice a week

between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., you can be sure of finding me there, even if it's 45 degrees." He is an avid golfer too. "My handicap is around 10-11," he says with pride.

This dedication comes from years of struggle. His first job was with the State Bank of India, at Lajpat Nagar. Madan stayed at different places with friends for the six months that he endured Delhi. "The city did not suit me. I would fall ill frequently. So I went back to Amritsar, but returned after two months. I wanted to fight and make my place."

An offer from Mohan Meakin (the breweries group) gave him hope, but it was still a *dhaba roti-subzi* existence: *dal* was a luxury, he says. "I shared a room with another cricketer [Jasbir Singh] in Mohan Nagar Sports Complex, and we'd travel to Delhi on a Yezdi, or sometimes by train. I struggled a lot."

His first car, a Fiat, came in 1983, after a great deal of scrimping and saving. "I would do odd jobs like whitewashing (when playing club cricket in England) to make extra money, work part-time at a central-heating company. In England, I learnt to cook, wash and iron clothes. I can do all that even now if need be," says

MADAN LAL, 68
All-rounder (medium pacer and middle-order batsman)

CAREER SPAN
1974-1987

PLAYED
39 Tests, 67 ODIs

HONOURS
Played three World Cups and the World Championship of Cricket in 1985

KNOWN FOR
His dedication to the team, sometimes called 'Madad' Lal by his fans for lifting India out of difficult situations with bat and ball

FOR THE RECORD
Indian team coach (1996-97) and national selector (2000-01); UAE coach in the 1996 World Cup

the man whose first house was a two-bedroom flat in Mohan Nagar, after he married Anu Mohan.

Cricket and beyond

Besides his commitment to a television news channel for cricket commentary, Madan tries to spend as much time as possible with his family. "I travelled a lot



(Clockwise from left) Madan Lal's characteristic 'bowling leap'; with a replica of the Prudential Cup; with wife Anu and children, Kunaal and Kanika.

• K.N. CHARI, R.V. MOORTHY, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

during my playing days and I still love travelling [Madan played club and county cricket in England for 22 seasons]. But these days, I have cut down on my travel by turning down outstation coaching assignments. This gives me more time with family [wife, son, daughter, and grandchildren]."

He does have his share of regrets though. "As a batsman, I struggled with short-pitched deliveries. I was not scared of the rising deliveries but had technical flaws. When I went to my coach, Gyan Prakash, in Amritsar, he sorted it out quickly. By the time I made a comeback to the Indian team, I had slipped from 6 to 8 in

the batting order. I realised the delay cost me a lot."

His advice to the boys he coaches is: "Once God has blessed you with talent, go all out to make the most of it. Refine your skills, work harder, stay focussed and be patient. Your progress has to be correct." His cautionary note to parents is to

remember how mentally and physically strong their child is. "Temperament and attitude count; skill alone doesn't guarantee success."

As for his relationship with Delhi? The traffic's frightening, but "Delhi gave me everything: love and affection and a career to make my life".

Air quality of Delhi-NCR	
Delhi	235
Gurgaon	202
Ghaziabad	270
Faridabad	165
Noida	258
Greater Noida	244

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

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

IN BRIEF



Passenger held with 8 bullets at Delhi airport

NEW DELHI
An air passenger was apprehended at the Delhi airport for allegedly carrying a loaded magazine with eight bullets in his hand baggage, an official said on Sunday. Prajwal V Tiwari, who was bound for Mumbai on an Air Asia flight, was caught by the CISF, the official said. PTI

Drug suppliers held near educational institutes

NOIDA
Twenty people have been arrested for their alleged involvement in drug trade near educational institutes in Noida and Greater Noida, the police said on Sunday. About 7.5 kg marijuana, 5.8 kg low-quality heroin, 1.3 kg hashish were recovered from them, they said. PTI

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Durgabai Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2019: "The Heritage and Prospects of Democracy", by Prof. Hiren Gohain, former Professor of English, Gauhati University, at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Talk: Discussion on "National Consultation on Draft National Education Policy- 2019: View from the Margins (SC, ST and Minorities)" by various speakers at Hall 1, Hamdard Convention Centre, Jamia Hamdard, Mehrauli Badarpur Road, 9:30 a.m.

MUSIC: "Guru Diksha", an evening of tabla performances. The artists are disciples of tabla educator Ust. Rafiquddin Sabri: Sabir Hussain, Ashwin Gopal, Ujit Uday, Vishal, Khushhal Khan, Shahed Sabri, Asad Khan and Sabir Ali. Accompanied by Ejaz Hussain on the sarangi at Amaltes Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

EXHIBITION: A solo painting show by Joydeb Bala at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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

DU colleges yet to admit reserved category students to various courses

Scheduled Tribe and EWS students enrolled to only a few courses

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

Students from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) have been admitted to fewer undergraduate courses at Delhi University (DU) compared to those from unreserved category, analysis of the number of students admitted till Saturday showed.

Students from the unreserved category have been admitted to 1,313 courses across DU's colleges. On the other hand, students from the ST category have been admitted to only 528 courses and those belonging to the EWS category to only 664 courses. Clearly, even after the release of the third list, colleges are yet to admit any EWS or ST students for several courses. Prominent among these include B.Com (Hons.) at Ramjas College, B.Com (Hons.) at Lady Sri Ram College and several others.

Earlier, *The Hindu* had reported that up to 61.1% of admissions to DU under the second list belonged to unreserved category while the percentage of students admitted under the EWS and ST categories were only around 3%. This trend conti-

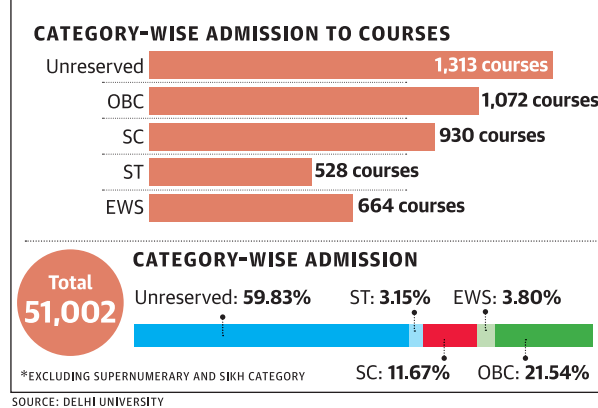
Govt. to give ownership rights to 7,200 families

To beneficiaries of 20-point programme

NEW DELHI
The Aam Aadmi Party government has decided to grant ownership rights to around 7,200 families that got agricultural land in the mid-70s under a programme for landless people.

Under the "20-point programme", launched during former Prime Minister Indi-

Down to detail



nued in the number of students admitted under the third list with minor changes. The percentage of unreserved students has come down to 59.83%, those belonging to the ST category have gone up by 0.03% and those belonging to the EWS category have increased by 0.05%.

Mandated numbers

The bulletin of information states that 7.5% of the students must belong to the ST category and 10% must belong to the EWS category. Additionally, only 11.67% have been admitted under the Scheduled Caste category, compared to a mandated

15% and 21.54% have been admitted under the Other Backward Castes (OBC) category compared to a mandated 27%. The current calculation is based on the total number of students admitted, excluding those belonging to supernumerary, which is over and above the allotted number of seats at a college and sikh categories.

Preferred courses

Meanwhile, among courses, the most number of students have been admitted to B.Com with 5,579 admissions and B.Com (Honours) with 5,107 admissions, making commerce a clear favourite among students apply-

COURSE-WISE ADMISSION

B.A. Programme:	11,532
B.Com:	5,579
B.Com (H):	5,107
B.A. Political Science (H):	4,273
B.A. History:	2,771
B.A. Economics:	2,084
B.Sc. Mathematics:	2,115
B.Sc. Physics:	1,351
B.Sc. Chemistry:	1,147

NOTE: FIGURES AS OF JULY 13

ing to Delhi University. The highest number of students has been admitted to various combinations of B.A. programme, with about 11,532 students. However, there are nearly 400 such combinations offered by colleges compared to about 40 courses each of B.Com and B.Com (Hons.).

But admissions are far from over with courses at several colleges remaining open under the fourth list of cut-offs. University officials had earlier said that up to 63,000 seats would be up for grabs this year. Approvals under the fourth list will start from Monday and will go on till Wednesday.

Row over DU's 'anti-RSS' journalism syllabus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A member of the Delhi University's academic council has alleged that an updated syllabus of English Journalism course contains chapters on Muzaffarnagar riots and lynching incidents which attempt to target the RSS and its affiliate organisations.

Rasal Singh, university's academic council member, also said the source material of such chapters has been taken from "biased" news portals which have often criticised the government.

"They are targeting the RSS and its affiliate organisations, even our Prime Minister. I will raise the issue in the Academic Council meeting on Monday and ensure it is not passed," he said.

Meanwhile, Professor Raj Kumar, head of the English department, said his department has taken a firm stand on not hurting the sentiments of any community. Sources said the issue has already been flagged by the Undergraduate Syllabus Revision Committee of the university and the controversial portions will be revised.

Women's education board releases first list

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The first cut-off list for the B.A. Programme and B.Com courses at the Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board (NCWEB) were released by Delhi University on Sunday.

Combinations of B.A. Programme (economics + political science and history + political science), and B.Com have been offered at up to 26 colleges, including Miranda House, Hansraj, Sri Aurobindo and Jesus and Mary College among others. Apart from this, 12 other combina-

tions of B.A. Programme have been made available at different colleges. Among these, the highest cut-off has been declared for the B.A. (economics+political science) and B.Com courses at Hansraj and Miranda which have called for an 85% cut-off. The cut-offs are, however, lower than that of the regular courses at the same colleges.

Started in 1944, NCWEB serves as a centre for women students to get a degree without having to attend regular classes.

2-day strike by DUTA against hiring drive

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) has called for a two-day strike, starting Monday, to draw attention to issues faced by ad-hoc teachers with regard to university's latest recruitment drive.

"The hasty implementation of the EWS reservations is going to result in the displacement of hundreds of ad-hoc teachers..." Rajib Ray, president of the teachers' union said in a letter to his colleagues.

To mitigate this, DUTA had written to the University Grants Commission (UGC) as well as the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) calling for the deferment of the reservations till additional posts were sanctioned. Among other issues, the teachers association has also demanded that the contracts of all ad-hocs be renewed before the start of the academic session on July 20.

To draw attention to their concerns, DUTA will hold a protest demonstration at the Vice-Chancellor's office on Monday and at the UGC office on Tuesday.

All teaching staff of the university has been asked to join the strike.

Workers of automotive company stage hunger strike

Trade unions extend support; reinstatement of sacked employees is one of their prime demands

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

A large number of workers of an automotive company in Binola held a day-long hunger strike at mini-secretariat here on Sunday in support of their demands. The protest was supported by various workers and trade unions as well.

Inqlabi Mazdoor Kendra central committee member Shyambir Shukla, who was present at the protest venue,



Workers staging a protest in Gurugram. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

said, members of Shivam Auto Tech Limited had given a charter of demands to the

management in May last year. But there is no consensus on the issue.

Mr. Shukla alleged that the management, in a bid to put pressure on the workers' union, sacked around 40 members on charges of misbehaviour without any substantial evidence and also initiated in-house probe. Four more union members were prevented from entering the company premises four days ago and pressure was being mounted on the union to arrive at an agreement on the charter of demands as per

the wishes of the management, said Mr. Shukla.

SATL Employees Union general-secretary Mukesh Yadav said the five major demands of the workers include reinstatement of dismissed workers with wages, agreement on the charter of demands, implementation of labour laws and abolition of contract system. The other major demand was not to allow the police to intervene in the matters of the plant.

IN BRIEF



Jhilmil Industrial Area fire: co-owner arrested
NEW DELHI
Another co-owner of the factory has been arrested in connection with the fire tragedy in Delhi's Jhilmil Industrial Area on July 13, the police said on Sunday. His brother, who also owns the factory was arrested on Saturday. More arrests are likely if anyone else is found guilty, the police said. Two women and a youth died in the massive fire. PTI

Constable injured, robber arrested in encounter

GHAZIABAD
A suspected robber has been arrested after an encounter here, the police said on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, the police intercepted two persons, who were on a motorcycle that did not have a registration number, near Manan Dham on July 13. When asked to stop, the pillion rider opened fire on the police and both fled. After a chase, the police cornered them who fired two shots at the officers. Constable Sandip Malik and one of the suspects sustained injuries. PTI

Man with 100 cocaine capsules in stomach held

NEW DELHI
The Narcotics Control Bureau has apprehended a Venezuelan man for allegedly smuggling drugs into the country by ingesting over 100 cocaine-filled capsules, officials said on Sunday. He arrived at the IGI Airport here via the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on July 10 and was intercepted by the sleuths of the NCB's Delhi zonal unit on the basis of prior information. PTI

Chef stabbed to death for resisting snatching

Two accused, both drug addicts, have been held: police



The subway near the bus stop where the incident happened is said to be a den of drug addicts at night; (right) Shyam Bodh Sah. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a snatching attempt, a 22-year-old chef of a south Delhi restaurant was stabbed to death by two drug addicts at Andrews Ganj bus stop on the Outer Ring Road opposite to Defence Colony police station on July 13 night, the police said on Sunday.

The victim, identified as Shyam Bodh Sah, hailed from Madhubani. He was on his way home in Zamrudpur on his cycle from a restaurant in Defence Colony where he used to work, when two youth killed him, the police said.

Vijay Kumar, DCP (South), said that the accused involved in the case were arrested few hours after the incident, from a park near Ansal Plaza, adding that the knife used in the commission of the crime has been recovered from their possession.

"We have held two youth in the case. One has been identified as Rahul (23) and the other claims to be a minor, but we are verifying his age. We have recovered the

◉ We have held two youth in the case. One of them claims to be a minor. We are verifying his age

VIJAY KUMAR
DCP (South)

knife and the bloodstained clothes of the accused," said Mr. Kumar.

The accused tried to mislead the police initially by claiming it was an incident of road rage where the victim's bicycle brazen them after which an altercation ensued between the two sides and they killed him.

However, on cross questioning, one of them revealed that having failed to snatch the victim's mobile phone, they stabbed him, the police said

The PCR received a call at 12.10 a.m. on Sunday regarding an "accident". Before they reached the spot, a car driver had taken the injured chef to AIIMS. The police reached AIIMS where doctors had declared the man brought dead. He had sustained stab injuries on the chest.

The bus stop, which is located above a subway, turns into a den of drug addicts and other anti-social elements at night, said a local who wished not to be named.

Mr. Kumar said it seems that two youth had come out from subway and held the victim who was riding his bicycle on the service lane. They tried to snatch his phone and when he resisted, they stabbed him on the chest and fled. During the attack, the victim was carrying a mobile phone, had ₹450 in his wallet.

Ram Lakhan Sah, the deceased's cousin, said that Shyam had bought the phone around two years back with the bonus he got on Diwali.

He used to earn ₹12,000 a month and was saving for the medical treatment of his elder brother who is mentally ill and also for the marriage of his younger sister. His parents are old and unemployed. He might have fought with the accused since he knew he could not afford another phone.

West Delhi witnesses 4 cases of snatching in 2 days

In all cases, the accused were riding black two-wheelers; all victims are women

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Four women were targeted by bike-borne snatchers in four separate incidents reported in west Delhi on July 11 and 12.

On July 11, in two separate incidents, two women were targeted by snatchers riding black bikes in Rajouri garden and Moti Nagar.

Neha Jolly, a resident of Moti Nagar, was targeted just outside her house around 1.40 p.m.

"Someone slapped me on my neck very hard and moments later I realised my chain was gone. Another

woman was targeted next to my house a day before," said Ms. Jolly.

A First Information Report was registered at Moti Nagar police station.

On way to gym

Another woman, who was on her way to the gym, fell victim to snatching in Rajouri Garden. Neetu Mittal, a resident of Subhash Nagar, said in her police complaint that she was heading towards the gym on a rickshaw around 11.30 a.m.

As she was about to get off the rickshaw, two men on a black motorcycle came

from behind and snatched her gold chain.

She made a PCR call and an FIR was registered.

On July 12, Priyanka Sethi, a resident of Mansarovar Garden, was going for a morning walk around 6.30 a.m. in Tanki Wala Park, when two men on a black bike – being driven on the wrong side – came towards her.

They snatched her gold chain and sped away.

She made a PCR call and registered an FIR at Kirti Nagar police station.

The last incident happened with Shreeshtha

Goyal, a resident of Ramesh Nagar, who lives with her family and is doing research with SJ Hospital.

Her complaint states that at 6.45 a.m. on July 12 she was returning home after dropping her child off at a bus stop.

When she reached near her house, two men on a black motorcycle snatched her gold chain and fled.

FIRs lodged, probe on

A police officer said that they have registered FIRs in all of the cases and teams have been formed to nab the accused.

Honey-trapped man resists robbery, killed

Victim found in own car; woman among accused arrested, say police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An IT professional was allegedly honey-trapped and murdered during a robbery in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden on Sunday, the police said.

The police said that some patrolling staff noticed a car parked on the roadside on Raghurib Nagar canal road. They got suspicious and when they reached near it, they found four men and a woman inside.

"When the patrolling staff in an Emergency Response Vehicle went near the car, the driver sped off towards Raghurib Nagar main road. Head Constable Manjeet Singh and other staff chased the car for about a km before they managed to intercept it," said Monika Bhardwaj, DCP (West).

Ms. Bhardwaj said that



The deceased's car. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the patrolling staff managed to overpower two persons, identified as Himanshu alias Billad, a resident of Tagore Garden and Deepak, a resident of Raghurib Nagar.

When asked as to why they were fleeing after seeing the police, they could not give a satisfactory answer and were brought to the police station for further interrogation. The other occupants of the car, however,

managed to flee.

Himanshu and Deepak tried to mislead the police initially, but broke down during sustained interrogation and confessed to having committed a murder during a robbery bid, the police said.

During interrogation, they disclosed that a female accomplice had taken a man to Shivaji Enclave near a gas godown. They then took his mobile phone and bag and when the person resisted, they stabbed him and fled.

"A police team then went to Shivaji Enclave, where they found a car parked and a person inside it lying unconscious on the front seat, in a pool of blood. He had stab injuries on his right thigh and his body was partially clothed," said Ms. Bhardwaj

The DCP said that the

man was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead. He has been identified as Bhupender Bardi (39), a resident of Saiyyad Village in Paschim Vihar.

The family members of the deceased were informed after which they reached the hospital. They told the police that he had left the house for an interview at an MNC in Gurugram, on July 13.

"We have arrested all other accused, including a woman under Indian Penal Code Sections 302 [murder] and 397 [robbery with an attempt to cause grievous injury] and 411 [dishonestly receiving stolen property] at Rajouri Garden police station. We have recovered the victim's phone and his bag from the possession of the arrested persons," said Ms. Bhardwaj.

Services on Magenta Line disrupted for two hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Passengers on the Delhi Metro's Magenta Line faced hardship on Sunday as services were disrupted for nearly two hours due to technical issues.

Magenta Line connects Botanical Garden in Noida to Janakpuri West stations in Delhi, both stations have interchange facilities.

Around 9.30 a.m., the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation tweeted about the snag and disruption in services. "Due to a technical issue, train services will be run in following loops temporarily: 1) Between Janakpuri West & R K Puram 2) Between Botanical Garden & Kalkaji [sic.]," the tweet read. The issue was resolved by 11 a.m.

Decomposed body of missing boy found; two friends held

Seventeen-year-old was hit on the head with a sharp object; had gone missing on July 12

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The decomposed body of a 17-year-old boy, who had been missing since July 12, was found on the first floor of an abandoned building in west Delhi's Basai Darapur on Sunday evening.

Two of his friends have been held in connection with the case, said the police. A call was made to the PCR around 7 a.m. regarding a body in a building in Basai Darapur. A police team

reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem.

The deceased has been identified as Vicky, a local and a school dropout. He had gone missing from his home and could not be traced until his body was found.

Post-mortem report awaited
The police are awaiting the post-mortem report to ascertain the exact cause of death.

DCP (West) Monika Bhardwaj said that a missing complaint in

the case was registered at Moti Nagar police station on July 13.

The police had initiated a search immediately, she said.

The family members of the deceased said that Vicky had returned from his tuition classes around 10.30 a.m. on July 12.

He, however, immediately left for "some work", having promised to return in ten minutes.

When he did not return even after half-an-hour, his father called him on his mobile num-

ber which, the family said, was switched off. They searched for him at all possible places and even asked his friends about his whereabouts, but in vain. The family then approached the police the next morning.

The boy was hit on the head with a sharp object, the police said. The arrested accused, both juveniles, have confessed to being involved in a fight with the victim, the police added. An FIR has been registered in the case.

Decongesting the concentric circles

The New Delhi Municipal Council is planning to hold another vehicle-free trial run in Connaught Place's inner circle — this time on a weekday



From top: The inner circle of Connaught Place during the full day vehicle-free trial run on June 30; a protesting traders throws a traffic cone, meant for vehicle diversion, a day ahead of the trial; a volunteer stands on the road to guide shoppers. ■ FILE PHOTOS: SANCHIT NAGPAL, R.V. MOORTHY

CITY MATTERS

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

After a trial run of its vehicle-free initiative in inner circle of Connaught Place on a weekend, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is now planning to test the pedestrian-friendly scheme on a workday.

On June 30, a Sunday, the NDMC had banned the entry of vehicles into CP's inner circle between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., in a bid to improve visitor experience at one of the most iconic shopping locations in the city.

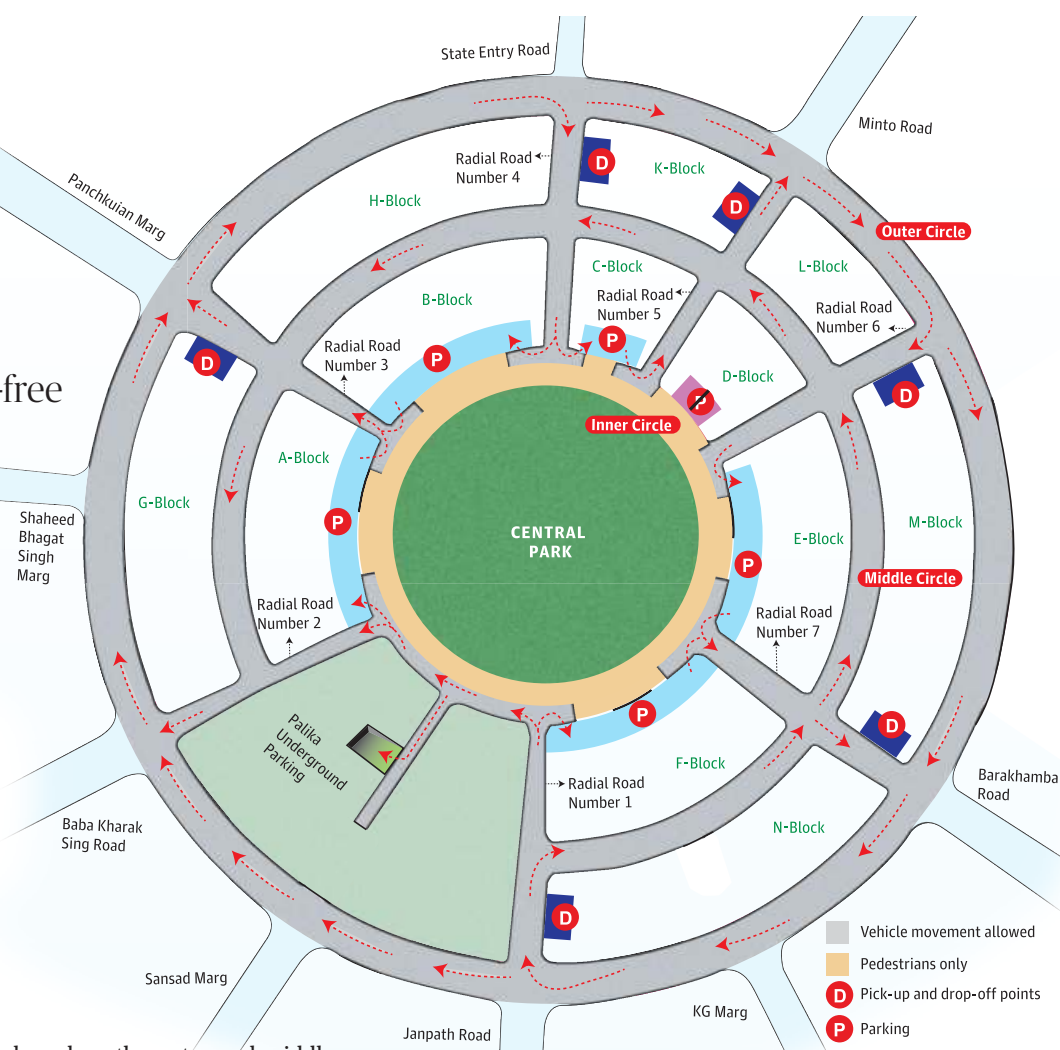
People were seen strolling in the inner circle, which is usually packed with vehicles.

The initiative has, however, been criticised by traders for affecting businesses; and received a mixed response from shoppers, with some welcoming the move and others complaining about confusion over where to park.

"We plan to go ahead with the initiative to make inner circle vehicle-free and now we will hold a trial run on a weekday to understand the difference. After that we will conduct more trials," NDMC Chairman Naresh Kumar told *The Hindu*.

The NDMC is holding meetings with the traders' association to resolve issues faced by shopkeepers, and is also in touch with volunteers and the police to iron out glitches that cropped up during the trial run.

The plan
Connaught Place is laid out over three concentric circular roads (outer, middle and inner), which are connected by seven radial roads. Under the vehicle-free initiative, traffic moment will be al-



Routes to remember

■ Can one exit and enter through all seven radial roads?

No, you can enter through three radial roads: one connecting to Janpath, the roads between M and L blocks, and H and K blocks. The other four radial roads are only for exit

■ Where does one park after entering?

You can drive along the middle circle and go to a particular parking in the inner circle, close to where you want to go

■ What if one wants to exit soon after entering?

You can take the middle circle and get out through any of the four exits

■ What if the parking is full? Exit through the outer circle and park at the Patika underground parking by entering through the radial road from Janpath

■ What if a visitor is disabled or a senior citizen? Ask NDMC volunteers or policemen to help you avail electric cars

lowed on the outer and middle circles. The seven radial roads, which connect to major roads such as Janpath and Barakhamba Road, will also be open to traffic.

All parking lots, including the ones in the inner circle, will be functional. Vehicles will be able to access the parking lots in the inner circle through a barricaded section. Parking of vehicles on the middle circle road, which is allowed on normal days, will not be permitted during the trials.

There will be pick-up and drop-off points for senior citizens and disabled people and they will also have access to eight electric cars deployed in the area. Volunteers will also be deployed to guide people who come in vehicles and there will be signage.

Though conceptualised in 2017, the NDMC carried out the first full day trial run on June 30 this year.

In May, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation had made a stretch of Karol Bagh market vehicle-free. The south and east corporations are also planning to make portions of certain markets in their area pedestrian-friendly.

The New Delhi Traders' Association has strongly opposed the initiative. "At 45 degrees Celsius, people will not park their cars somewhere else and walk to our shops," contended Atul Bhargava, president of the NDTA.

Traders upset

"You cannot compare CP to Karol Bagh. In CP, there is enough space to walk in the corridors, unlike other markets. So, what is the need to make it vehicle free," asked Arun Sood, who runs a cloth store in A-Block.

There was a lot of congestion in the outer and middle circles during the trial (on June 30) as entry of vehicles was restricted. When people see online that there is a lot of congestion in CP, they prefer to go to malls... business fell by at least 30%

ARUN SOOD
a shopkeeper

Claiming that business had fallen by at least 30% on June 30, Mr. Sood said: "There was a lot of congestion in the outer and middle circles during the trial as entry of vehicles was restricted. When people see online that there is a lot of congestion in CP, they prefer to go to malls."

The owner of a popular book shop in CP said, "A lot of senior advocates and diplomats are our customers. Do you think they will park their luxury cars somewhere else and walk to the store? They will just stop coming here." He added that business had gone down by 50% during the trial.

Shoppers, however, were quite happy with the scheme. "It [vehicle-free plan] will definitely help reduce traffic congestion in the inner circle. But it will affect people visiting CP in cars," said Gaurav Sarkar.

"I do not think there is any problem with it [vehicle free plan] and the plan is fine as the walk from the parking lots is brief. But they [the authorities] have to make the parking hassle

free and systematic," said Akanki Sharma.

The next test

In preparation for a trial run on a weekday, the NDMC is holding meetings with its volunteers who will be on the ground to assist shoppers. In a conference room on the third floor of the agency's headquarters, NDMC Secretary Rashmi Singh gave some helpful pointers to over 50 'civic wardens'. "Do not say CP 'bandh hai' (is closed)," just say there is a different traffic flow today. Last time, many people got the impression that CP is closed for vehicles," she said.

Earlier in the day in the same room, Mr. Kumar held a meeting with traders to find a solution to their problems. He admitted that dealing with the issues of the shopkeepers was a major challenge to the initiative.

During the next trial, volunteers will work in two shifts: one from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and another from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. In the last trial, there was only one shift: from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"The reports of the last trial are positive. We hope the traders will also come around," said a senior NDMC official.

Slots empty at most multilevel parking lots in city

Authorities are planning 20 more such facilities across Delhi even though existing ones are functioning far below capacity

SAURAV SINHA
NEW DELHI

Even as the authorities plan to open 20 more multilevel parking lots across Delhi to fix parking woes, a scrutiny of some of the existing facilities reveal that most of them are operating below capacity.

These multicore facilities, even with their advantages such as security and better utilisation of space, have found few takers with shoppers and market associations citing high fares, and complaining that the process of parking is not user friendly and time consuming.

Hauz Khas

The multilevel parking lot at Hauz Khas, which was completed in 2015, has a capacity to hold 300 vehicles. "But on average the facility hosts just 100 cars per day," said a supervisor. Most prefer the surface parking lot running parallel to the facility as it is 'less of a hassle'.

Abhay Prasad, a regular



Fully automated multilevel parking at Sarojini Nagar Market. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

visitor to the area, said he does not use the facility as it is not user friendly: "It is more convenient to park along the road". Another shopper said: "The facility does not feel secure, which is why I prefer the surface parking where an attendant is always on the lookout."

Kalkaji

The three-floor facility in Kalkaji can hold up to 385 cars

but receives an average of just 50-60 cars a day. The facility was aimed at reducing congestion at Krishna Market.

Vineet Malik, owner of a local bakery shop, said: "There is frequent jam in the area due to parked motorcycles of food delivery boys. Countless complaints have been filed but no action has been taken." He added that the problem would be par-

tially resolved if car owners used the multilevel parking facility.

When asked why the facility was not being used, a shopkeeper said: "I park my car in the lane behind our shop as there is space and it is free." Parking at the facility costs ₹20 per hour.

Sarojini Nagar Market

The Capital's first-ever automated multilevel car park in

Sarojini Nagar Market hosts around 500 cars per day. Unveiled in 2011, the facility has eight floors and can hold up to 824 cars.

The ground and first floor of the facility is being used for retail purposes.

A supervisor at the site said that the multilevel parking facility is not sufficient for the high footfall area.

Harnoor Kaur, a shopper waiting to park her car in the surface parking lot, said: "The [multilevel parking] facility charges a bit more compared to the surface parking and it takes more time to park the car." The facility charges ₹14 per hour.

More facilities

The Standing Committee of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation on July 3 approved the construction of a multilevel parking lot on Bank street, Karol Bagh. It is expected to be completed by 2021. The 12-floor lot will have a capacity of over 500

cars. Two floors will be used for commercial purposes.

An eight-floor multilevel parking lot is being built in Gandhi Maidan near Chandni Chowk. It is expected to have a capacity of 2,400 vehicles.

Sanjay Bhargava, member of the Chandni Chowk Traders' Association, said the facility will benefit everyone, including shoppers and tourists visiting the Walled City.

The authorities say that the work will be completed by December 2020, added Mr. Bhargava.

Street parking

The city government, in its draft policy: 'Delhi Maintenance and Management of Parking Places Rules 2019', has envisioned 20 more multilevel parking lots, which can hold up to 12,000 cars. Besides the multilevel parking lots, the Delhi government is also considering discouraging street parking by hiking rates for such facilities.

Court relaxes rules for woman to abort foetus suffering from congenital anomaly

Allows for termination of six-and-a-half month pregnancy

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has relaxed the law governing termination of pregnancy to allow a 27-year-old woman to abort her 25-week foetus diagnosed with a congenital anomaly which made it "impossible for the child" to remain alive after birth.

A Bench of Chief Justice and Justice C. Hari Shankar took the assistance of medical experts from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to determine the condition of the foetus suf-

fering from Bilateral Multicystic Kidney disease with Oligohydramnios and Pulmonary Hypoplasia.

Dr. K. Aparna Sharma, assistant professor of Obstetric and Gynaecology, said the condition of the foetus was "incompatible with life and that it would be impossible for the child to remain alive after birth". To a query about possible danger to the mother in case the pregnancy is terminated, Dr. Sharma said there was a very slim chance of the mother having to undergo surgery for ter-

minating her pregnancy.

The mother, in her plea, had challenged certain sections of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, including the stipulated ceiling of 20 weeks for termination of pregnancy, beyond which abortion of a foetus is statutorily impermissible.

Noting her plea and the stand of the experts, the High Court said: "In a case where the condition of the foetus is incompatible with life, the rigour of Section 3(2) of the MTP Act deserves to be relaxed."

Wife of 'missing' Army jawan moves High Court to trace husband

Plea says Havildar Shiju has been missing since May last year

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The wife of an Army jawan has moved the Delhi High Court seeking to trace her husband, who has been missing since May last year.

Neethu filed a habeas corpus plea seeking to produce her husband before the HC. A habeas corpus plea is used to secure release of a person from illegal detention.

She said her husband Havildar (Driver Special) Shiju of the 140 Air Defence Regiment has been missing since May 29 last year.

Her petition said she has reason to believe that her husband has been wrongly confined to cover up alleged malpractices spotted by Shiju in Airawat Canteen, Patiala. She said Shiju, who has been serving in the Army for 17 years, was one of the people in charge of the canteen.

In her petition, she claimed that her husband was on sick leave from April 4 to May 1, 2018, after which he left for Command Hospital, Chandimandir, as per the instructions recorded in the movement order.

She said her husband was in the Command Hospital from May 1 to May 28. The petition said he was ordered to proceed to Base Hospital, Delhi Cantonment, accompanied by two guards.

On May 28, she received a call from her husband that they had reached New Delhi railway station and taken a room nearby. The next day, the family received a call that Shiju had run away.

The plea has contended that investigation into the case has not progressed even after a year.

Democratisation of fashion

'Textile Fairs India' opens today at Pragati Maidan

MADHUR TANKHA
NEW DELHI

Fashion attracts eyeballs both on the ramp and in the media, but a huge gap exists between dreams of budding designers and the grim reality of being a part of gala fashion events.

To fill in this gap, a three-day event "Textile Fairs India" is opening at Pragati Maidan on Monday. This non-ticketing event seeks to make an impact on the hearts of the Dilliwallas.

For the first time, "TFI Fashion Design Awards", organised by TFI in association with fashion guru Prasad Bidapa, will see 14 designers participate in a fashion show, followed by an award presentation. The first and concluding day will showcase latest developments in fibres, yarns, trims and garments from Austria, China, Hong Kong, Japan and the host nation.

Outlining the contours of this event, David Abraham, a veteran couturier, says: "My colleague Rakesh Thakore will be a part of the jury. Such platforms give a fillip to fledging designers. They get exposure to interact with those calling the shots in the textile industry."

Both David and Rakesh graduated from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, before setting up Abraham & Thakore, which is known for blending Western silhouettes with traditional craft techniques.

Rakesh says: "I will like to see the entire thing — talent, presentation, out-of-the-box ideas — put together. For us, it should be a mix of modern and traditional. Textiles is a huge arena. There is hand-block printing, Banarasi,



Designers David Abraham and Rakesh Thakore.

Kancheepuram, Ikat, Jamdani that hopefully will be presented in colourful clothes at this event."

'World of possibilities'

Payal Jain, a seasoned designer and jury member, says TFI opens a world of possibilities for young, talented designers who haven't been able to create their own label.

"The criteria for this competition is only three years of work experience in the industry. They [designers] are given a mystery bag of fabrics to work with and show their creativity."

Padma Raj Keshri, a designer from Bengaluru, says: "I believe in working 360 degrees from fibre to fashion." His textile-based garments reflects the best of contemporary Indian fashion.

Prasad Bidapa says every designer needs the best of fabrics. "This is the place to find it. Public can order in specific yarn combinations, weights and colours as our exhibitors are willing to develop and innovate. We must maintain heritage textiles of India as we develop the best of technologically sophisticated fabrics for world markets, all of which you will see at TFI."

DELHI ☀️ Timings

MONDAY, JULY 15			
RISE	05:33	SET	19:21
RISE	18:12	SET	03:59
TUESDAY, JULY 16			
RISE	05:34	SET	19:21
RISE	19:03	SET	04:49
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17			
RISE	05:34	SET	19:21
RISE	19:50	SET	05:42

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	38	30
Safdarjang	38	30
Palam	40	30

Delhi Palam Today
38°C Humid conditions will increase. A dusty morning is likely. Day will be very warm and cloudy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Fall in temperature is likely. A hazy and comfortable morning is likely. Day will be cloudy and warm.

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THE HINDU
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Nath to meet MLAs again to ensure unity

Third such meet in 11 days in wake of events in Karnataka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHOPAL
The MLAs of the Congress-led government in Madhya Pradesh are expected to meet on Wednesday, for the third time in 11 days, to ensure that the flock stays together in the wake of events in Karnataka and Goa.

Sources said Chief Minister Kamal Nath is set to meet his MLAs, as well as those from the allies – the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party – and Independents over dinner to ensure that they remain united during the division (voting) on financial matters when the monsoon session of the Assembly resumes on Wednesday.

Such meetings have been held earlier on July 7 and July 11, the latter being attended by senior leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, a close aide of



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath

Rahul Gandhi, as well, sources said.

“Yes, I have also been invited to the meeting on July 17 at the CM’s house. I am with the Congress and fully support Kamal Nath ji,” BSP MLA Ram Bai said on Sunday.

Leader of the Opposition Gopal Bhargava and State BJP chief Rakesh Singh, at a

meeting on July 8, had already asked all its MLAs to be present in the House, a party leader said.

Mr. Bhargava had, in May, written a letter to the MP Governor requesting a special session for floor test of the government.

BJP sweep

This was shortly after the BJP swept the Lok Sabha polls, winning 28 of the 29 seats in the State.

He had said at the time that the BJP would seek division on financial matters.

The Congress has 114 MLAs in the 230-member House against the BJP’s 109 (one having resigned after winning the LS polls).

The Kamal Nath government is supported by two MLAs of the BSP and one from the SP. The House has four Independent MLAs.

Policemen booked for torturing and gang-raping woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA JAIPUR

Around half a dozen policemen, including a suspended inspector, were booked on

Sunday for allegedly beating, torturing and gang-raping a woman whose brother-in-law had died in police custody in Rajasthan’s Churu district on

July 6.

The Dalit woman, who is admitted at SMS Hospital in Jaipur, alleged that she and her brother-in-law were ille-

gally detained by the then Station House Officer and other policemen of Sardarshahar police station in Churu.

Heavy rain in north Bengal hits normal life

Bengal-Assam road link cut off; all rivers in Cooch Behar district in spate

STAFF REPORTER KOLKATA

Incessant rain and flooding over the past eight days have disrupted normal life in north Bengal.

The district of Cooch Behar has received nearly 200 mm of rainfall over the weekend. Floods have inundated 100 tea gardens in Darjeeling

and tourists are stranded at many places. The Regional Meteorological Centre has forecast light to moderate rain over the next week.

Highways flooded

Connectivity between Bengal and Assam has been disrupted. Floodwaters have inundated portions of National

Highway 31 at Maruganj in Cooch Behar. National Highway 55, which connects Darjeeling and Siliguri, is closed. A landslide caused NH-10, connecting Kalimpong to Sikkim, to be closed again on Saturday after being reopened. A control room to monitor the situation has been set up in Kolkata.

The worst-affected districts are Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and North Dinajpur, all in north Bengal. As many as 32 rivers in Cooch Behar are overflowing including Torsa, Teesta, Raidak, Damodar and Kaljani.

The government has set up 43 shelters in the affected areas.

Odisha govt.’s inability to acquire land delaying rly projects: Goyal

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government’s inability to acquire land has slowed down the pace of railway projects in the State, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

In a letter addressed to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Mr. Goyal said non-availability of land and forest clearances were the major hindrances in taking the projects forward.

More than 4,000 acres of priv-

ate, government and forest land are to be acquired and handed over to the Railways for completion of the Khurda Road-Balangir line, which connects the coastal region with the western district of the State.

Similarly, in case of the Talcher-Bimlagarh project, 1,600 acres remain to be acquired.

The East Coast Railways has requested the Odisha government to expedite land acquisition and forest land diversion process.

Pune corporation moots rental accommodation for labourers

To send proposal to State in the aftermath of two wall collapse accidents

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The death of 21 labourers in two wall collapse accidents has come as a wake-up call for the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC). The civic body is planning to send a proposal to the State government recommending that labourers, most of whom are migrants, be housed in rental accommodation that will be built on government land.

Last week, Deputy Mayor Siddharth Dhende tabled the proposal which, if implemented by the State, will address the security hazard to labourers and their families by housing them away from the construction sites.

"The idea is to identify vacant plots owned by the State and ask the developers to house their labour force there," Mr. Dhende told *The Hindu*.

He said the funds for building the labourers' lodgings will be granted under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Cess Act. A whopping ₹18,000 crore is lying unutilised with the State. Mr. Dhende said until now, only ₹535 crore of this staggering fund money had been utilised.

"Nearly 80% of the developers in Pune district be-



Tragic: The site of the wall collapse at Kondhwa in Pune where 15 people died on June 29. • FILE PHOTO

long to the 'small builder' category, constructing on plots ranging from 5 *gunthas* to 20 *gunthas*. Invariably, these developers make no provision of basic amenities for their migrant labour force nor are any safety standards adhered to," he said, adding of an estimated five lakh workers in the district, barely 1.25 lakh have been registered so far.

"As these workers are never registered, they never avail of the benefits of the 30-odd government schemes. Moreover, there is no arrangement for their meals or education for their children," Mr. Dhende said. As per the proposal, the rental costs are to be borne by the developers as are the costs incurred to transport

labourers from these accommodation to the construction sites.

Labour activists have welcomed the PMC proposal, while urging that the proposed accommodation be well-maintained. However, the fulcrum in resolving the problem of the labourer's security is the Labour Welfare Board, said Ajit Abhyankar, leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and president of the Bandhkam Kamgar Sanghatana, a city-based outfit working for the welfare of construction workers.

"The apparatus of the district Labour Welfare Board - or the lack of it - is chiefly to blame for this vicious cycle. The labour office is grossly understaffed, headed by the

Labour Commissioner, who has just one labour officer and two clerks, usually on a contract basis, under him. The lack of an administrative set-up has led to poor enrolment of the unorganised labourers and as a result, they do not avail of any benefits," Mr. Abhyankar said.

Mr. Abhyankar said a number of other factors complicate the issue of workers not registering with the labour office. "Typically, the contractor gives a group of labourers, who hail from other States, an advance. This is advantageous for the workers to meet their expenses in a new city while it ensures that they are obligated to a particular builder for the duration of their service," he said.

In some cases, he said, lack of Aadhaar cards dissuades the worker from registering with the labour board.

He said the Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, which was enacted by Parliament in 1996 to provide workers protection, has imposed a cess at the rate of 1% on the construction cost incurred by builders on every new project. Maharashtra had approved of this Act in 2007.

Next CM will be from Cong.-NCP front: Thorat

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

A day after being appointed as the president of the Maharashtra Congress Committee, Balasaheb Thorat on Sunday said the next Chief Minister of the State will be from the Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) alliance.

"A number of people have quit the Congress to join other parties, but that will not affect us in the long term. The vacant posts will be filled by younger generation who will get the opportunity to show their mettle. The Congress has suffered blows in the past, but it survived and came back stronger. The old guards and the fresh faces will work together to ensure the Congress returns to power," he told reporters at his home town Sangamner in Ahmednagar district.

Amid speculation that the first-time-ever decision to appoint five working presidents was taken under threat of more leaders quitting the Congress, Mr Thorat rubbished the possibility. "We are going to face the polls in the next two-three months. It is important to have a structure and a team in place. Those who stood with the party in difficult times will get the bigger opportunities."

Animal march



Road occupiers: A shepherd taking his goats and sheep for grazing along a road on the outskirts of Nagpur on Sunday. • S. SUDARSHAN

Marathwada dams have 0.8% water; 2,191 tankers deployed

Uneven rainfall compels government to try out cloud seeding

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Despite coastal areas receiving heavy rain in the last two weeks, the fear of drought still looms in the rest of the State as water stock in dams in Marathwada has dropped to 0.8% of the total capacity, and the number of water tankers deployed in the region has reached 2,191.

As per the data from the India Meteorological Department, Mumbai and the Konkan region received excess rainfall from June 1 to July 14. The central region, including part of north Maharashtra and western Maharashtra, too has recorded normal rainfall.

Rainfall between 20% to 59% is considered excess while (-)19% to 19% is called normal. Marathwada and Vidarbha have, however, received deficient rainfall - (-)59% to (-)20%.

The uneven rainfall has led to the State government prepare for cloud seeding project on a war footing. According to sources in the water supply department, the permissions for the experiment have been obtained and the government is likely to go ahead with the ₹30 crore project within a week or two. As per the data from the water resources depart-



Everyday needs: The total number of water tankers deployed in Maharashtra as of now is 4,798. • FILE PHOTO

ment, as on July 14, the Aurangabad division (Marathwada) is left with only 0.8% water storage in its dams of their total capacity, while it was 13.72% last year. Water storage in dams of Amaravati and Nagpur divisions is 8.47% and 8.68%, respectively. Last year, the available water was 24.94% and 27.54% respectively.

The situation in Nasik and Pune has improved with normal rainfall as dams in both the divisions have 15.72% and 32.33% water respectively. But despite ex-

cess rainfall, the dams in Konkan are half-full, with 53.83% water.

As a result of deficient rainfall, the number of water tankers deployed in Marathwada has increased to 2,191 from 1,684, within a week. The number has decreased in rest of the regions. The total number of water tankers deployed in Maharashtra as of now is 4,798.

A total of 3,800 villages and 9,422 hamlets are being provided water through tankers, with majority of them in Marathwada.

Portfolios to new Goa Ministers: Kavlekar to be Deputy CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

The four new ministers inducted into the Goa cabinet will be allotted portfolios on Monday, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Sunday. Chandrakant Kavlekar, who was the Leader of the Opposition, will be designated as Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Sawant told reporters.

Days after 10 Congress MLAs in Goa joined the BJP, Mr. Sawant on Saturday reshuffled his cabinet, dropping three members of the ally, Goa Forward Party (GFP), and an Independent legislator as ministers.

Michael Lobo, who resigned as Deputy Speaker of the Goa Assembly, and three of the 10 MLAs who joined the BJP - Chandrakant Kavlekar,

Monsoon session of Assembly from today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

The monsoon session of the Goa Assembly will begin on Monday, after a week that saw significant political developments with 10 Congress MLAs joining the ruling BJP. Four of these MLAs were inducted into the State Cabinet by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday. Incidentally, several

questions to be asked during the session were submitted by the MLAs who quit the Congress on Wednesday and joined the BJP. Speaker Rajesh Patnekar told reporters that the questions raised by the MLAs, who have been now sworn in as ministers, will be withdrawn.

The election for the Deputy Speaker's post, which has fallen vacant af-

ter the resignation of Michael Lobo, will also be held during the session, Mr. Patnekar said.

Mr. Patnekar said the House has received 2,328 questions, including 725 starred and 1,603 unstarred. He said the lawmakers still have time till July 17 to submit their questions.

The session will conclude on August 9.

Jeniffer Monserratte, Philip Neri Rodrigues - were sworn in as ministers on Saturday.

The monsoon session of the Assembly begins on

Monday. Asked how the new ministers would handle questions in the House, Mr. Sawant said, "I will be there to help them."

The 10 Congress MLAs joined the BJP last Wednesday, increasing the saffron party's strength to 27 in the 40-member House.

IN BRIEF



President offers prayers at Venkateswara temple

TIRUMALA
President Ram Nath Kovind, on a three-day visit to Andhra Pradesh, offered prayers at the Lord Venkateswara temple here on Sunday. He was accompanied by his wife Savita and other family members. Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan and his wife were with the President and his wife during the entire pilgrimage. The entourage left for the Sriharikota space centre in the evening for the launch of Chandrayaan-2.

Four SFI activists held in Kerala, five absconding

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Kerala police on Sunday arrested four Students Federation of India (SFI) activists in connection with the near-fatal knife attack on their college mate and fellow party member Akhil at the University College here. The victim suffered a heart injury in the attack that took place on Friday. The police identified the accused as Aromal, Adhil, Adwaith and Ijab, all undergraduate students and part of the SFI college unit committee. Another five SFI men wanted in the case are absconding.

Citizens using plastic bags also to be fined

BENGALURU
Traders, shopkeepers and even citizens caught defying the plastic ban in the city will be in trouble as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is all set to strictly enforce the ban from Monday and impose fines. The ban came into effect across Karnataka in March 2016, following which the BBMP fixed a penalty on all those found manufacturing, supplying, storing, selling and using plastic carry bags, banners, bunting, cling films and other banned items.

Will form govt. soon, says Yeddyurappa

'Karnataka Chief Minister no longer enjoys a majority in the House, he must resign immediately'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A buoyant BJP, which is confident of the number game after Congress MLA N. Nagaraju joined the other rebels in Mumbai, is now keen on forcing a trust vote being sought by Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy in the Assembly immediately.

BJP State president B.S. Yeddyurappa told mediapersons on Sunday he would attend the Assembly business advisory committee meeting on Monday and demand that the Chief Minister take the floor test immediately, preferably on Monday itself.

Mr. Yeddyurappa told reporters that the political situation was in favour of the BJP. He indicated that the party was inching towards forming the government, by saying that "the party will get an opportunity to serve the people of the State in the next two to three days".

"The Chief Minister no longer enjoys a majority in the House. He must resign immediately," he said.

While Mr. Kumaraswamy on Friday sought a trust vote in the Assembly, Speaker

K.R. Ramesh Kumar said he would fix a date for it after consulting Leader of the Opposition Mr. Yeddyurappa. The BJP caught unawares by the Chief Minister's move, however, did not attend the business advisory committee meeting on Friday. The party appears to have gained confidence and is pushing for the trust vote.

Monday's Assembly session is likely to be stormy. Senior BJP leader K.S. Eshwarappa told reporters that the Chief Minister had lost majority in the House and his government had no moral right to hold the session. "We will not let the Assembly function till the Chief Minister accepts to seek a trust vote immediately or resigns," he said.

The BJP on Sunday held its legislature party meeting at a resort on the city's outskirts where its MLAs have been holed up.

"Mr. Yeddyurappa's mood was upbeat as he addressed the meeting and assured us that there would be a BJP government in the State by next week," said an MLA who attended the meeting.



On tenterhooks: Former Karnataka Chief Minister and Congress leader Siddaramaiah meeting party MLAs at a hotel in Bengaluru on Sunday. •PTI

Hectic day in Congress camp

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

With the Janata Dal (Secular)-Congress coalition government on the brink, leaders from both parties made last-ditch attempts to woo the rebel legislators, who have already tendered their resignations.

The focus now has turned

towards senior Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy with almost the entire top leadership of the party, along with Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, visiting Mr. Reddy's residence on Sunday evening.

Sunday was a hectic day as Congress leaders met at Kumara Krupa Guest House

while Mr. Siddaramaiah, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader, met a bunch of party legislators at a private hotel here. The CLP will be meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Siddaramaiah at 9 a.m. on Monday at a hotel here. Incidentally, all the Congress legislators are now put up at the hotel.

'Forcible eviction of urban poor will lead to greater poverty'

Expert calls for separate law on evictions

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

The authorities in India, instead of seeking to evict a large number of the urban poor before implementing development projects, can adopt a new kind of social compact with the community concerned and real estate developers, says Balakrishnan Rajagopal, an expert in displacement and Professor

of Law and Development at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT, United States.

Referring to examples in Colombia and Argentina where local governments came together with private real estate developers and the respective communities for improving housing for slum dwellers, Prof. Rajagopal told *The Hindu* on Saturday that under such an arrangement, the urban poor were provided with better houses at the same place where they were living ear-

lier while a portion of the land was released for re-development. This would be a "win-win" situation for all. "What is important here is good faith and earning trust of the urban poor," he said, calling upon the authorities to shed their "overbearing attitude" towards the poor.

Forcible displacement due to development pressures was "disruptive socially" and it would lead to a greater degree of poverty. "If India is concerned about becoming richer, wealthier and more developed, it should not



Dr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal

make its citizens poorer," explained Prof. Rajagopal, who is founder of the Displacement Research and Action Network at MIT, adding that

conflict and environmental factors too caused displacement.

Resettlement policy

Contending that the country did not have a resettlement policy, he called for a separate law on evictions on the lines of one in South Africa. "There is a better legal framework there to deal with evictions," he pointed out.

In the absence of a law on evictions, the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettle-

ment Act, 2013, should be amended to include provisions stipulating "dos and don'ts" for displacement and providing a framework to deal with different types of displacement.

Prof. Rajagopal, who is here as part of an ongoing study on displacements in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, said the study began with New Delhi to cover the impact of displacement of people which happened in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games in 2010. It was originally extended to Chennai

for the purpose of comparison and now to the central parts of Kerala in the light of the 2018 floods.

"Societal response to natural disasters is much more robust in Kerala than in Tamil Nadu. It is because of this factor that Kerala has got more capacity and resources to deal with such situations than Tamil Nadu, where there is over-reliance on the State to deliver," he said, adding that the focus of the study on the two States covered developmental justification and environmental risks.

Tirupati may run out of water in a month

Storage atop Tirumala hills dwindling fast; officials seek release of additional water from Srisaillam

A.D. RANGARAJAN
TIRUPATI

Tirumala-Tirupati is in for a severe shock, as the temple city, which attracts thousands of pilgrims every day, will run out of water in a month, if the monsoon continues to remain elusive.

At present, residents receive water in their taps once in three days. With Kalyani dam reaching the dead storage level, the city's western parts are also supplied the Telugu-Ganga water, which is made available for the eastern and southern parts as well.

Dwindling fast

Water is currently drawn from the dead storage in Kandaleru reservoir (Nellore district) and pumped into Kailasagiri storage tank near Srikalahasti, from where it is pumped to Tirupati.

There is an off-take point near Guduru where water is also shared to Guduru



Grim scene: The Kalyani dam in Tirupati has hit dead storage level. •K.V. POORNACHANDRA KUMAR

town, making things worse for Tirupati. Since the Guduru off-take point is nearly 80 km away, laying a full-fledged pipeline to Kailasagiri not only comes at an exorbitant cost, but also does not serve the

immediate purpose.

Apart from the requirements of the residents, it is the steady flow of pilgrims that necessitates dedicated water supply to the city. Water storage in projects atop

Tirumala hills is also dwindling fast, leaving no option but to pump water from downhill.

The demand for allocation of Srisaillam water exclusively for Tirupati, as a spe-

cial case, has been in the air for quite some time, but never taken forward.

Unless the government takes a serious view of the situation, Tirupati is likely to be in deep trouble.

Borewells being dug

On its part, the Municipal Corporation of Tirupati (MCT) has written to the State government, seeking release of additional water from Srisaillam and also additional pumping from the Guduru off-take point.

"We are sinking more borewells to address the urgent issue and are keeping our fingers crossed for the monsoon to set in," MCT Commissioner P.S. Girisha has told *The Hindu*.

There appears to be no initiative to take forward the Mallimadugu and Balaji reservoir projects. Mallimadugu is almost ready, while the Balaji project is mired in forest clearance hitch.

Activist slams move to import Westinghouse reactors for Kovvada

Former IAS officer writes to PM



Concerns remain: Officials conducting 'bhumi puja' for the nuclear plant at Kovvada in Srikakulam, A.P. •FILE PHOTO

SANTOSH PATNAIK
VISAKHAPATNAM

The opposition to the purchase of reactors for the Kovvada Nuclear Power Project from America's Westinghouse is growing with social activist and former IAS officer E.A.S. Sarma asking the Department of Atomic Energy to drop the proposal.

Even as the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd has remitted ₹500 crore towards the rehabilitation of the affected families and the Srikakulam district administration has identified land near Etcherla for construction of rehabilitation colony, the protests over the plant continue.

The NPCIL is of the view that by using generation-III plus reactors with passive cooling system and inbuilt safety mechanism for power shutdown and auto shutdown, there will be zero risk. The reactors it says are quake and tsunami-resistant.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Sarma said "when the residents around Mithi Viridi in Gujarat protested against the Westinghouse setting up a similar project, for reasons best known to your govern-

ment, the company has been permitted to shift its operations to Kovvada. It is a case of Gujarat gaining at the cost of A.P., as nuclear power is not only expensive but also potentially risky."

Though the Westinghouse team visited the area to reiterate its proposal to supply nuclear reactors, Mr. Sarma said the DAE was aware that the company had plunged into bankruptcy as early as in 2006. "Till date, the company had not fully emerged out of the crisis, he pointed out.

'Fertile land acquired'

Post-Fukushima, safety concerns have assumed great importance worldwide. Still, without disclosing these facts to the public, the DAE has insisted on the A.P. government to forcibly acquire 2,080 acres of lush-green and fertile agricultural land in and around Kovvada, displacing thousands of farmers depriving them of their livelihoods.

"The pittance of compensation given to them could never cover the loss of dignity with which they had pursued agriculture for generations and the human rights violations in the rehabilitation process," he said.

Many parishes 'ignore' Cardinal's circular

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Almaaya Munnettam, the combine of lay people in the Syro-Malabar Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly in Kerala, has congratulated parishes which "ignored" a circular sent out by Cardinal George Alencherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, to be read out during the Sunday mass.

The lay people's combine has been demanding that the Cardinal come clean on a series of controversial land deals by the archdiocese in 2017 and 2018 which led to substantial financial losses.

More than a thousand lay leaders and faithful met last Sunday in the city to declare their opposition to the way the Cardinal was conducting the affairs of the archdiocese, one of the largest of the Catholic Churches in India.

The circular from the Cardinal expressed optimism that steps would be taken to appoint a bishop with special administrative powers for the archdiocese in consultation with the synod of bishops and instructions from Rome. He said the synod of bishops would meet in August and take decisions for better pastoral care of the faithful.

A statement issued by Almaaya Munnettam congratulated more than 90% parish priests who did not cooperate with the Cardinal by not reading out the circular during the mass. Of the 336 parishes in the archdiocese, only 30 saw the circular being read during the Sunday mass, the statement said.

The lay people's combine claimed that the Cardinal had hurt the sentiments of both the lay people and priests.

Here, farmers' children read the skies

To help others, they note down weather details on a board outside school

SYED MOHAMMED
HYDERABAD

Fourteen-year-old Ch Nandini reaches the Zilla Parishad High School in Kothapally, a quaint village about 75 km from the city, with a population of around 2,500.

It is 9.30 in the morning. But instead of joining the assembly, she walks towards what is an unusual sight in a government school - an automatic weather station (AWS).

She notes down readings - temperature, rainfall, humidity and wind speed - from an electronic device at his heart, and with a piece of chalk in her hand, reproduces them on a board outside the school for all to see. For a village of about 550 farmers, this information is impor-



Students take down weather readings under the supervision of ICRISAT scientist A.V.R. Kesava Rao at the Kothapally Zilla Parishad High School in Telangana. •NAGARA GOPAL

tant. Nandini, the daughter of a farmer, is not the only student trained to read weather conditions from the

AWS installed by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). Her friends from school, many of whom are children of farmers, studying in Class VIII and IX too take turns.

"My father grows *mokka jonna* (maize). Since he has sowed seeds a few days ago, and this is the rainy season, I talk to him about daily rainfall which I note down in school as it can be important for him," Nandini says.

Guru Lingam, a Class VIII student says, "I understand that when it rains a lot, the readings in millimetres will be high. There has been no rain today, so the reading is 0.0," he explains.

Special pujas conducted for rain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM

The Jalandhaneya Swamy temple here in Telangana reverberated with chants of Vedic hymns as dozens of *archakas* and Vedic pundits performed a slew of special rituals, including *Rishyasringa Homam*, for nearly 12 hours on Sunday for rain and bumper harvest, temple sources said.

Most parts of the erstwhile composite Khammam district is in the grip of a severe dry spell.

Special pujas were also performed by people in Konijerla, Wyra and Bonakal mandals on Sunday seeking the blessings of Mutyalamma and other village deities for rain.

IN BRIEF



Efforts on to double farmers' income: Giriraj

AHMEDABAD
The government is putting all efforts to double the farmers' income, said Union Minister for Fisheries, Giriraj Singh. For the first time, animal husbandry, fisheries and dairying were separated from the Agriculture department. The Ministry is taking all steps to help the farmers to adopt livestock farming along with traditional agriculture. Agriculture with animal husbandry was the key to increase the farmers' income, the Minister told mediapersons. ANI

Newly wed woman murdered in Ghatkopar

MUMBAI
In the second such incident in Ghatkopar in the last two days, a 20-year-old newly-married woman was killed on Sunday by unidentified persons who attacked her with sharp weapons. The incident occurred on the footpath of LBS Marg at Narayan Nagar. Meenakshi Chourasiya was found lying in a pool of blood, following which she was rushed to hospital where she was declared brought dead. Ms. Chourasiya got married a few months ago and was expecting her first baby. PTI

Nearly half of sex offence cases not being investigated in time

60-day deadline is missed in many States, finds ITSSO

VJAJITA SINGH
JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Investigation into nearly half the sexual offences cases are not being completed within the stipulated 60-day period, according to an analysis of crime data of seven States accessed by *The Hindu*.

In many States, the fast-track courts designated to handle rape cases are also handling other criminal cases leading to delay in verdicts, an official said. As per the government data, there are already 664 dedicated special courts with 2,021 public prosecutors and another 1,023 courts are planned.

The Supreme Court noted last week that trial had been completed in only 4% of the 24,000 cases of sexual offences that were filed from January to June.

In February, the Home Ministry launched an analytics tool - Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) to monitor and track time-bound investigation. It is part of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and

Endless wait

Investigation process has been delayed in large number of sexual offence cases in several States

State	Total FIRs*	Final report not submitted in 180 days
Uttar Pradesh	13,150	592
Madhya Pradesh	4,540	236
Chhattisgarh	1,552	155
Haryana	2,292	122

* FIRs filed between April 21, 2018 to February 13, 2019

Trial had been completed in only 4% of 24,000 cases of sexual offences that were filed from January to June this year



• Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 came into effect on April 21, 2018. It mandates filing of final reports in sexual offence cases within 60 days
• According to Women and Child Development ministry, there are 664 dedicated existing special courts and 2021 public prosecutors for them. 1023 more courts are being planned

System (CCTNS) that connects over 15,000 police stations across the country.

ITSSO analysis

According to the ITSSO analysis in the seven States - Haryana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand - final reports were submitted only in 26,343 of the 47,662 sexual assault cases within the mandatory period.

In Uttar Pradesh, 592 of the 3,420 pending cases were pending for more than six months.

To check sexual crimes against women and children, the Centre approved the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 last year

which prescribed the time-limit for completion of investigation.

The law was initially promulgated as an Ordinance on April 21, 2018 following an outcry over the rape and murder of a minor girl in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir and the rape of a woman in Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh DGP O.P. Singh told *The Hindu* that cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) were being evaluated and reviewed and they were focusing on 180 "priority cases" where they expected conviction within a month.

"We have prioritised 180 cases, we are calling the witnesses, getting the forensic

tests done fast etc. But the trial courts are taking time. Some of the districts do not have separate fast-track courts though they have been identified as one. They are also discharging duties other than cases registered under the POCSO," said Mr. Singh.

As the government plans to set up more courts, it will have to address lacunae like special courts handling other criminal cases apart from sexual offences.

The Empowered Committee on the Nirbhaya Fund approved ₹767.25 crore for setting up 1,023 fast-track courts in November, but 10 months later the final nod from the Expenditure Finance Committee is awaited.

Plant trees for juvenile offence, SC tells doctor

Punishment for murder attempt

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old doctor has been ordered by the Supreme Court to plant 100 trees in the next one year as punishment for attempting to commit murder at the age of 16.

Solemen S.K., a doctor practising at Murshidabad in West Bengal, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for the crime. The Calcutta High Court confirmed the sentence.

But things took an unexpected turn when Solemen approached the Supreme Court saying he was a minor at the time of the incident in August 2004.

Intrigued by the doctor's plea, the Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Hemant Gupta asked the District and Sessions Judge, Berhampore, Murshidabad, West Bengal on February 25 to check out Solemen's story.

The District Judge confirmed that the doctor was indeed a minor of 16 years seven months and 28 days on the date of the offence. Solemen, the judge's report said, was born on February 30, 1987. His school records fortify the evidence of his age.

The court said the doctor,

under the law, would ideally be considered as a "child in conflict of law", only he is too old to be called that at this age.

Again, there is no good in sending the 32-year-old doctor now before a Juvenile Board, as is usual in the case of juvenile offenders.

"Instead, we are of the opinion that the ends of justice would be met by directing the petitioner who is now a registered medical practitioner aged 32 years, practising in Murshidabad to perform community service," the Supreme court suggested.

Punishment upheld

The Supreme Court's suggestion was seconded by the State of Uttar Pradesh, which found the planting of trees as an apt punishment for the doctor.

"The learned counsel for the State suggested that this obligation of performing community service could be met with by a direction to the petitioner to plant trees. We accept the suggestion made by the learned counsel for the petitioner and direct the petitioner to plant 100 trees within a period of one year," the Supreme Court concluded in its five-page order recently.

82 medical colleges to be opened

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government will open 82 medical colleges under a scheme run by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to establish medical colleges attached to district and referral hospitals.

"The total cost of a medical college is ₹189 crore, and ₹7,507.70 crore has been released to the States and the Union Territories...under the scheme. Thirty-nine medical colleges have become functional." Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said in the Lok Sabha, explaining how the government planned to tackle the shortage of doctors.

He said the Union government and the States in the north-eastern region and the special category States would share the cost 90:10, and the other States 60:40.

In the first phase, 58 districts in 20 States and Union Territories had been approved, and in the second phase, 24 colleges were identified in 8 States.

The second phase, was aimed at creating one medical college in every three Lok Sabha constituencies and one government medical college in each State.

Assam flood toll mounts to 11, more than 26 lakh hit



Rowing to safety: Animals and villagers take shelter in a high ground in the flood-affected Morigaon district of Assam on Sunday. •RITU RAJ KONWAR

State is simultaneously grappling with AES and Japanese Encephalitis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Flood and rain-induced landslides have so far claimed 11 lives in Assam with four persons drowning in three districts on Sunday. The disasters associated with a harsh monsoon killed at least nine people elsewhere in the northeast, taking the toll to 20.

Officials of the State Disaster Management Authority said 3,181 villages had been inundated in 28 of the 33 districts, affecting 26,45,533 people. The authorities had increased the number of relief camps to 327 where 16,596 people, including 2,417 children, were taking shelter.

"Apart from deploying rescue teams with boats, we are ensuring adequate distribution of relief material that include rice, pulses, salt and mustard oil. Baby food, tarpaulin, medicines, chlorine for disinfecting and cattle fodder have also been provided," said Kumar Sanjay

Krishna, Additional Chief Secretary in charge of disaster management.

Western Assam's Barpeta district continues to be the worst-affected district with 7.35 lakh people stranded or displaced. Dhubri and South Salmara districts with 3.38 lakh and 1.41 lakh affected people had overtaken north-eastern Dhemaji district that was first hit in what is being called the second wave of flood.

Dhemaji has 1.29 lakh flood-affected people followed by eastern Assam's Golaghat district with 1.19 lakh.

Assam has been simultaneously grappling with Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE).

A spokesperson of the National Health Mission said five people died of AES and two of JE. The two forms of the vector-borne disease have claimed 177 lives since January.

J&K police officer reaches out with books

Residence becomes a hub for students

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

For decades, Hut Number 224, located amid pine trees in Srinagar's Chashmashahi locality, was like any other senior bureaucrat's home. But for many weeks now, the address has become a hub for Kashmiri students looking for a particular subject book that is otherwise hard to find or unaffordable.

The house's current occupant is the Odisha-born, 45-year-old Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Basant Kumar Rath, who has initiated a novel campaign to reach out to the student community in Jammu and Kashmir. With help from anonymous donors and adding his own purchases from Sunday markets, Mr. Rath has gathered a sizeable collection of 2.5 lakh books.

The distribution model is simple. 'Book baba' is a Google docs-based form set up by the officer, where a student can tender her request for a book. Besides, availability of various book titles is messaged on other social media platforms too. Timings to collect books and the district names are

specified on Mr. Rath's Twitter handle with a note: "No questions asked. No answers given".

A medical student from Ladakh studying in Srinagar, an arts student from far-off Langate, a science student from remote Baramulla's Boniyar and a management student from Budgam's Yusmarg - have all come discreetly and returned with the books sought by them, after a brief conversation with the officer to establish their credentials. More than 1,500 books have been picked up in recent weeks.

"I have over 4,000 book requests pending on 'Book Baba' page," Mr. Rath told *The Hindu*. "I seek students' coordinates for a fair distribution. In many cases, the books get delivered at their homes."

It's no surprise that a place like volatile Nowhatta in Srinagar, where a police officer cannot move around freely without a multi-layer security, saw Mr. Rath receive a warm welcome during his recent visit to the Girls Higher Secondary School in the locality.

Speed restrictions and sound alerts mooted for protection of dolphins

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor had raised the issue in Parliament on July 11

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Restricting the speeds of vessels and blowing sirens and horns is how the Ministry of Shipping plans to safeguard the population of the Ganges River Dolphin, in the country's one dolphin reserve through which National Waterway-1 connecting Haldia to Varanasi passes.

The response by the Ministry was tabled in Parliament on July 11 in response to a question by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor.

Mr. Tharoor asked about steps taken by the government to ensure that the dolphins will not be adversely affected by the National Waterways Project, among other questions on the subject.

The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS), from Sultanganj to Kahalganj on the Ganga in Bihar is the only dolphin sanctuary in the country. The Ministry in its response admitted that the Sultanganj-Kahalganj stretch of National Waterway-1 passes through it.

"Vessel speed would be restricted to 2.7 knots in Vik-



Big challenge: The population of the Ganges dolphin has been pegged between 150 and 200. •WWF

ramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) area to reduce the noise generation from propeller... If any aquatic mammal/dolphin is spotted, then the measures will be taken to push it away through sirens/signals," the Ministry said.

The other mitigation measures, according to the Ministry, include fitting vessels with propeller guards and dolphin deflectors to minimise dolphin accidents and using non-toxic paints for painting vessels.

The Ministry said the mitigations are based on Com-

prehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study on National Waterway-1 including on stretches falling within VGDS.

Officials out of loop
S. Sudhakar, Divisional Forest Officer, Bhagalpur, who is directly responsible for maintenance of the sanctuary, said the forest department has neither got any proposal about the plying of vessels through the dolphin sanctuary nor on the mitigation measures.

Arvind Mishra, member

of IUCN Species Survival Commission said the Ministry's response of blowing sirens after spotting dolphins clearly brings to the fore the limited understanding of behaviour and habitat of the Ganges dolphin.

"Dolphins are difficult to spot and even after they are spotted if sirens are sounded it will not only disturb them more but also a number of other migratory birds and aquatic fauna," he said.

Mr. Mishra said that using the Ganga for navigation will be detrimental to the biodiversity of the river.

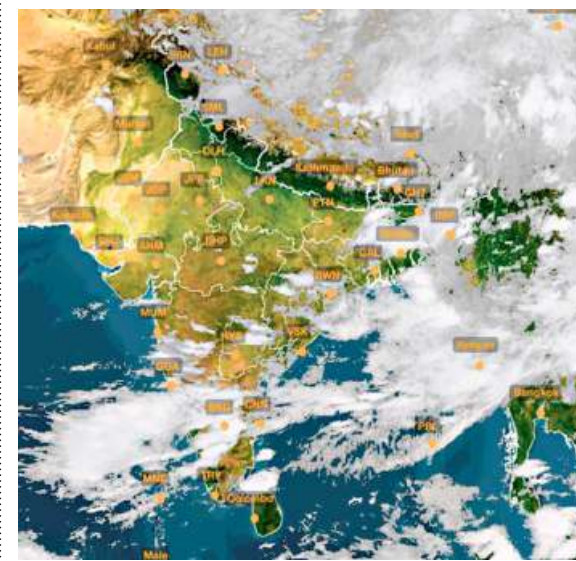
Experts have pegged the population of the Ganges dolphin in VGDS from 150 to 200.

Samir Sinha, Division Head - Species Recovery & Protected Area Recovery, Wildlife Trust of India, said the habitat of the Ganges dolphin is not limited to the sanctuary.

Experts also warned that dredging the river bed will disturb the ecosystem and river geo morphology, something which the forest officials also agree.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over places like Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, north Punjab, north Haryana, Chandigarh, north Uttar Pradesh, Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe, Tamilnadu, Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	119.0	27.6	23.3	Kozhikode	10.6	32.6	25.0
Ahmedabad	38.8	28.1	24.0	Kurnool	37.1	27.2	28.5
Aizawl	24.0	24.0	24.0	Lucknow	36.3	28.5	26.0
Allahabad	36.8	27.6	30.8	Madurai	37.4	26.0	23.4
Bengaluru	30.8	21.3	33.2	Mangaluru	6.3	28.5	25.4
Bhopal	33.2	25.0	34.5	Mumbai	10.6	31.2	19.8
Bhubaneswar	34.5	25.2	18.1	Mysuru	3.8	31.1	30.2
Chandigarh	36.9	26.5	33.2	New Delhi	37.7	23.2	23.2
Chennai	36.9	26.5	21.1	Patna	14.2	34.4	25.4
Coimbatore	33.2	23.7	29.5	Port Blair	30.7	25.4	24.2
Dehradun	21.1	29.5	23.0	Puducherry	0.3	31.7	23.0
Gangtok	27.0	18.9	17.5	Pune	30.3	23.0	27.4
Goa	12.4	29.8	25.3	Raipur	35.5	27.4	24.6
Guwahati	1.9	28.8	26.0	Ranchi	34.4	24.6	17.4
Hubballi	27.0	22.0	5.0	Shillong	3.9	23.4	16.2
Hyderabad	5.0	34.7	23.0	Shimla	9.0	21.6	17.3
Imphal	8.7	27.4	25.6	Srinagar	31.8	17.3	25.2
Jaipur	36.8	28.1	17.0	Thiruvananthapuram	32.2	25.2	37.6
Kochi	17.0	31.0	24.4	Tiruchi	37.8	23.6	23.6
Kohima	25.3	17.6	37.1	Visakhapatnam	13.2	34.5	26.6
Kolkata	37.1	28.6					

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	124	58	69	109	109	4.00 p.m., Srisa, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 352 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 22
Bengaluru	28	51	62	86	109	
Chennai	8	12	54	86	109	
Delhi	17	24	71	107	333	
Hyderabad	4	17	22	38	111	
Kolkata	8	43	13	96	111	
Lucknow	10	31	41	98	111	
Mumbai	18	101	18	55	55	
Pune	68	68	68	56	55	
Visakhapatnam	68	68	68	56	55	

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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Chief Electrical Expert
Chennai Metro Rail Limited



Karnataka conundrum

Converting resignation into a disqualification matter adds new dimension to a political crisis

The Supreme Court's decision to ask the parties to the political crisis in Karnataka to maintain the *status quo* until it examines the questions of law involved, is pragmatic and expedient. The Speaker has been asked not to decide the issue of MLAs' resignation or disqualification. An order has been passed when one of the questions to be decided is whether the court can give such a direction to the Speaker. It now transpires that legislators can be prevented from resigning by claiming that they have incurred disqualification. It was argued in court that "the rebel MLAs are trying to avoid disqualification by tendering resignations." This is astounding, as the penalty for defection is loss of legislative office. Quitting the current post before joining another party is a legal and moral obligation. Defection is condemnable, especially if it is to bring down one regime and form another. But politicians cannot be tied down to parties against their will by not letting them leave even their legislative positions. Even if it can be argued that two MLAs had pending disqualification proceedings against them, what about the rest? They say they tried to meet the Speaker, but could not. They may have been wrong to rush to the court without getting an appointment with the Speaker, but in the few intervening days, their parties issued a whip to all MLAs to be present in the House and vote for the government.

Converting resignation into a disqualification matter is an attempt to deny a member's right to quit his seat in the legislature before joining another party, even if the crossing-over is a politically expedient measure. The logic seems to be that a disqualified member cannot become a Minister without getting elected again, whereas one who resigns can be inducted into an alternative Cabinet without being a member. Accepting a resignation is a simple function of being satisfied if it is voluntary, while disqualification is decided on evidence and inquiry. The two should not be mixed up. The ongoing proceedings represent an increasingly common trend in litigation on constitutional issues: the propensity of the political class to twist and stretch the law in their favour and leave it to the court to set things right. The Speaker already enjoys extraordinary powers under the Constitution. In addition to immunity from judicial scrutiny for legislative matters, such as whether a Bill is a money bill, presiding officers get to decide whether a member has incurred disqualification under the anti-defection law. Though the decision is subject to judicial review, many Speakers have evaded judicial scrutiny by merely not acting on disqualification matters. The question whether the Speaker's inaction can be challenged in court is pending before another Constitution Bench. Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have instances of Speakers not acting on disqualification questions for years. The current crisis in Karnataka has exposed a new dimension to such partisan action.

Warlord and war crimes

The International Criminal Court verdict against Bosco Ntaganda is a breakthrough

The conviction of the Congolese warlord Bosco Ntaganda is cause for cautious optimism that perpetrators of serious crimes cannot escape justice, even where they have evaded domestic laws. Ntaganda, known as "the terminator", was pronounced guilty of 13 counts of war crimes and five of crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court. These relate to the 2002-03 ethnic conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. After a 2006 indictment by the Hague court, it took seven more years for him to surrender and months more before the trial could start. The conviction follows the ICC's 2012 sentencing of Thomas Lubanga, the first to be pronounced guilty under the Rome Statute, also pertaining to atrocities during the Congolese conflict. The verdict in this latest case is a breakthrough for the prosecution, which has come under increasing scrutiny. It has even been forced to abandon high-profile trials involving heads of government owing to the intimidation of witnesses and tampering with evidence. In 2014, the ICC dropped charges of crimes against humanity on Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, the first sitting President to appear before it, relating to the death of hundreds in the 2007 post-election ethnic violence. The judges held that the Nairobi government had not acted in good faith, as crucial evidence had been withheld from the prosecution. Fatou Bensouda, the ICC chief prosecutor who has been in the midst of some of these reversals, described as "regrettable and troubling" a majority appeal decision last year. That ruling acquitted Jean-Pierre Bemba, a former DRC vice president, who was in 2016 convicted of war crimes and handed an 18-year sentence. In January, Laurent Gbagbo, former President of Ivory Coast, was acquitted of crimes against humanity. In the face of strong resistance to prosecute crimes committed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, many African nations feel they were being selectively targeted. In an unjustified move, Burundi has quit the ICC, as also the Philippines.

Arguably the greatest challenge today to enforce accountability transcending domestic and regional borders could be linked to the surge of nationalism around the world. The genesis of the Rome Statute, adopted in 1998, made a modest beginning to ensure that serious atrocities committed by elected representatives do not go unpunished. The refusal of major states to bring themselves under the court's jurisdiction has dampened such hopes. It is an irony that countries this year are marking the 75th anniversary of the Bretton Woods institutions. But the new world order they sought to usher in, underpinned by a rules-based system of global governance, is facing its biggest challenge yet.

Looming challenges to India's standing

In the coming five years, a host of geopolitical and economic issues need to be reconciled



M.K. NARAYANAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has maintained a frenetic pace, renewing contacts with world leaders ever since the results of general election 2019. He was the cynosure of all eyes at the G-20 meeting in June, in Osaka. At the BRICs informal meeting, also in Osaka, he called for the strengthening of the World Trade Organisation and for a global conference on terrorism. He discussed counter-terrorism and climate change issues at separate meetings with China's President Xi Jinping and Russia's President Vladimir Putin. He participated in the Japan-India-U.S. trilateral grouping, arguing for a "rules based order" in the Indo-Pacific region. He met with U.S. President Donald Trump, to discuss the future of India-U.S. relations.

A vastly altered situation

This may convey an impression that everything bodes well for India in the external realm. What is often overlooked is that while we were fortunate in the past to be able to take advantage of a rare combination of favourable conditions, this situation no longer exists. The 2019 election verdict was a definitive victory for Mr. Modi, but it hardly carries an assurance that India can pursue the same policies as before. While it has become commonplace for most Indians to affirm that India has arrived, there are a host of issues that exist which need to be reconciled before we can achieve what we aspire for.

The past cannot be a guide to the future. In the past, we did manage a shift from non-alignment to multi-alignment, could

improve our relations with the United States without jeopardising our long-term relationship with Russia, and paper over our prickly relations with China without conceding too much ground; all the while maintaining our strategic independence. This is too much to hope for at the present time.

The global situation that made all this possible has altered. Rivalries among nations have intensified. There is virtual elimination of the middle ground in global politics, and it has become far more adversarial than at any time previously. Even the definition of a liberal order seems to be undergoing changes. Several more countries today profess support for their kind of liberalism, including Russia and China. At the other end, western democracy appears far less liberal today.

China, U.S. and Asian realities

In this backdrop, India needs to rework many of its policies in the coming five years. South Asia, in particular, and the region of our highest priority, according to the new External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, needs close attention. The region is one of the most disturbed in the world and India has little or no say in any of the outcomes taking place. India-Pakistan relations are perhaps at their lowest point. Tarring Pakistan with the terror brush is hardly policy, and stable relations continue to be elusive. India has no role in Afghan affairs and is also excluded from current talks involving the Taliban, the Afghan government, Pakistan, the U.S. and even Russia and China. India might have recouped its position more recently in the Maldives, but its position in Nepal and Sri Lanka remains tenuous. In West Asia again, India is no longer a player to reckon with.

Across much of Asia, China is the major challenge that India has to contend with. Smaller countries in the region are being inveigled to



SHASHANK

participate in China's programmes such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India and Bhutan are the only two countries in this region that have opted out of the BRI, and they seem like the odd men out. The challenge in the coming years for India is to check the slide, especially in Asia, and try and restore India to the position it held previously. India cannot afford to wait too long to rectify the situation.

Deepening India-U.S. relations today again carry the danger of India becoming involved in a new kind of Cold War. This is another area that needs our special focus. India must ensure that it does not become a party to the conflicts and rivalries between the U.S. and a rising China, the heightened tensions between the U.S. and Russia, and also avoid becoming a pawn in the U.S.-Iran conflict.

There is little doubt that current India-U.S. relations provide India better access to state-of-the-art defence items; the recent passage of the National Defence Authorisation Act in the U.S. makes India virtually a non-NATO ally. However, such close identification comes with a price. It could entail estrangement of relations with Russia, which has been a steadfast ally and a defence partner of India's for the better part of half-a-century. Closer relations with the U.S. also carries the risk of aggravating tensions between India and China, even as China and the U.S. engage in contesting every domain and

are involved in intense rivalry in military matters as well as competition on technology issues.

The U.S.-China-Russia conflict has another dimension which could affect India adversely. The strategic axis forged between the Mr. Putin's Russia and Mr. Xi's China will impact not only the U.S. but also India's position in both Asia and Eurasia, with India being seen as increasingly aligned to the U.S. Hence, India needs to devise a policy that does not leave it isolated in the region.

Again, notwithstanding the 'Wuhan spirit', India cannot but be concerned about China's true intentions, given the regional and global situation and its desire to dominate the Asian region. Within the next decade, China will become a truly formidable military power, second only to the U.S. The ongoing India-U.S. entente could well provoke a belligerent China to act with greater impunity than previously. As it is, China would be concerned at the rise of a 'nationalist' India, which is perhaps not unwilling in the prevailing circumstances of today to become embroiled in a conflict over 'freedom of navigation' in the South and East China seas.

The new buzzword

On another plane, as India intensifies its search for state-of-the-art military equipment from different sources, it may be worthwhile for India to step back and reconsider some of its options. Military power is but one aspect of the conflicts that rage today. Experts point out that outright war, insurgencies and terror attacks are fast becoming passé. Nations confront many other and newer threats at present. Today, disruptive technologies have tremendous danger potential and nations that possess these technologies have the ability to become the dominant powers in the 21st and 22nd Centuries.

A major challenge for India will

hence be how to overcome our current inadequacies in the realm of disruptive technologies rather than remaining confined to the purely military domain. The U.S., China, Russia, Israel and few other countries dominate these spheres as also cyberspace and cyber methodologies. New policy parameters will need to be drawn up by India, and our capabilities enhanced in areas such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology and cyber methodology, all of which constitute critical elements of the disruptive technology matrix.

The economy needs attention

None of this would, however, be possible unless India pays greater heed to its economy. Despite a plethora of official statements, the state of the economy remains a matter of increasing concern. Even statistics regarding the economy are being questioned. Notwithstanding India's ambition to become a \$5-trillion economy by 2024-25, the reality today is that the economy appears to be in a state of decline. Jobs, specially skilled jobs, are not available in sufficient numbers and this should be a matter for concern. The ability to sustain a rate of growth between 8.5% and 9.5% is again highly doubtful. Neither the Economic Survey nor the Budget contain useful pointers to a more robust economy, one that is capable of providing a higher rate of growth, more opportunities for skilled labour, and greater potential for investments.

The looming challenge for India in the coming five years, therefore, would be how to build a strong economic foundation, one that is capable of providing the kind of power structure needed for an emerging power, and also one possessing the best liberal credentials.

M.K. Narayanan is a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal

Ecological perils of discounting the future

With growing environmental distress, policymakers cannot shy away from adopting best eco-management practices



KALVAKUNTLA KAVITHA

In a report last year, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) called the Chennai floods of 2015 a "man made disaster", a pointer to how the encroachment of lakes and river floodplains has driven India's sixth largest city to this ineluctable situation. The Chennai floods are a symbol of consistent human failings and poor urban design which are common to most urban centres in India if not urban centres across the world. Now, Chennai is in the midst of another crisis — one of water scarcity.

Unlike issues such as traffic congestion or crime which are visible, environmental degradation is not what most people can easily see or feel in their every day lives. Therefore, when the consequences of such degradation begin to wreak havoc, it becomes difficult to draw the correlation between nature's vengeance with human failings. In Chennai, more than 30 waterbo-

dies of significance have disappeared in the past century. Concrete or the increase in paved surfaces has affected the percolation of rainwater into the soil, thereby depleting groundwater levels to a point of no return.

Urbanisation without vision

Chennai, however, is not alone in terms of suffering from the consequences of human folly. Urbanisation at the cost of reclaiming water bodies is a pan-India if not world-wide phenomenon. There are examples in cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad and even Mexico city. In Bengaluru, 15 lakes have lost their ecological character in less than five years according to a High Court notice to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, the city's administrative body responsible for civic amenities and some infrastructure assets. The lakes, which are now encroached areas, find use as a bus stand, a stadium and, quite ironically, as an office of the Pollution Control Board. In Mexico city, what was once a network of lakes built by the Aztecs in the 11th and 12th centuries, has given way to a downtown city centre. Parts of the city, especially downtown, sink a few metres every year causing immense damage



PTI

to buildings.

In Telangana, the byzantine network of tanks and lakes built by the Kakatiya dynasty has disappeared over the years. However, the question is not about what follies were committed in the past, but about what we can do in the present and, more importantly, for the future. In Telangana, "tanks have been the lifeline of the State because of its geographical positioning". The State's "topography and rainfall pattern have made tank irrigation an ideal type of irrigation by storing and regulating water flow for agricultural use".

The Telangana example

There are a number of lessons that can be learnt. The Chief Minister of Telangana launched a massive rejuvenation movement in form of "Mission Kakatiya" which involves the restoration of irrigation tanks and lakes/minor irrigation sources

built by the Kakatiya dynasty. From the perspective of inter-generational justice, this is a move towards giving future generations in the State their rightful share of water and, therefore, a life of dignity. The city of Hyderabad is now moving towards a sustainable hydraulic model with some of the best minds in the country working on it. This model integrates six sources of water in a way that even the most underdeveloped areas of the city can have equitable access to water resources and the groundwater levels restored in order to avoid a calamity of the kind that has gripped Chennai now.

The larger question is: Can we not take inspiration from the following examples? When Mexico city can create a new executive position of a "resilience officer" to save its sinking urban sprawls, Bengaluru can reclaim Kundalahalli lake (once a landfill) through corporate social responsibility funds in a Public Private Partnership model, and Hyderabad and the larger state of Telangana rebuild its resilience through a combination of political will and well-designed policies such as the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme and Mission, what stops us from learning from each other?

Why should other urban centres shy away from adopting, remodelling and implementing some of the best water management practices to avoid disaster? The answer perhaps lies in the tendency of policymakers to discount the future and of their obsession of focussing on the here and now.

By 2050

It is estimated that in just 30 years from now, half of India will be living in cities. If we truly envision a great future for this country, how can we possibly risk the lives of half of our people and the next generations who could be facing a life in cities parched by drought, stranded by floods, mortified by earthquakes or torn by wars over fresh water? What has happened in Chennai now or what happened in Kerala last year in the form of floods are not a case of setting alarm bells ringing, but one of explosions. If we do not wake up now, we have to be prepared to face the consequences of nature wreaking great havoc on humanity. We would not need nuclear bombs for our obliteration.

Kalvakuntla Kavitha is a former Member of Parliament and the founding president of the Telangana Jagruthi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Deciphering the moon

As earthlings and Indians, we exult at the launch of the Chandrayaan-2 mission to scan the moon's surface and soil, map its topography, study its mineral and chemical composition and understand its origin and evolution (Nation page, "Chandrayaan-2 all set for 3.84 lakh km voyage," and FAQ page, both July 14). The unmanned mission, undertaken days ahead of the 50th anniversary of the first successful moon landing, has to be seen as part of the wider scientific efforts to push the boundaries of human knowledge. Space exploration has both tangible and intangible benefits and it sometimes transforms the way we look at ourselves and the universe. Surely, reaching out for the celestial bodies is good for life on earth. The question of how a

poverty-stricken country can invest in space programmes is based on misconception. The right approach is that we must have the wherewithal to do both poverty mitigation and space exploration.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthanadu, Tamil Nadu

Amid pessimistic news items related to political defections, violence and scams, the report on ISRO's ambitious moon mission project comes as a ray of hope. Scientists are said to have skipped holidays and worked hard for the success of the mission. All government departments should take inspiration from the premier space organisation and strive to better their work culture.

KSHIRASAGAR BALAJI RAO,
Hyderabad

Unignifed defections

This is with reference to the Editorial, "Aftershocks in

Goa" (July 13). The defection of MLAs, whether induced or voluntary, is ugly. The legislators, having won the election as a member of one party, have no moral right to defect to another. Anti-defection laws are no longer acting as a deterrent. The hidden hand of the Bharatiya Janata Party to gain control of States where it has not been elected to power can be sensed. Democracy needs to be saved from such dishonest manoeuvres. The Supreme Court needs to intervene and force the defecting legislators to forfeit their membership, bar them for life from contesting elections and make them ineligible for pension.

R.M. MANOHARAN,
Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

Electoral reforms

The themes discussed by former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi, while not irrelevant, lag behind in priority for

ordinary voters. Reforms need to be, first of all, targeted at keeping criminals away from the electoral scenario. If men and women of integrity are elected as representatives, issues like money power, method of appointment of Election Commissioners and EVM use can be addressed. Legislation is urgently required to empower voters with a right to recall MPs/MLAs. Similarly, a 50%+1 rule, based on voters' list, is needed to declare a winning candidate. Empowering the None of the Above (NOTA) option is equally important. From the demarcation of constituencies to the formation of Cabinets, a sense of anarchy prevails at every step. Parliament needs to take up such serious issues to keep the spirit of democracy alive (Editorial page, "A welcome debate on electoral reforms," July 12).

P.R.V. RAJA,
Pandalam, Kerala

Wielding the broom

The MPs' act of "cleaning" Parliament premises, which are already kept reasonably clean, comes across as a supreme farce aimed at drawing attention of citizens and making them believe that the lawmakers are alive to the burning issue. Instead of this, the VIPs should have selected some remote city/town in the country to prove their sincerity to the cause (News page, "Cleaning the house," July 14).

V. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

WC dream ends

From a potential reality, India's World Cup dream turned illusory and blew into smithereens. The 'Men in Blue', who were heroes of a frenzied cricket nation, suddenly turned villains with one bad game against New Zealand in the big semi-final. (Editorial, "The climax," July 13). As is widely perceived, the middle order proved to

be the major reason for India's exit from the quadrennial tournament. The selectors made a huge blunder by not picking technically equipped players like Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara, who have performed well in England, to strengthen the middle order. Also, it is baffling that despite being groomed for the last couple of years for the crucial No. 4 spot, Ambati Rayudu was not selected. These apart, when India wins a tournament, selectors get financial rewards, but when the team loses, it is only the players who bear the brunt. While the Committee of Administrators (CoA) has got into most cricketing matters, surprisingly it has avoided assessing the performance of selectors.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

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Relying on the Constitution is not enough

For Dalits, the institution has become synonymous with a grievance cell offering no immediate solutions



SURAJ YENGDE

Caste plays an important role in every facet of life, writes Suraj Yengde, a first-generation Dalit scholar, in his latest book, Caste Matters. Mr. Yengde grew up in dire circumstances in a family where the "education level did not go beyond tenth grade". He talks about everyday humiliations and about the resilience of Dalits. Mr. Yengde questions Brahminical power as also divisions within the Dalit community, the legacy of Ambedkar, and explains why Dalits must lay claim to power. An excerpt:

The Dalit movement in India is yet to be fully formed with a sizeable consensus. It lives in various forms, sizes and shapes. It has not yet formulated a cogent programme to take in politically conservative Dalits by bringing them into the wider Indian democratic experience. Dalit scholars and politicians alike can be seen struggling to formulate a workable theory of Ambedkarism or Dalitism that would be a manifesto for common liberation.

By exclusively relying on constitutionalism as a means of emancipation, this class of intellectuals argues for a utopian dream. The methods of attaining Dalit emancipation, however, remain unknown. The sooner India's oppressed realise this, the better. One cannot depend on the limited conceptions of constitutionalism for deliverance. Owing to the limited control of this institution, the Constitution has become synonymous to a grievance cell offering no immediate solutions.

Limited reach

The linguistic accessibility of the Constitution and its reach to the oppressed is extremely limited. Few peasants would consider the Constitution as a written word that would guarantee them protection from the landlord's real and financial whipcord. Similarly, beggars who are living on the mercy of donors' charity would think that this dossier guarantees them equality and access to freedom. The idea of the Constitution is

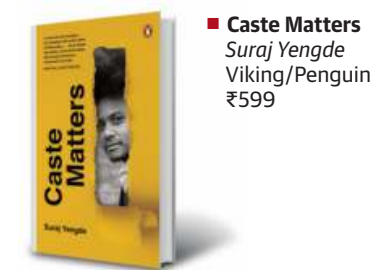


MEETA AHLAWAT

romantic. No one really knows its limitations but lauds its profundity without testing it out. Many Dalits are repeating the state's narrative of constitutionalism as being the ultimate virtue – a god-sent panacea. It does nothing more than apply a lotion to massage one's shattered ego. But when it comes to exercising the enshrined codes in the Constitution, Dalits seem to be harming their self-worth. This is because not everybody feels this document is close to their hearts as much as Dalits. Not everyone has similar expectations from the Constitution. Thus, it creates genuine gaps while considering constitutional morality as a common virtue. Hence, in such a situation of one-sided applicability, mutual cohabitation is a long shot. One has to pierce through the devious agenda of casteist rogues by injecting a radical antidote to set a tone of mutuality and respectability. Unless this is settled, no further conversation can be foreseen that will yield real results.

Second-class citizens

As much as Dalits feel empowered in a constitutionally mandated democratic republic, any hope of their issues being redressed withers away when reality comes knocking. After every gruesome atrocity or everyday humiliation they undergo at the workplace or in their shared housing, the promise of constitutionalism shatters into pieces. Dalits are often accorded second-class citizenship. At the workplace, they do not get the requisite respect and attention from



■ **Caste Matters**
Suraj Yengde
Viking/Penguin
₹599

their co-workers. A senior bureaucrat friend, Tushar (pseudonym), who has an advanced degree from an Ivy League school, told me about his unpleasant experience. Prior to his departure to America, he was given a heavy workload with additional responsibilities by his immediate dominant caste supervisors. Tushar narrated the story of how he was tasked to work on projects that demanded his extra involvement which in turn consumed more time than required. His selection to an Ivy League institution made everyone at his workplace insecure. He was regularly taunted with disparaging comments. 'What will you do after studying economics, which is not your field and different from the work you currently do?'

One of the limitations of the Indian Constitution often echoed within Dalit circles is the absolute visionary absence of Dalit pride and the eruptive definition of liberation. Constitutionalism has proved to be an unreliable doctrine to influence perpetrators of casteism. The landmark case of *Surya Narayan Chaudhury v. State of Rajasthan* in 1988 ex-

poses one among its many limitations. This case prohibited temples from discriminating against Dalits' right to worship and enter the sacrosanct spaces as a rule of law.

The verdict delivered by the Chief Justice of India, Justice J.S. Verma, pointed out the fact that 'mere enactment of such a law or guaranteeing a right in the Constitution of India is not enough and the change needed is really in our hearts and not elsewhere. It is the willing acceptance of the society which alone is the sure guarantee of eradication of any social evil.'

The Justice J.S. Verma verdict expressed the inadequacies of legal provisions in the absence of society's willingness to acknowledge its prejudices. This goes in line with Ambedkar's comments on the uselessness of legislation in the face of social sanction.

Using Ambedkar

Guarding the elitism of the Constitution and selling it under Ambedkar's name has come at the cost of Dalit radicalism. Ambedkar is now centralised as a sanctimonious figurehead. And in a country like India, to worship someone is to kill any critical thoughts about the person. Various ideological and semi-social and political circles play football with Ambedkar and enjoy the show put on by Dalits around his portraits. Ambedkar's image is used to silence Dalit rage around any issue, to the benefit of the oppressor, who is more than happy to co-opt Ambedkar into their vicious programme of hatred and violence. At the time of writing, every Dalit leader in the 2019 election campaign has spoken of protecting the Constitution. They found it a more appealing idea to attract the common mass towards 'Samvidhaan', as opposed to other traditional issues at hand, such as social justice, welfare programmes, education, health, taxation and the protection of the working class. The affection of Dalits towards constitutionalism is a curious subject of inquiry. No mainstream Dalit leader has dared to critically engage with the debate around the Constitution and its encouragement of Dalit passivism.

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FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

The act of verification requires time

The Readers' Editor's office requires effort and expertise to verify arguments and counterarguments



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

What are the issues that a Readers' Editor can address and what are the issues that are beyond his remit? The fine line between acting responsibly and overreach is clear to all the three concerned parties: readers, the editorial staff, and the Readers' Editor. Readers recognise that the Readers' Editor's role is strictly limited to post-publication, but they have an ambiguous idea when it comes to his right to reply.

Time for evaluation

On July 9, *The Hindu* published an article titled "Taking a myopic view of foreign-made generic drugs" by Srividhya Ragavan, Professor of Law at Texas A&M University School of Law, on the opinion page. The article looked at how the U.S. is using the Ranbaxy experience as an excuse to deny access to lifesaving medication to productive workforces. Dinesh Thakur, a public health activist and blogger, wanted the newspaper to publish a rebuttal. He marked it to both the editorial team and the Readers' Editor office on July 10. However, he withdrew his rejoinder on July 12 saying he was disappointed that the editorial team did not indicate whether his article would be published or not. Mr. Thakur failed to recognise the fact that rebuttals need careful analysis. It takes time to examine the points made. Further, it is only fair to check with the original author for her response. The Readers' Editor's office only facilitates a dialogue between the reader and the editorial team, it does not interfere in the editorial selection process. Mr. Thakur withdrew his submission without giving adequate time to the editorial team to either examine his counterarguments or get Ms. Ragavan's response. I request readers to grant us time to carry out due diligence in evaluating complaints. This request for time should not be interpreted as the lack of a proactive outlook.

The Readers' Editor's office acts as an ef-

fective listening post and passes on every alert that comes from readers. There are moments when it acts as an early warning system.

Cause for floods

When parts of north India were flooded last week and this week, Kanak Mani Dixit, founding editor of *Himal Southasian* and a regular contributor to this newspaper, drew our attention to some very important facts. He pointed out that there are no significant dams in Nepal with 'open sluice gates' to send floodwaters to Bihar or Uttar Pradesh. He said that the two barrages on rivers Kosi and Gandaki near the India-Nepal border are operated by Indian authorities. And that there is only one relatively small reservoir in Nepal, Kulekhani. For nearly three decades, Indian leaders have been blaming Nepal for floods in north India, especially in Bihar and U.P. Even a statesman like Atal Bihari Vajpayee believed in this allegation. During his 1998 tour of flooded eastern U.P., Vajpayee

remarked in Lucknow that Nepal was responsible for the floods. Most news channels reported that Nepal had released 3,50,000 cusecs from its dams. Ajaya Dixit, a water resources expert and a member of the Nepal Water Conservation Foundation based in Kathmandu, pointed out that the politics of blaming Nepal began in the colonial era when Sir Claude Inglis, the director of the Central Irrigation and Hydrodynamic Research Station at Poona, attributed floods in the Kosi river to hill farmers cutting trees, as early as 1941.

Mr. Dixit explained the causes for floods in the plains of Bihar. He meticulously explained that the real issue is not what is stored upstream but with the drainage congestion downstream. Bihar's embankments stretching over 3,000 km have made more land susceptible to floods than what they were meant to do – provide deliverance from the annual inundation.

Both the cases – one about Indian-made generic drugs and the other about the floods in north India – draw our attention to the act of verification amidst conflicting claims. A Readers' Editor's verdict is an act of validation. It recognises that verification requires not only effort and expertise but also time.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

A valiant attempt to mainstream the marginalised

The 'good cop' in 'Article 15' is aware of his privilege

KUNAL RAY

One popular trope in Hindi cinema is that of a 'good cop'. He regularly performs swashbuckling tricks, takes the rowdies to task and doles out justice. Amitabh Bachchan played many of these angry cop roles in the 1970s. In fact, his angry young man image was largely a creation of these films. The cop character was angered by wrongdoings of various kinds but remained oblivious to caste-based injustice.

What has changed, I wonder? Look at Ajay Devgn's cop character in the *Singham* films or Salman Khan's in *Dabangg*. Caste issues don't seem to rattle our filmmakers in Mumbai.

Taking caste head on

In such a scenario, Ayushmann Khurrana's lead character in *Article 15* comes as a welcome change. I don't remember the last time a policeman took caste head on in Hindi cinema. There are very few instances of mainstream Hindi cinema exposing caste-based oppression so eloquently with nuance.



A cop walking over a heap of garbage, entering the swamp with his subordinates, visuals of manual scavenging on screen – it is rare to encounter these moments in Hindi films.

The way director Anubhav Sinha deals with caste issues is different from the approach of, say, Pa. Ranjith, and I think both can coexist. Hindi cinema is riddled with many ills. It can't look beyond the urban, dishes out films that look like soap operas and is lacking in social content. On the other hand, when a Hindi film deals with social issues and lacks a big mainstream lead actor, it is often dismissed as 'art house'.

These distinctions are facile. Why can't these so-called 'commercial' films also glimpse the times we live in? Why do we have to wait for a *Fandry* or a *Court* (both non-Hindi films) to give us the wake-up call?

Nobody can deny the reach of mainstream Hindi cinema and its desired impact. Thus, it becomes im-

perative to widely discuss a film such as *Article 15*, which uses the conventions of the mainstream to discuss the marginal and pushes these conversations into spaces where they matter the most.

Set in rural Uttar Pradesh, *Article 15* takes a clear position on caste-based crimes, untouchability and other associated social ostracisation practices that keep Dalits invisible and crush all their attempts at mobilising themselves and taking on the powers that be.

The Ambedkar reference

The film opens with a song which vocalises the wide chasm that exists. Immediately thereafter appears a familiar statue of B.R. Ambedkar in his trademark blue coat with his hand raised and holding a copy of the Constitution. Some might dismiss this as a tokenistic measure, but I believe it is of great significance. The song and the statue create an iconography that mere words cannot capture.

I still remember the concluding scenes from Pa. Ranjith's *Kaala* and his effective use of the colour blue that takes over the screen. It is rife with suggestions and cinema, after all, is an image-based medium. The events depicted in such films are common knowledge, but they attain a renewed vigour on screen. This is where cinema fulfils its role as a watch-keeper in democracy.

In *Article 15*, the 'good cop' breaks barriers and leads by example. He is not merely sympathetic but also reminds us that any form of discrimination is anti-constitutional. At the same time, he is acutely aware of his own privilege and upbringing. He finds his own ignorance troubling. Lest we forget, a vulnerable male lead is not a Hindi cinema favourite. In these times of increasing jingoism, every attempt such as *Article 15* inspires hope, because cinema must provoke us to think and act.

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



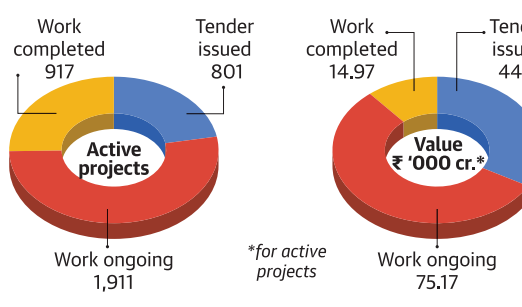
DATA POINT

Far from smart

In June 2015, the Centre launched the '100 Smart Cities Mission'. These cities were supposed to have better infrastructure, expand housing to all, and develop open spaces, among other things. Five years on, a large chunk of the earmarked money has not been spent. Several smart cities are yet to complete a single project. By **Varun B. Krishnan**

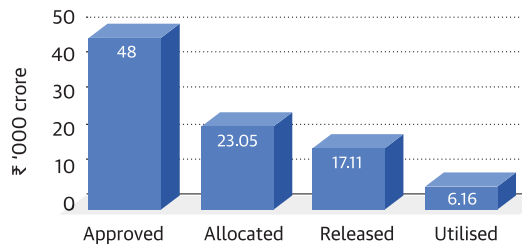
Status update

Of the 5,151 projects initially proposed, only 3,629 have been actively pursued. Of these, about 25% of the projects have been completed. But in value terms, the share of work completed amounts to just 11% of the total



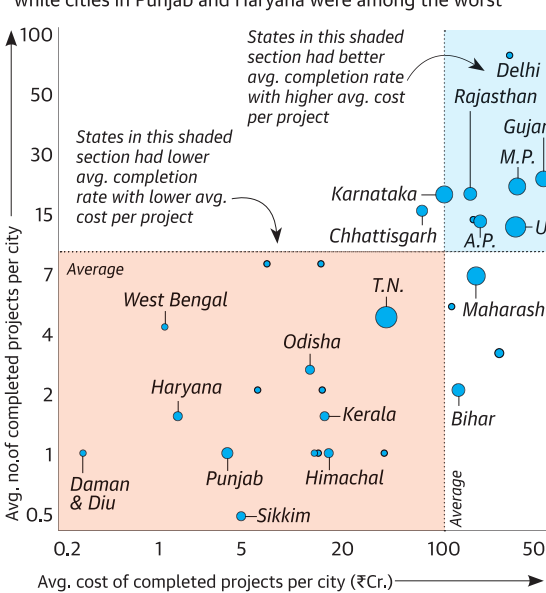
Trickle down effect

Though ₹48,000 cr. is the total approved budget between 2015 and 2019, just half of that has been allocated till now. Of the allocated funds only three-fourth has been released and just 36% of the funds released have been utilised



Where States stand

Each circle represents a State. The size of the circle indicates the number of smart cities in that State – the bigger the circle, the higher the number of the smart cities. Delhi, and cities in Gujarat and M.P., had a better project completion rate on an average, while cities in Punjab and Haryana were among the worst



28 No. of cities which haven't completed a single project

14 No. of cities which have completed just one project

Source: Parliament Question Hour

FROM THE HINDU ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 15, 1969

Six lakh people affected by floods

The flood situation in Upper Assam worsened to-day [July 14] following a major breach in the embankment of the Desang river. According to official information reaching here [Gauhati], about 4,000 people in four villages have lost their homes as a result of the breach. Road communication between Dibrugarh and the rest of the State remained suspended for the fourth day today. The entire Sibsagar sub-division is in the grip of floods and about 6,00,000 people have been affected, according to district authorities. Sali seedlings in about 8,000 bighas of land and other crops in an area of 10,000 bighas have been badly damaged. The swollen Desang has inundated parts of the Sibsagar town and nearby areas. The entire Wakati Mauja and a part of Thowra Mauja are under water. About a hundred granaries in Bakata have also been flooded. In all, about 200 villages in the sub-division have been inundated. Train communication between Simaluguri and Moran has been suspended following the submersion of the railway track.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 15, 1919.

A Sensational Murder.

[In the Madras High Court on July 14, 1919, before Sadasiva Iyer and Burn J.J.] Dr. Swaminathan with Mr. S. Ranganatha Aiyar argued a referred trial and criminal appeal from the conviction and sentence of death passed by the Sessions Judge of Ramnad on Tharasaya Thevan and four others for the murder of S.P. Allapitchai Rowther, a wealthy merchant of Pudukadam, Ramnad district, and a member of the Taluk Board. The prosecution case was that the deceased was going from Pudukadam to catch the Rameswaram Express at Butchupatti Railway Station when the accused waylaid him, from his dog cart, took him to the Railway line, beat him and tied him to the rails and cut his neck with a bill hook. Very soon the train passed over his body and cut it to pieces. The motive alleged was that the deceased was in execution of a decree against the accused attached all their properties and started criminal proceedings against them alleging that a forged document had been filed by the accused in the course of the suit. Mr. E.R. Osborne appeared in support of the conviction. Their Lordships acquitted the fifth accused as there was not sufficient evidence to justify his conviction and confirmed the conviction of the first four accused.

FROM PAGE ONE

Railways may buy readymade trains

However, Mr. Goyal made it clear that the procurement of propulsion equipment or complete trains should be done in accordance with the 'Make in India' policy.

The move follows a row over India's first semi-high-speed Train 18 or Vande Bharat Express and the decision to stop production of the train at the ICF here for a variety of reasons.

Though the concept of buying readymade trains instead of making them is at a nascent stage, the very idea has come as a shocker to a section of employees who feel that the move would render thousands of railway employees in production and ancillary units jobless in the long run.

The ICF which is acclaimed as the world's largest coach factory has rolled out the Vande Bharat Express, Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches based on German technology and the conventional blue ICF-designed coaches that are operated across the country.

"We also make coaches for the Indian Army and several neighbouring countries. The manpower, infrastructure and technology of ICF is among the best in the world and the current target is to roll out 4,000 new coaches," a senior ICF official told *The Hindu* on Sunday. Buying a readymade train from private firms is not new to the Railways. The trains run by Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) were procured as a complete set from Alstom that has a facility in Sri City.



The work on India's semi-high speed Train 18 has been stopped.

"But, procurement from trade, whether imported or indigenous, has always been at exorbitant prices. In fact in all Metro tenders the production units of Indian Railways were kept out by cleverly making international experience one of the criteria for consideration. Ironically, efforts for making Metro coaches under the Make in India initiative are being scuttled by specifying international experience as an eligibility norm. Now, with procurement of trainsets from trade it looks like the end of the road for Railways' in-house production units", the official who preferred anonymity, added.

Replying to a question in Parliament on Vande Bharat Express earlier this month, Mr. Goyal said modernisation of trains was a continuous process. Introduction of Vande Bharat train sets was a path-breaking achievement. Action had also been initiated for acquiring technology for manufacture of aluminium body coaches in railway factories, he said.

Visa-free year-long access for pilgrims to Kartarpur Sahib

The Indian team, consisting of delegates from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs, cautioned Pakistan against building an earth-filled embankment that could create flooding problems at Dera Baba Nanak inside India.

Preparatory work

Sunday's discussion highlighted the preparatory work under way on both sides of the border for the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.

India claimed that significant progress had been

made in building the infrastructure needed to handle the pilgrims from India and abroad and said infrastructure on the Indian side would be able to handle 15,000 pilgrims a day.

The work is expected to be completed by October 31, a week before the celebrations are expected to begin.

Plea for 'Nagar Kirtan'

India also urged Pakistan to allow 'Nagar Kirtan' from Delhi to Nankana Sahib in Pakistan in July and during October-November 2019 as part of the celebrations to mark the birth of the first Sikh Guru.

Coalition in jitters as Minister joins rebel camp

A host of top coalition leaders, including Mr. Kumaraswamy, descended on his farmhouse on the outskirts of the city, hoping that wooing him back would have an impact on the other rebel MLAs.

Parleys held

Indicating how critical he is now to the government, a delegation that included former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal and senior Congressman Mallikarjun Kharge, besides the Chief Minister, held parleys with him for over three hours.

Mr. Reddy later said he would reveal his stand only on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister himself led fire-fighting measures, holding talks with Congress leaders through the day. He even met Ballari Kural MLA B. Nagendra, admitted to a Bengaluru hospital, amid reports that the BJP wanted him to abstain from the trust vote.

Mr. Kumaraswamy is learnt to have said that he was even willing to step down to make way for any Congress leader if it could save the coalition government by bringing back the rebel MLAs.

Offer opposed

However, a majority of the JD(S) MLAs opposed the offer tooth and nail.

Gunmen kill guard of NC leader in Kashmir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Gunmen shot dead the security guard of a National Conference leader in south Kokernag on Sunday.

An official said armed gunmen opened fire on the security officer Reyaz Ah-

mad in the Hiller area of Kokernag in Anantnag district.

"He succumbed to injuries in the hospital," the police said. The deceased was guarding NC leader Peer Tauqeer Shah, a retired judge who joined politics recently.

Sidhu quits Punjab Cabinet

Tweets resignation letter sent to outgoing Congress president Rahul Gandhi

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu on Sunday announced his resignation from the Punjab Cabinet, amid an ongoing tussle with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

Mr. Sidhu released a copy of his resignation letter on Twitter, which he said was submitted to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on June 10.

In the letter addressed to Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Sidhu did not assign any reason for his quitting the Cabinet. "I hereby resign as Minister from the Punjab Cabinet," Mr. Sidhu wrote.

In the following tweet, he said, "Will be sending my resignation to the Chief Minister, Punjab."

After the Cabinet reshuffle on June 6, the Chief Minister divested Mr. Sidhu of the Local Bodies portfolio and allocated him the Power and New and Renewable Energy Sources portfolios.

However, Mr. Sidhu, instead of taking charge of the new Ministry, approached the party's Central leadership to express his displeasure and apprised the "high command" of being singled out "unfairly" in the Cabinet rejig on the pretext of the party's "poor performance" in the urban areas of the State in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Capt. Amarinder and Mr. Sidhu have been at loggerheads since the 2019 Lok Sabha poll.

It started with Mr. Sidhu's wife Navjot Kaur Sidhu accusing Capt. Amarinder of blocking her Lok Sabha ticket from Chandigarh. Later, the Chief Minister



File photo of Navjot Singh Sidhu addressing a press conference in Chandigarh.

blamed Mr. Sidhu for not handling his department well, which he claimed had resulted in the Congress's "poor performance" in urban areas in the general election.

Meanwhile Punjab Cabinet Ministers Brahm Mohindra and Charanjit Singh Channi have termed Mr. Sidhu's resignation as a 'drama.'

Reacting to Mr. Sidhu's tweet on his resignation sent to Mr. Gandhi last month, and his subsequent remark that he would send his formal papers to the Punjab

Chief Minister, they said: "This is nothing but drama from the 'king of theatrics'. If he had to resign he should have followed protocol and sent it directly to the Chief Minister."

"Didn't Mr. Sidhu know that the Cabinet Minister post was not a party post, and his resignation could not be accepted by the Congress president," they added.

Pointing out that he had sent the so-called resignation to the Congress president on June 10, as per his tweet, the Ministers asked why it took Mr. Sidhu 34 days to announce it on Twitter.

Shiromani Akali Dal president and former deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Badal questioned the rationale behind submitting the resignation letter to the party president.

Aam Aadmi Party leader Harpal Cheema and Sukhpal Singh Khaira president of Punjab Ekta Party came out in Mr. Sidhu's support. "Sidhu enjoyed a clean and honest image. Anyone who wants to work for the State is welcome in the party, even Mr. Sidhu," said Mr. Cheema.

Public dissidence dents Congress image

Sidhu episode and letter campaign against Sheila Dikshit expose party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The decision of Navjot Singh Sidhu to go public about his resignation as a Punjab Cabinet Minister on Sunday and a signature campaign against Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) chief Sheila Dikshit during the weekend seem to have added to the sense of disarray within the Congress party.

For over seven weeks now, after outgoing party president Rahul Gandhi informed the Congress Working Committee (CWC) about his decision to step down, the party is yet to convene a meeting of the party's highest decision-making body to appoint the next president.

A meeting of the CWC is expected soon but there is no clarity on the date as the political turmoil in Karnataka seems to have put everything else on the back burner.

And in the absence of a proactive leadership, fac-



Rahul Gandhi

tionism seems to have cost the party's public image.

The fight between Mr. Sidhu and Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh played out on social media as the cricketer-turned-politician put his resignation, addressed to Mr. Gandhi instead of the Chief Minister, on his Twitter handle.

On Saturday, factionalism within the party in Delhi, where elections are due in February, also took an ugly turn with as many as 29 Congress leaders writing against

former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit.

The letter of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) in charge for Delhi, P.C. Chacko, admonishing Ms. Dikshit for making some "unauthorised" block-level appointments went viral on social media.

"I am sorry to say that a senior leader of your stature should not have flouted the directive of the AICC and taking decisions leading to differences and unrest among the rank and file of the party," read Mr. Chacko's letter to Ms. Dikshit.

Maharashtra scene

In poll-bitter Maharashtra, to avoid bitter factionalism among senior leaders, the Congress announced several key election panels like Strategy Committee, and Manifesto and Coordination Committee in the name of Rahul Gandhi.

And the appointments were clearly to accommo-

date senior leaders like former Union Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde, former Chief Ministers Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan, apart from Maharashtra Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat.

In Haryana too, the party is yet to settle the leadership question as supporters of Bhpender Singh Hooda and the State Congress chief Ashok Tanwar continue to be engaged in open factional fights even as elections are expected to be held three months away.

"This is a little bit of a confused run to the finishing line. It should not take too long because too long means we would be left without a clearcut programme that we have for the next elections," former Law Minister Salman Khurshid had told *The Hindu* in an interview earlier this week.

"Let's find a way and courteously and nicely move forward on the next party president," Mr. Khurshid said.

Two killed in Himachal building collapse

Army man among casualties; 27 rescued

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Two persons, including an Army man, died and 27 others were injured after a building collapsed amid heavy rain in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh on Sunday. Eighteen Army personnel were among the injured. Many people are feared trapped, officials said.

The building, on the Nahan-Kumarhatti road, came down at 4 p.m.

"The top floor had a restaurant, where people, including Army personnel, were dining. We have rescued 27 people. Two teams of the National Disaster Response Force have taken over the rescue," Additional Superintendent of Police Shiv Kumar said. "The injured have been taken to nearby hospitals," he said.

Chief Minister Jai Ram



NDRF men undertake rescue work at the site of a building collapse in Solan. *PTI

Thakur has ordered an inquiry. Solan Deputy Commissioner K.C. Chaman said two bodies were pulled out. Eight were still trapped under the debris, he said. Initially, the Indian Army, Central Reserve Police Force and police jointly carried out the rescue operation.

Director cum Special Secretary Revenue and Disaster Management D.C. Rana said that two NDRF teams reached the spot.

Press club polls today in J&K after 3 decades

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The journalistic fraternity in Kashmir, where 19 scribes lost their lives to unknown gunmen since 1990, will get to elect its first-ever body for the Kashmir Press Club (KPC) on Monday.

Around 252 working journalists and editors will vote

for four posts of office-bearers and a seven-member executive committee. Thirty-one candidates are in the fray for the July 15 polls.

"Holding election for professional organisations is always a welcome step. One hopefully looks forward to its promised positive outcome for the profession as

well as the larger public good," said senior journalist Mohammad Syed Malik.

He recalled that regular organisational elections were held prior to 1990 to choose the office-bearers of working journalists' State unit affiliated to the Indian Federation of Working Journalists (IFWJ). "The onset of

turmoil (in 1990) disrupted all. The rest is history," said Mr. Malik.

Kashmir may be a rare place in the country where setting up a press club remained a no-go area. Successive governments identified land and buildings but never handed them over to the journalists.

BJP elevates key strategist B.L. Santosh

Gets second-most important post

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Bharatiya Janata Party national joint general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santosh has been elevated as national general secretary (organisation), the second-most important post in the party's national organisation after that of the national president.

Mr. Santosh, 49, who hails from Udupi district in Karnataka, will replace veteran functionary Ram Lal who served for 13 years in the post. Mr. Santosh, an RSS man, will be the main link between the BJP and the RSS.

Mr. Santosh has been a key strategist for the party both in terms of strengthening the organisation and handling polls in the southern region, especially Karnataka.



B.L. Santosh

His elevation is being seen as a reward for his work towards the party organisation, most importantly the role played by him in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections.

Known for his varied organisational skills, Mr. Santosh had been given the responsibility of overseeing the party's preparations for the Lok Sabha polls in the southern region.

Defence Ministry spent ₹7.85 cr. on legal fee

Earns SC's ire for excessive litigation

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

While the debate continues over taxing disability pension for military personnel and assurances by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to look into the matter, information provided under the Right to Information (RTI) Act shows that between 2013 and July 2018, the Defence Ministry paid about ₹7.85 crore as fee to the government counsel for various cases pending against military personnel in the Supreme Court, the High Courts and the Armed Forces Tribunals (AFTs).

Most pricey

Of the three services, the IAF had the highest number of cases at 2,683 on which a little over ₹7 crore was spent on legal fees, show information obtained through the RTI query filed by advocate Brajesh Singh in August last.

The Army spent about ₹11.5 lakh, while the Navy about ₹69 lakh for cases in North India between 2013-14 and 2017-18.

The Defence Ministry has often faced criticism for



The Army spent ₹11.5 lakh while the Navy ₹69 lakh between 2013-14 and 2017-18.

spending money on lawyers to appeal against soldiers who approached the AFTs for disability benefits or pension and was even pulled up by the Supreme Court on several occasions for excessive litigation.

Last year, the Ministry withdrew several appeals against disability and as of now, 26 appeals were pending against grant of disability pension in the Supreme Court, Mr. Singh said in a written reply in Parliament last week. Last year, the Ministry withdrew 60 civil appeals in the apex court, of which 17 were for disability pension.

NCRB's annual reports to be out soon

Opposition parties have accused the government of withholding it

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The annual crime report compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for 2017 will be published soon as requisite data from all States has been received, a senior official said.

The publication of "Crime in India" for 2018 will have to wait a little longer as the NCRB plans to come out with the 2017 report first, the official said.

The Opposition parties have accused the government of withholding the report. On June 24, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said in the Rajya Sabha that the government had initiated a tradition that "if the findings of the report are against it, it will not be tabled at all".

"A couple of States have not given the required data. We cannot publish the report without getting infor-

To ensure that the published data suits the requirements of various stakeholders, the National Crime Records Bureau has comprehensively revised the proforma for collecting crime statistics

It (NCRB) has trained States/UTs personnel on the new formats. The data in the revised proforma from all States/Union Territories has not been received

G. KISHAN REDDY
Minister of State for Home, in a written reply to the Lok Sabha



mation from all the 29 States and seven Union Territories," the official said.

Another official said to tide over dependence on States to send information, they were developing software on the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) to pull out the data automatically and publish the report. There are 15,816 police stations across the country and the CCTNS

connects almost 15,000 of them on a national platform. It has a database of all crimes, photographs of criminals and missing children among other things.

The report is used by the State and the Central governments for framing various policies and initiatives and also by various other stakeholders for research purposes.

On July 9, Hyderabad MP

Asaduddin Owaisi said on Twitter, "NCRB's job is to maintain crime records & produce reports. Since 2016, it hasn't produced its two main annual reports 'Crime in India' & 'Prison Statistics India'. And why is it not doing its job?"

On July 9, Villupuram MP D. Ravikumar asked in the Lok Sabha whether the NCRB had submitted its 2017 report. In a written reply, Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said the report had not been finalised.

"To ensure that published data suits the requirements of various stakeholders, the NCRB has comprehensively revised the proforma for collecting crime statistics. It has trained personnel of States and Union Territories on the new formats. The data in the revised proforma from all States and Union Territories has not been received," Mr. Reddy said.

APPEAL

Sheeba aged 50 years old is a widow suffering from Progressive Muscular Dystrophy involving all four limbs. She is a lonely lady without any support as she lost her son due to brain fever. She is in urgent need of an electric wheel chair to gain mobility. This wheel chair costs around **Rs. 90,000/-** only. The donations sent through Ch/D.D./NEFT Transfer (Syndicate Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No: 60182010063510, IFSC No: SYNB0006018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your E-mail ID is requested.

All Correspondence is done through **WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 4, Cordell Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324. E-mail ID: womenswelfare syndicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfare syndicate.org**

WWS

Polluted water, overflowing sewage torment Bhopal gas tragedy survivors

Funds set aside under a 2010 action plan for resolving sanitation and drinking water issues were allegedly misappropriated by the State's rehabilitation wing

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

It's 2 a.m., and the stench of sewage wafts in through the only window of Aziza Jawahar's crumbling house. Taking the cue that she is now long attuned to, she springs up from bed, dashes out to wake up her neighbours, Geetabai Sen, Hanifa Bi and Reshma, grabs a plastic hose and plops it into a 300-litre drum to fill water.

Every alternate day, women in most of the 2,486 houses in the Jeevan Jyoti Colony — a society built in the 1990s to socially rehabilitate the kin of the Bhopal gas tragedy victims — follow a similar routine with no decided hour or fixed duration, barely managing to stock drinking water supplied by the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC).

But now, an overlooked and unfinished sewage network has added to the prob-

blems in an area already beset by decrepit houses and bumpy roads. Broken pipes, choked sewage chambers and scum gurgling over dug-out drains form the network that runs alongside drinking water pipelines. With no alternative sources, residents are forced to drink toxic, contaminated water.

"For the first 20 minutes at least, we have to leave the tap open for all the yellowish, stinking water to drain," says Ms. Jawahar, who has been suffering from breathlessness and eye infection since December 2, 1984, the day the leaking gas from the Union Carbide factory killed her mother. "Then, in about another half an hour, we try to fill the five drums at my house," she adds. She lives with her five children and her husband in a one-room house located in a block of 16 quarters.

Wagging a conical sieve,



Water woes: Sewage spilling out of dug-out drains at the Jeevan Jyoti colony in Bhopal on Saturday. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

Ms. Bi says, "I bought this for ₹10. Every household uses one to filter water for drinking. If we store tap water in steel utensils, a yellowish coating develops in them the next morning. For bathing and washing, we pump tap water to overhead tanks." Skin diseases and stys, especially among toddlers, are now common in the colony, where water pipelines were

laid only in 2013. A cholera outbreak in 1998 killed eight residents.

In the summer, however, when the water supply gets patchy, residents rely on individually owned tubewells in adjoining private colonies for drinking water. "We get a 15-litre can for ₹2. We get some help and they get some money. It's a win-win situation," Ms. Reshma says.

In June 2010, a Central Group of Ministers, comprising Kamal Nath, the then Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, approved an action plan of ₹272.75 crore on a 75:25 basis for completing the remaining rehabilitation process.

Of the sanctioned amount, ₹85.2 crore was allocated for social rehabilitation under which sewage got ₹4.92 crore and ₹50 crore was set aside for providing safe drinking water.

Funds misappropriated "There has been misappropriation of funds in providing the basic amenities of sanitation and drinking water to the most vulnerable among the victims," says Rachna Dhingra, coordinator of the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal. "Sanitation has been an issue in the colony from day

one, as houses were built without a sewage system or drinking water pipelines. The State government has told the Centre that the work has been completed. But even today, sewage is spilling onto roads in the colony and residents are forced to drink contaminated water," she says.

Minutes of a review meeting with the Central Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in February 2017 reveal that the State had informed the Centre that the "upgradation of sewage system in existing gas victims' colony" had been completed at a cost of ₹4.92 crore. However, in a utilisation certificate, it said only ₹2.06 crore had been utilised and the remaining amount would be transferred to the BMC for the "execution of balance work".

The BMC later said it had

utilised the remaining amount to complete the work. However, the State Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department stated in December 2018 in its annual report that the work was under progress and had been handed over to the BMC for "technical reasons".

Though the State did not specify whether the work was completed using the Centre's share of funds or the State's, K.K. Dubey, Deputy Secretary in the department, says, "The State government had utilised the Centre's share of funds and informed it (the Centre) about it. There were no discrepancies in the report. As for the State's funds, they are still being utilised and work is under progress. We don't monitor work assigned to the BMC. We are only responsible for the allocation of funds. Yet, we've urged

them several times to complete it."

Residents' claims denied Denying the claims that polluted water was being supplied to the colony, A.R. Pawar, BMC's Chief Engineer for water supply says, "Narmada river's water, which doesn't need to be filtered, is being supplied to at least 90% of the houses in the colony. Yet, more work remains to be done."

Meanwhile, Neeraj Pandey, Executive Engineer at the Capital Project Administration, a planning and development body set up under the Housing & Environment Department, says that work on the sewage lines was left incomplete as residents started using the facilities even before the work was completed. The CPA managed infrastructure projects in the colony before the BMC took over.

IN BRIEF



Ban 'anti-national' Tik Tok: RSS affiliate

NEW DELHI Ashwani Mahajan, co-convenor of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh affiliate, has requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ban Tik Tok and Helo, alleging that the two Chinese social media applications are a hub of "anti-national" content. He also said Tik Tok was found using morphed pictures of senior politicians in ads. ■ PTI

'Victory Flame' ignited for 20th Kargil Diwas

NEW DELHI Marking the 20th anniversary of "Operation Vijay", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday ignited a 'victory flame' at the National War Memorial in New Delhi and passed it on to a team of motorcyclists, who will carry it over 11 towns and cities to merge with the eternal flame at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass, Jammu and Kashmir on July 26. It will be received by General Bipin Rawat, the Chief of the Army Staff. ■ PTI

12 youth booked for assaulting Imam

BAGHPAT The police have booked 12 youth for allegedly pulling the beard of a Muslim cleric and forcing him to chant "Jai Shri Ram", Superintendent of Police Shalish Kumar Pandey said on Sunday. "Prima facie, it seems to be a matter of physical assault. Even then, we have registered a case against 12 youngsters on the basis of the cleric's complaint. Action will be taken on the basis of probe," he said. The Imam said he was also forced to chant "Jai Shri Ram", the SP said. The cleric said he was rescued by two persons when he raised an alarm.

'India must push for Afghan polls'

Former Ambassador says it has an 'indifferent' attitude towards peace process

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India must continue to push for Afghanistan elections, said former Afghanistan Ambassador to India and presidential contender Shaida Abdali, cautioning against an "indifferent" attitude from New Delhi towards the progress being made in talks with the Taliban.

The comments came just as diplomats from the U.S., Russia China and Pakistan met in Beijing to discuss the peace process in Afghanistan.

Good neighbour

"It is necessary that a good neighbour like India remain engaged on major international and regional conferences that deal with Afghanistan and the peace process. India must remain an active participant so as to ensure that we don't reverse the gains of the last 18 years," Mr. Abdali told *The Hindu* during a visit here.

On July 10 and 11, the four-



It is necessary that a good neighbour like India remain engaged on major international and regional conferences that deal with Afghanistan and the peace process. India must remain an active participant so as to ensure that we don't reverse the gains of the last 18 years

SHAIDA ABDALI
former Afghanistan Ambassador to India

nation talks in Beijing agreed to step up efforts for an intra-Afghan dialogue between the Taliban and the Afghan government in the next few weeks. It is being seen as the next step in the reconciliation process.

The discussions were led by U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who has just completed the eighth round of talks with Taliban leaders in Doha, where he claimed "substantial progress" had been made on issues like the intra-Afghan dialogue, Taliban guarantees on terrorism, withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, and a possible ceasefire. Ho-

wever, there is still some uncertainty over whether Afghan presidential elections, scheduled at present for September 28, will go ahead as planned.

Nation's stand

India has publicly cautioned against postponing presidential polls, and has shown hesitation about joining talks with the Taliban, given the group's history as a terror group and its links with Pakistan. It is also not officially involved in any of the major regional multilateral conferences held for discussing Afghanistan's future.

The elections have already

been postponed twice this year, and many of the 18 candidates are worried that a further postponement till next year will jeopardise the entire process. Another issue is over the constitutional validity of President Ghani's government post-October, and the installation of an interim Afghan government in its place.

"One of the most critical gains post-2001 is our democratic process — which must not be affected without full international guarantees that Afghanistan will not reverse to pre-2001 dark era ... India should build on its democratic traditions to promote democratic process and elections in Afghanistan," Mr. Abdali said, stressing that India must exert its "special" role in the process.

Mr. Abdali also appealed to the government to maintain its interest in Iran's Chabahar port as an alternative route for India-Afghanistan trade, despite the U.S. sanctions.

PMS' museum gets ready at Teen Murti

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has set a March 2020 deadline for completing the "Museum on Prime Ministers of India" in the Teen Murti Bhavan complex, which houses the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), officials said.

According to a senior official, the CPWD has chosen an agency for the facade works of the museum and its finishing, installation of lifts, escalators, CCTVs and sewage treatment plants.

The iconic Teen Murti Bhavan was the official residence of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister, and the NMML was set up in his memory on its premises as an autonomous institution under the Union Culture Ministry.

"The construction work of the museum building is under way," the official said.

He added that these works would be carried out at a cost of ₹66 crore.

"We have set the target of March 2020 to construct the museum on the Prime Ministers of India. Once it is completed, the building will be handed over to the Union Culture Ministry to shape other works required for museum," he said.

Some Congress leaders had opposed the government's announcement for the museum in 2018, accusing it to be an attempt to dilute the legacy of Nehru.

But Rajnath Singh, the then Union Home Minister had said that the move was not an attempt to dilute Nehru's legacy.

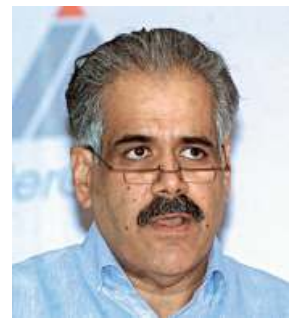
IndiGo co-founders continue spat

Took huge financial risks, says Bhatia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In the latest turn in the spat between the two IndiGo co-founders, Rahul Bhatia has said he had played a more significant role, running huge financial risks and nurturing the airline in its initial years with the presence of his company InterGlobe Enterprises (IGE).

Until IndiGo had a strong balance sheet, it was left to Mr. Bhatia's IGE Group "to fend for IndiGo", the group said in a statement on Sunday. At the peak of the turbulence phase, Mr. Bhatia and his father, Kapil Bhatia, "extended personal loans to IndiGo and personal guarantees to banks for diverse



Rahul Bhatia

financing needs of IndiGo such as pre-delivery payments, payments for aircraft acquisition, and working capital requirements", totalling ₹1,100 crore, which was 80 times the ₹15-crore equity invested by Rakesh Gangwal, it said.

Health Ministry Bill proposes to axe NEET-PG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

In a relief to medical students aspiring to pursue postgraduate courses, the Union Health Ministry has proposed to do away with NEET-PG and use the final MBBS examination for admission to MD and MS programmes.

The amendment has been incorporated in the revised draft National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill, which will be sent to the Cabinet soon, official sources said.

They said the changes had been incorporated in

the Bill on the directions of the Prime Minister's Office.

"According to the amendments in the fresh NMC Bill, entry into the PG programmes will be on the basis of the results of the National Exit Test, which would be held as a common exam across the country. So the candidates would not have to appear in a separate exam after clearing the MBBS final exam for admission to PG courses," the sources explained.

The students would not be required to appear in a separate exam after MBBS to get a licence to practice.

Law Commission to be formed soon

Proposal to be placed before the Union Cabinet in the next few days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

With the country left without a Law Commission since September 2018, the Law Ministry has initiated the process of setting up the body which gives advice to the government on complex legal issues.

The three-year term of the 21st Law Commission ended on August 31 last year. On at least one occasion, the Ministry had moved the proposal to reconstitute the panel.

But the proposal could not move further, and the government later went into election mode. Sources said that the proposal to reconstitute the panel would be before the Union Cabinet in the next few days.

The 21st commission, under Justice B.S. Chauhan (retd), had submitted reports and working papers on key issues such as simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies and a uniform civil code.

While the Law Commission had supported simultaneous polls, it had said that the time was not ripe for a common code.

The Cabinet approves reconstitution of the law panel for a period of three years. It is usually headed by a former Supreme Court judge or a former Chief Justice of a High Court.

In 2015, a proposal was mooted to make the law panel into a permanent body either through an Act of Par-

liament or an executive order (resolution of the Union Cabinet). The move was shelved after the Prime Minister's Office felt that the present system should continue.

In 2010 also, the then UPA government had prepared a draft Cabinet note to give statutory status to the Law Commission, and the Law Ministry had mooted to bring the Law Commission of India Bill, 2010. But the idea was shelved.

Midday meals left 900 children ill

The HRD Ministry has received 35 complaints for substandard food since 2016

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

More than 900 children were reported ill across the country with zero fatalities due to the consumption of mid-day meals in the past three years, according to officials of the Human Resource Development Ministry.

The Ministry had received 35 complaints from 15 States and Union Territories (UTs) regarding substandard food quality in the same period.

"A total number of 930 children were reported ill and none of them died after eating such food in the country in the last three years and current year. The overall responsibility for providing cooked and nutritious mid-day meals to eligible children lies with State govern-



Food for thought: The HRD Ministry has issued guidelines to all States and UT's for hygiene in school kitchens. ■ M.A. SRIRAM

ments," a senior HRD ministry official said.

The Midday Meal Scheme comes under the HRD Ministry's Department of School

Education and Literacy.

Respective State governments were requested to furnish action-taken reports (ATRs) in the matter, he said.

"As per the reports received, actions such as issuing warning against the official responsible, terminating the contract of NGOs concerned and organisations, initiating criminal proceedings and imposing penalties against the defaulting persons (were taken)," the official said.

The HRD Ministry has also issued guidelines on quality, safety and hygiene in school-level kitchens.

"The guidelines provide instructions on procuring AGMARK quality items for preparation of midday meals, tasting of meals by two or three adult members of the school management committee, including at least one teacher, before serving to children," the official said.

IN BRIEF

**Trump can waive sanctions: Erdogan**

ISTANBUL
U.S. President Donald Trump has the authority to waive sanctions on Turkey for its purchase of the Russian S-400 air defence systems and should find a "middle ground" in the dispute, President Tayyip Erdogan was quoted as saying on Sunday. REUTERS

U.S. grants visa to Iran's Zarif for UN meeting

WASHINGTON
The U.S. has granted a visa to Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to attend a UN meeting in New York this week, two sources familiar with the matter said on Sunday, saying Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had approved the decision. REUTERS

Small-aircraft crash kills nine in Sweden

STOCKHOLM
Nine people died on Sunday when a small aircraft being used for tourism crashed in northwest Sweden, the regional authority said. According to Swedish media reports, the plane was carrying people for a parachute jump. AFP

British leaks say Trump ditched Iran nuclear deal to spite Obama

He was 'set upon an act of diplomatic vandalism', says memo from former U.K. envoy

BENJAMIN MUELLER
LONDON

It was just hours after Boris Johnson, then Britain's Foreign Secretary, returned to London from a whirlwind trip last year to try to persuade the White House to abide by the Iran nuclear accord.

Kim Darroch, then the British Ambassador to the United States, fired off a withering assessment of President Donald Trump's wish to quit the deal. Mr. Trump, he wrote in leaked diplomatic cables that were published on Saturday, was "set upon an act of diplomatic vandalism, seemingly for ideological and personality reasons — it was Obama's deal."

The Vice-President, the National Security Adviser and the Secretary of State had all failed to "articulate why the President was determined to withdraw, beyond his campaign promises," Sir Kim wrote. And the U.S. government had no plan for what would follow.

"Even when you pressed," Sir Kim wrote to Mr. Johnson, "none had anything



Signs of discord: The cables offered a window into Britain's frantic effort to save the Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 — and the Trump administration's indifference to its entreaties.

much to say about the day after, or a Plan B, beyond reimposition of U.S. sanctions."

With Iran and the U.S. locked in an escalating standoff, the leaked cables offered a window into Britain's frantic effort to save the Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 — and the Trump administration's indifference to its entreaties. Published by a British tabloid, *The Mail on Sunday*, the cables are the second batch of leaked documents that led to Sir Kim's resignation last week.

Sir Kim resigned after Mr. Trump vowed to stop dealing with the Ambassador, and after Mr. Johnson, now

the front-runner to succeed Prime Minister Theresa May, refused to say he would keep Sir Kim in his post. Mr. Johnson's position drew fierce criticism from his opponent in the Prime Minister race, Jeremy Hunt, the current Foreign Secretary, as well as from some of the Conservative Party members.

Johnson's support

On Friday night, Mr. Johnson acknowledged in a BBC interview that his failure to stand behind Sir Kim had been part of the reason the Ambassador decided to resign. Heckled that same night at a campaign event,

Mr. Johnson said for the first time that he wished he had publicly supported Sir Kim.

"I probably should have been more emphatic that [Sir] Kim personally had my full support," he said.

The leak has prompted an investigation by a counterterrorism unit of the Metropolitan Police, as well as a bitter dispute over the right of *The Mail on Sunday* to publish the files. Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, the leader of the counterterrorism unit, warned before the latest release that publishing any further documents "may also be a criminal matter." He asked newspapers to turn over any leaked documents to the police.

Journalists, lawmakers and both candidates for PM leapt to the defence of *The Mail on Sunday*, saying the warning from the police jeopardised the workings of a free press. "I defend to the hilt the right of the press to publish those leaks if they receive them & judge them to be in the public interest: that is their job," Mr. Hunt said on Twitter. NY TIMES

Former Bangladesh military dictator Ershad passes away

He ran the country for nearly a decade before being ousted in 1990



Hussain Muhammad Ershad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Former military ruler and President of Bangladesh Hussain Muhammad Ershad passed away on Sunday. He was 89.

From an officer of the Pakistan Army to a military dictator who was later deposed in Bangladesh, the nattily dressed General Ershad was a major witness to South Asia's politics for seven decades.

Born in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district (then Rangpur of undivided India) in 1930, Ershad was commissioned into the Pakistan Army, when Bangladesh was part of Pakistan, as a Sector Commander. Following his return to Bangladesh after the country's independence, Ershad quickly rose through the ranks in the Bangladesh Army.

He spent his formative years as an Army personnel in India — around the time Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in 1975 — in the

country's Defence College and developed deep links with India's ruling elite. He was particularly close to members of the deep state in many countries in South Asia, including India.

Complex relationship

He shared a complex professional relationship with General Ziaur Rahman, the late President of Bangladesh. Rahman brought Ershad back from India and promoted him in the Army. But Ershad later turned against Rahman.

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister and wife of Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda Zia, had alleged that Ershad played a role in her husband's assassination. Ershad was also accused of killing an Army officer. The case is yet to be reopened by the current Awami League government,

which was in a coalition with Ershad's Jatiya Party.

After Rahman's death, Ershad usurped power in a military coup, replacing the elected government. He ruled the country first as a military dictator, staying behind the scene, and then took over the presidency in 1983. Ershad continued to rule the country till 1990, when he was forced to quit in a pro-democracy mass upsurge.

Despite being imprisoned subsequently on several charges, Ershad emerged as one of the most powerful political leaders. He was elected to Parliament several times as his constituency in north Bangladesh remained loyal to him.

Following the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's decision to boycott poll in 2014, Ershad's Jatiya Party got the status of the Opposition party in Parliament, which it retained after the 2018 election.

Ershad is often credited for the division of Bangladesh's large districts, creating *upazilas* [subdistricts]. He will also be remembered for introducing Islam as the State religion in a country with strong secular fabric.

'Next Dalai Lama must be chosen within China'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LHASA/ BEIJING

The successor of the Dalai Lama has to be decided within China and any interference by India will impact bilateral ties, Chinese authorities have said.

In first clear assertion on the sensitive issue, Chinese officials and experts said the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama must be approved by the Chinese government and the

selection should take place within the country based on a more than 200 year-old historical process.

"The reincarnation of Dalai Lama is a historical, religious and political issue. There are established historical institutions and formalities for the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama," Wang Neng Sheng, an official in the rank of Vice-Minister in Tibet, told a group of Indian journalists



Dalai Lama

in Lhasa. The Dalai Lama is 84 years old now and the issue of his successor has gained prominence in the

last couple of years in the wake of his health issues.

"The Dalai Lama's reincarnation is not decided by his personal wish or by some group of people living in other countries," he added.

'Draw of lots'

Mr. Wang, the Director General at the government of Tibet Autonomous Region, said the current Dalai Lama was recognised by Beijing

and his successor must be found through the "draw of lots in golden urn process" within China.

Echoing Mr. Wang's views, Zha Luo, director at Beijing-based China Tibetology Research Centre, a government-run influential think tank, said any refusal by India to recognise the next Dalai Lama to be chosen within China will impact bilateral ties.

'Pak. should pay foreign firm \$6bn'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan will have to pay almost \$6 billion in damages to a foreign gold mining firm whose dig was shut down by the government in 2011, the World Bank said on Sunday.

The consortium Tethyan Copper company is the largest Foreign Direct Investment mining project in the country.

More than a decade ago the group found vast gold

and copper deposits at Reko Diq, in the turbulent southwestern Baluchistan province, and had planned a hugely lucrative open-pit mine. But the project came to a standstill in 2011 after the local government refused to renew the consortium's lease, and in 2013 Pakistan's top court declared it invalid.

On Friday, the World Bank's international arbitration tribunal committee

awarded \$5.84 billion in damages to Tethyan, according to a statement from the company, because of the government's decision to shut down the mine.

Pakistan Attorney General Anwar Mansoor Khan said in a statement they had noted the decision "with disappointment". Legal experts were "studying the award and reflecting upon its financial and legal implications," the statement continued.

+ 60 dead in Nepal floods

Heavy rainfall affects central and eastern parts of the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU

Floods and landslips caused by incessant rains in Nepal have till now claimed 60 lives and left 38 others injured, the police said on Sunday.

Thirty five people are reported missing in rain-related incidents that have thrown normal life out of gear in the central and eastern parts of the country.

Heavy rainfall since Thursday has hit more than 25 districts, affecting 10,385 households.

The Nepal Army and police personnel have so far rescued 1,104 people from several places across the country with 185 alone from Kathmandu. According to the Nepal Police, a total of 27,380 police personnel have been deployed across the country for search and



Moving to safety: A man carrying a child on his back wades a flooded street in Kathmandu on Saturday. •PTI

rescue operations.

The Flood Forecasting Section (FFS) said the rainfall would continue for two to three days in most places across the country, *The Himalayan Times* reported.

The Meteorological Forecasting Division (MFD) warned the public to remain

on high alert and said that air and road traffic could be affected due to low visibility.

Heavy rainfall has led the water level in the rivers to rise. FFS said that water level in Bagmati, Kamala, Saptakoshi and its tributary, the Sunkoshi, has crossed the danger mark.

Clashes break out after rally in Hong Kong

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Riot police and protesters fought running battles in a Hong Kong shopping mall on Sunday night as unrest caused by a widely loathed plan to allow extraditions to mainland China showed no sign of abating.

The police used pepper spray and batons against small groups of protesters, who responded by hurling bottles and other projectiles, in a night of fresh violence in the international hub.

Sunday's clashes took place at the end of another huge rally — this time in Sha Tin a district that lies between the main urban sprawl around the harbour and the Chinese border. Violence broke out briefly in the afternoon after the rally as protesters seized a junction and built barricades, causing an hours-long stand-off with the riot police. But the worst clashes happened late evening inside a shopping mall where hundreds of protesters fled after the police moved on the barricades and then charged into the shopping complex. Once inside, chaos erupted as protesters launched a barrage of projectiles at the police from above.

At least one officer was seen knocked unconscious. The police with shields and batons charged up to higher floors and made multiple arrests.

Hong Kong has been rocked by more than a month of huge, largely peaceful protests — as well as a series of separate violent confrontations with police — sparked by a law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China. The bill has since been suspended, but that has done little to quell public anger which has evolved into a wider movement calling for democratic reforms.

Leave the U.S., Trump tells Democratic Congresswomen

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday told unnamed Democratic Congresswomen to "go back" where they came from, prompting senior members of the party to brand him a "racist" and a xenophobe.

In a tweet, Mr. Trump referred to "Progressive Democrat Congresswomen," which appeared to be a reference to a group of outspoken relatively young, liberal women, all first-time members of the House of Representatives. These include Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan.

Mr. Trump did not say whom he was referring to but said they "originally came from countries whose



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

governments are a complete and total catastrophe, the worst, most corrupt and inept anywhere in the world."

He accused the women of "viciously telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run.

"Why don't they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came?"

Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, who was born in New York, has ancestry from Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. Ms. Tlaib, who

was born in Detroit, is the first American of Palestinian descent elected to Congress. Ms. Omar, who as a child came to the U.S. from Somalia, is the first black Muslim woman in Congress.

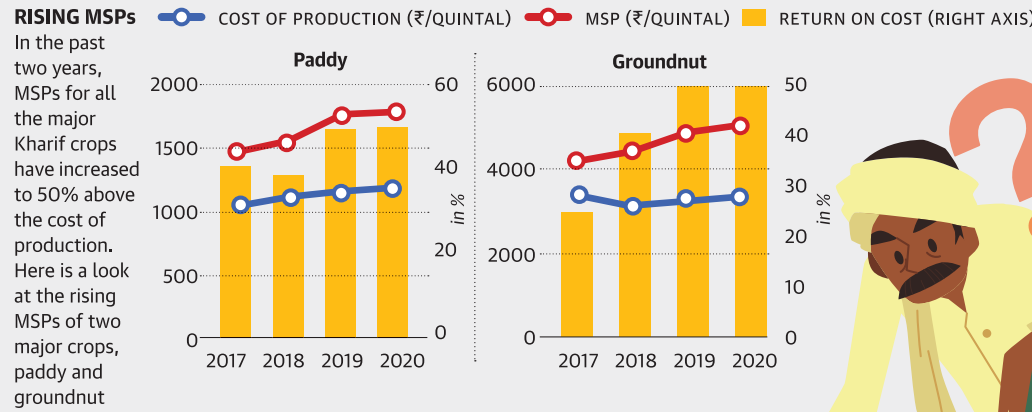
"That's a racist tweet," Assistant House Speaker Ben Ray Lujan, the highest-ranking Latino member of Congress, said on Fox News Sunday. "These are American citizens elected by voters."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has warned her party to avoid the "menace" of liberal policies pushed by Ms. Ocasio-Cortez and the other progressives, if the Democrats hope to beat Mr. Trump in the 2020 election.

But on Twitter on Sunday she criticised Mr. Trump's "attack" "I reject @realDonaldTrump's xenophobic comments meant to divide our nation," she said.

Who pays the price?

The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of all major crops for the Kharif season FY2020 have been set at 50% above the cost of production, according to an answer given in Parliament by the Agriculture Ministry. MSPs have been steadily rising, but there seems to be a variation in what is considered production cost. Varun B. Krishnan explores the data

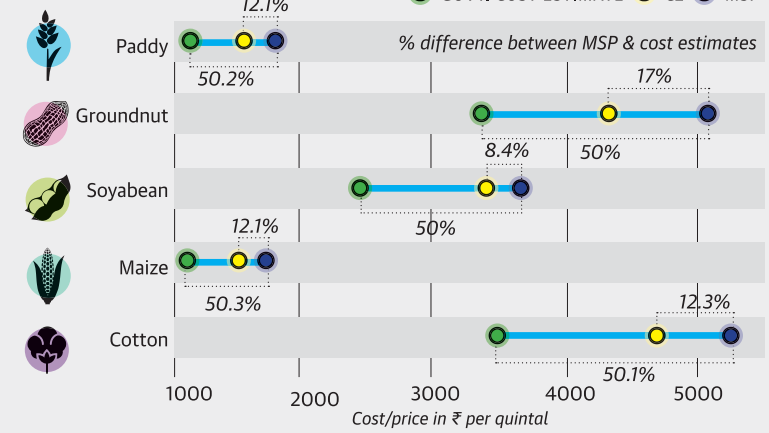


WHAT THE TERMS MEAN
A2 = actual expenses on seeds, fertilisers, irrigation
FL = Unpaid Family Labour
C2 = A2 + FL + rentals or interest foregone on owned land and fixed capital assets

The Centre has considered MSP to be (A2+FL)+50%. When the more comprehensive cost 'C2' is considered, the difference between MSP and cost of production drops by a large margin and in the case of soyabean, the difference is a mere 8.4%

COST VARIANCE

The cost of production depends on the calculation method used. The Centre's own Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices gives two variants. If the more comprehensive cost 'C2' is considered, then MSPs are not 50% above the production cost



INTERVIEW | KESHAV MURUGESH

'In era of disruption, tech industry beat its employment target'

Clients are eyeing next level of impact from new tech: Nasscom chairman

K. BHARAT KUMAR

As a turnaround specialist, Keshav Murugesh has helped raise fortunes at both Syntel and now WNS. In the 9 years he has served as CEO of WNS, its shares have risen 4-fold to \$60. In an interview, Mr. Murugesh, who is also the chairman of industry body Nasscom, spoke on changing pricing models, need for new skills, and how spurring exports can help increase employment in India.

With growth having slowed these past few years, is there anything significant coming up for the IT-ITES industry?

Technology has become a core part of every business. It is impossible to separate technology from that core. Then there are firms looking at the next level of impact coming from analytics, robotics, all of these other things. As a result, I think that demand trends for the foreseeable future look very positive for the industry.

Anyone now looking to integrate technology will ensure they are able to capture the market leveraging technology-based solutions, or gain deeper appreciation of customer-spending habits or behavioural habits; they're integrating a lot of analytics into it.

Along with that, they have the opportunity to integrate much more advanced technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotic processes and the like. That augurs well, whether it is for IT services players or for business process players.

Boutique players in the West and insourcing trends were tough to compete with, a few years ago. How has that played out?

Customers have become clear about what their core competency is. They are realising they have to focus on what's best for them and not really try to do everything at the back-end when there are others much better at doing it. What you saw, maybe 2-3 years ago, has changed.

Talent shortage continues to plague the system.

Even in the U.S., there is a shortfall of 6 million people annually and 37% of those are needed with technical skills, as per the U.S. Department of Labor. Place that in context with the noise around the H-1B visas, which comes to only 85,000 people for a whole year.

We need to have the right skills, the people who are proficient in these new technology areas, in soft skills and who can make a presentation, make upgrades...

So, all companies have integrated very strong internal skilling and training programmes that go beyond the traditional

domain-based skilling. The WNS Education platform offers our over 40,000 people access to training in new generation digital skills, machine learning and the like, all right at your desk.

Nasscom's target for last year was 110,000 jobs, but we actually created 170,000 in the country. In an era of disruption, we actually beat a target.

Isn't the IT industry still absorbing fresh graduates slower than earlier?

First and foremost, growth will continue to be strong. The days of 30-40% growth rates... that's over because the base was small.

At the same time, I think the future is going to be about the right skills. If somebody comes out of some engineering college and expects a job automatically, that's not going to happen.

The focus now is on curriculum, and of course development case studies, giving the people the opportunity through internships.

The Government of India has introduced very good schemes that allow people to start experiencing jobs in these companies before they're actually absorbed.

The government's mission of a \$5 trillion economy means exports have to continue to grow, and IT has always done well for Indian exports.

The government has been very supportive; understanding the opportunities, appreciating the challenges the industry faces, taking inputs from Nasscom and individual companies in terms of all the new generation changes in law that they're looking at, such as data protection and data localisation.

Aren't industry profits growing faster than revenues, indicating cost control rather than new business?

There are two reasons to this: one is that we are leveraging technology and changing the way we deliver processes. The second is that in some of the older processes, we change the model with the customers.

You make it much more of a variable costing model with the client. So the cost declines.

Making a killing from skilling raw grads

Post-campus training is catching up as 90% of jobs in India are skill-based, while only 6% of the workforce is skill-trained

MINI TEJASWI

Of the estimated one-and-a-half million graduates who pass out of India's engineering schools every year, less than 1% land jobs in its top 100 companies. That's because, a vast majority of them are unemployable and lacking in skills such as creative thinking, problem solving, learnability, human-centred design, collaboration and customer-centricity... all critical to new generation jobs.

Vikas Gupta, CMD of Wiley India, owned by the \$2 billion Jones Wiley & Sons in the U.S., says: "What students acquire mostly is textual education, which has little relevance to jobs in the new economy that requires contextual skills."

As per the HRD Ministry, India has 6,214 engineering and technology institutions which admit 2.9 million students. Every year, 1.5 million fresh engineers are released into the job market.

But sadly, only graduates who pass out of some 200 top colleges in the country come with some level of job-ready skills. Adds Neeti Sharma, senior vice-president TeamLease Services: "A majority of jobseekers don't get jobs in line with their education or wage expectation, because of a yawning academia-industry gap. Industry seeks people with 90% skill, but 90% of academic activities are still based on theoretical learning."

However, for years, IT service companies in India have had no option but to onboard masses of raw graduates and train them on their payrolls for many 'unbillable' months before being deployed, says Sridhar Raman,

director at Outsourced CMO, a Bengaluru-based consulting firm. "But this model has become increasingly unsustainable given the growing pressure on bottomlines and the life or death need to cut costs. The urgency in reskilling and upskilling engineering graduates is not merely a balance-sheet imperative, it's a matter of survival," adds Mr. Raman.

The problem-solving approach is changing from addressing a huge problem head on, to breaking it down into various problems and solving them from multiple angles.

Most business problems are open-ended and each would have five or up to a dozen answers, adds Mr. Gupta. Today's businesses need finance professionals, people managers and intelligent problem solvers, not accountants, payroll assistants and coders, say experts in the training, skilling and reskilling industry.

Enterprises are scouting for plug-and-play professionals, billable from the start and ready to respond effectively to fast-changing, real-world business challenges. Jayant Krishna, former CEO, National Skill India Mission, says if India has to reap rich demographic dividends, skill development needs to be taken up far more seriously.

"Our skill initiatives must focus on apprenticeships, full operationalisation of the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF), mainstreaming of employability skills and greater industry participation." Says Ms. Sharma of TeamLease Services:



"Many jobs that exist today won't even be around 10 years from now. Skill-sets are already getting broad-based, with few takers for people with individual skills."

Mushrooming schools

The good news for the industry, particularly for tech firms, is the emergence of players like Wiley, Upgrad, ABC and IIHT in the 'education + employment' (education + employment) space, with job readiness programmes designed to upskill engineering graduates with job-ready and future-ready expertise.

For example, Wiley India has unveiled a 3-month job-readiness programme in India called WileyNXT, in consultation with CXOs of 35 global IT firms and six top universities. According to

Mr. Gupta, the programme is co-created with CXOs and academic leaders with the intent of upskilling engineering graduates and setting up a supply line of future ready professionals for industry. Manjunath Aradhya, founder and CEO of ABC, an edu-tech company focussed on skilling, training and upskilling, says: "Industry expectations from freshers has drastically changed. For example, mere framework awareness is no longer enough. IT companies now want to hire people who are well-versed with full stack of Java and data-science."

"The market has plenty of jobs for candidates with problem-solving abilities, right attitude and entrepreneurial mindset," adds Mr. Aradhya of ABC that trained over

30,000 fresh graduates in 2018.

Training youth to break down problems and solving them from different angles is both challenging and critical — one, because the industry needs it and two, because prospective employees don't come ready-made with these skills.

"Though we normally associate youth with exuberance, inventive ability and positive energy, the application of knowledge to work, life skills, and the hunger to learn and innovate, remain crucial challenging areas for us to tackle," says Yeshasvini Ramaswamy, MD, e2e People Practices, a people development firm.

Training and development is a \$100 billion market in the U.S., of which corporate training alone accounts for \$70 billion. In India, it is already close to a \$5 billion business. Going ahead, the opportunity is huge as 90% of the jobs in the country currently are skill-based, whereas only 6% of its workforce is skill-trained.

The market already has dozens of players, ranging from the traditional NIIT and Apteck to Simplilearn and Upgrad, offering offline and online job-ready programmes. Upgrad, in partnership with University of Cambridge and BITS Pilani, promises to give careers a lift with a range of immersive, industry-curated, online programmes in areas of data science and machine learning and digital marketing.

Debjani Ghosh, president, Nasscom, said "Nasscom has

pioneered the FutureSkills initiative for India's IT-ITES industries. Our goal is to get India accelerated on the path to become the global hub for talent development in emerging technologies such as AI, ML, IoT, Cloud Computing, Blockchain, Big Data and others.

"Through various partnerships and skilling programs, we aim to build a future-ready workforce in IT and contribute meaningfully to the tech sector of the country."

The apex body predicted that going forward, the industry will face a shortage of 2.3 lakh skilled techies as jobs in AI and Big Data are estimated to reach 7.8 lakh by 2021. Wiley India has set up a think-tank called Wiley Innovation Advisory Council with global industry leaders to co-create curricula and teaching methodologies.

TeamLease Skill University has trained over 2.5 lakh fresh graduates in the last five years. The latest entrant into this space is Manipal Group, through its strategic investment (close to ₹20 crore) in Jigsaw Academy. The company will offer training in data science, digital marketing, cloud computing and cybersecurity.

Academia should act

In the face of such tectonic changes, academia faces the real risk of being driven to irrelevance unless it marries curricula and teaching methodologies that are designed around current industry needs, and are flexible enough to respond to future challenges.

For industry, the drying up of future ready professionals is an existential threat, experts caution.

Centre's push for EVs may make internal combustion engines stutter

Policy must evolve over years and not change things overnight, say analysts

LALATENDU MISHRA

The Union government's push for electric vehicles (EV) in the Budget and the Economic Survey may adversely impact the Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) auto industry, which is already under stress, in the medium to long term. The two-wheeler segment could be affected in the immediate future.

The tax benefits, GST rate reduction and the mammoth plan to make India the hub of EV manufacturing as well as elaborate measures for charging infrastructure through tax sops makes a strong case for EVs, but unless credible players come out with viable products, the EVs will remain a distant dream.

"The government has provided benefits to the EV industry both directly and indirectly. There is no import duty on components and batteries. We all have to see how it pans out," said Jinesh Gandhi, Auto Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. None of the Indian OEMs [except Hyundai India] has developed any reliable solution. Currently, the cost difference between an ICE vehicle and an EV is very



Wake-up call: Adapting to EVs is a huge technology shift and many component industries will be impacted. •MONICA TIWARI

high. The budgetary sops will make it cheaper by ₹50,000, but that is not convincing enough for someone to buy an EV at a time when there is no clarity on the charging infrastructure, Mr. Gandhi added.

'BS-VI will cut emissions' Besides, one needs to consider the impact the traditional industry will have to take. "The whole ecosystem has to be reviewed. The auto industry is a large employer and job creator in India. Besides, emissions will reduce much after BS-VI is rolled out," he added.

According to analysts, EV is a step in the right direction but a policy should evolve over a period of years rather

than everything changing overnight. To promote fleet services, the government provides subsidy under FAME, but at the same time it is now promoting personal transport through tax benefits for purchase of personal EVs. "There is a conflict here. So there is ambiguity in terms of policy," an analyst said.

The automotive industry must restructure its business and seriously rework its strategy right from the product plan to how supply chains must develop in order to cater to the government's clear direction on increasing EV penetration, said Vinodkumar Ramachandran, partner and head, automotive and industrial manufacturing,

KPMG in India. "This is a huge shift in technology and several component industries will be impacted. There will also be a fundamental rethinking on the retail model since EVs are not maintenance intensive. The implications will be played out in the next five years and winners will be ones who are able to adapt to this shift in technology," he said.

According to Mudasar Mohamed, COO, Ezyhaul which provides logistics solutions to large companies, EVs will play a big part in the future. "The traditional auto sector will need to develop clear strategies on how it wants to partake in this impending revolution - auto manufacturers will need to either adapt or fall behind."

The EV may be the future, but the automotive sector is currently undergoing one of its worst phases. Sales are dropping for the last six to nine months. As per June 2019 sales data by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), auto companies sold 16.28% less passenger vehicles as compared to June 2018. There has been a 23.39% drop in the same of commercial vehicles.

Tribal SHG women create an organic agro revolution

Reap rich dividends via bio agents

E.M. MANOJ

Even as organic agriculture is gaining momentum in the country, a self-help group of tribal women in Wayanad district of Kerala is scripting a success story in production of 13 different varieties of bio agents to support organic farming.

Eight members of the Sabari Swaraya Sangham of Nellarachal tribal hamlet were guided to biotechnology by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) under the Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) at Ambalavayal, a decade ago. They began their venture with production of trichoderma and pseudomonas, biocontrol agents to fight quick wilt disease in various crops, and are producing 13 varieties of bio agents now. "When the Kendra met them on a field visit, they were facing a hard time since their paddy fields had been submerged [in water] from the Karapuzha irrigation project," said N.E. Safia, head of the KVK.

The Kendra gave them training for six months in fungal and bacterial culture and packing, she added.

Last year alone, the members produced nearly 183 tonnes of bio agents, including 16 tonnes of bio fertilizers such as azospirillum,

azotobacter, rhizobium, bio potash and vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhiza; 80 tonnes of biocontrol agents like pseudomonas and trichoderma as well as 20 tonnes of bio pesticides, including beauveria, verticillium, pochonia, paecilomyces and metarhizium, said Sruthi Krishnan, research assistant, microbiology, KVK.

GREEN SHOOTS

The KVK's income was in excess of ₹1.67 crore from the sale of the products last year. Under an MoU with Kerala Agricultural University, group members will get 35% of the income, Ms. Sruthi said. Now, the unit is gearing up to produce pseudomonas and trichoderma.

"When we started off, the various scientific processes in the lab posed a challenge, but now we are acquainted with them," K. Sharmila, president of the SHG, said.

Now, each group member gets an average monthly income of ₹8,500. A major share of the produce was procured by the Agriculture Department and the Spices Board for supply to farmers. "Our products have good demand in the market. Many times, we unable to meet the demand," she added.



ASK US



AARATI KRISHNAN

Q. I am looking to invest about ₹1.25 crore received from selling ancestral property. I live in Delhi in a rented apartment which costs me ₹16,000 per month. I work with the Ministry of Commerce and my current CTC is around ₹10 lakh per annum. Where and how should I invest this money for maximum returns on my investment?

HARSH PRATHAP SINGH

A. You haven't clarified if the ₹1.25 crore is the gain you will be left with after paying capital gains tax or investing in property or special capital gains bonds. If not, you will need to consult a tax adviser before you arrive at your investible surplus.

But whatever the size of the lump sum, it is important that you prioritise protecting this capital over maximising returns. High returns cannot be made without risking your capital whether in the debt or equity markets. You need to follow three tenets while investing this amount.

One, start with an asset allocation plan – that is, how much of this money you must park in debt, equity and gold. The asset allocation depends on your risk appetite and when you need this money.

Two, diversify within each asset class to ensure that you don't put all your eggs in one basket. Divide your debt allocation equally between fixed deposits in banks, small finance banks and 2-3 debt mutual funds. Corporate bond funds and PSU and banking funds, both of which invest in high quality debt, may be suitable fund options. Don't choose the top performing debt funds over short periods but look for the ones with a consistent record (with limited loss-making months) over six-seven years.

Three, do not invest all your equity money at one go, as stock markets are presently at an expensive valuation. Park the money in liquid funds and invest through a systematic transfer plan. To create wealth, invest in the cumulative options of bank deposits and the growth plans of mutual funds. This helps you benefit from the power of compounding without frittering away your interest and dividend receipts.

However, protecting and growing such a large sum of money is not a one-off exercise. Your portfolio will require periodic review and both your asset allocation and investment choices may need to change with time. If you cannot devote time to this, hire a good SEBI-registered financial adviser who can monitor your portfolio for a fee.

Q. I am a student preparing for competitive exams; I also undertake tuition classes. I save ₹5,000 a month. Where and how should I invest my savings to get maximum returns?

GULSHAN KUMAR

A. Equity mutual funds are a good option if you are looking to earn high returns, but for equity investing to pay off, you need to be willing to stay invested for a minimum of 5-7 years. This is especially true in today's markets, where the indices are at lifetime highs. Assuming you won't need the money within the next 5 years, you can start an SIP in either a multi-cap equity fund or an aggressive hybrid fund. The latter is slightly less risky because it has a 30-35% debt exposure. Choose funds that demonstrate a consistent 10-year record of beating their benchmarks, and do not go for top performers over the last 1 or 3 years.

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

CAUTION

Many advisers ahead!

Having too many advisers to help you select the right investment channel need not necessarily be a good idea

VIDYA BALA

How many advisers do you have? If you think it's one or maybe none, think again. Here's a list: Your Facebook self-help group advisers, your half a dozen investment-tip advisers on Twitter, the online discussion groups that host topics from "How do I get rid of bed bugs" to "my stock is falling, should I sell or invest more"; your favourite print and TV writer/anchor advisers, your insurance agent-turned-adviser, your friendly bank relationship manager, the neighbour-adviser, our time-tested parent-adviser and needless to say, the grandfather adviser Google!

Well, that's a lot of advice and seemingly free! But can you imagine how your portfolio would look if you acted upon such assorted wisdom? All I can tell you is that it certainly won't be as enticing as an assorted sweet box!

Let's look at some of

Underscore this

- Piecemeal advice never works
- What is needed is an expert who can guide you during your financial journey
- Search engines cannot do research

these common forms of advice that we consume and why they can be more harmful than useful.

Social media

The Facebook investment groups or the online forums for discussions are essentially meant to be discussion forums, not recommendation forums.

However, 'stock tips', 'tax-saving advice', 'which insurance policy is suitable' are the most discussed topics in these forums. Financial advice needs to stem from one's financial situation, aspiration and time frame. This is not possible for two reasons in

a group: one, you will not want to reveal all sensitive confidential information about your financial situation publicly. Two, most people think what works for them works for others.

It is like somebody asking you to take paracetamol as it works best while another says aspirin is better. It is the doctor who will know what suits your constitution. The same applies to financial advice.

Advice coming from other media, especially television, can be a different devil. Such advice, if agenda-driven, can be harmful as it essentially tries to hook you into an investment product to artificially hike its value. How is it possible to have '5 stocks to invest in the market fall' or '5 stocks to invest in a rallying market,' every single week? It will probably cover half the universe of listed stocks. Whether it is 'God' speaking or 'Guru' speaking, please question yourself whether vested

interests speak.

When your insurance agent becomes your property planner or your banker becomes your portfolio expert, they are trying to extend their area of specialisation.

A relative of mine checked with me about the performance of her mutual fund. I told her to stop SIPs and move to a better fund. She asked her relationship manager (who sold this to her) whether she can stop SIP but start in another fund. The RM agreed the performance has slipped and she should stop it, redeem it and start with a good performing

ULIP plan. Now, first, this investor was not investing to save taxes. She didn't need a lock-in product. Second, it is puzzling to think that the RM could not provide any alternative within the fund universe. Why? Simple. His sales target for the month was ULIP. A few months later, it may be PMS! Can a doctor play the role of a lawyer? Why view that professionals are capable of handling everything for you? Of course, the friendly neighbourhood uncle and our dear

parents have the right to claim they have the solution for all evils. Except, you have the right to entirely ignore them on this count!

I respect do-it-yourself investors who 'research' not 'search.' And lest we forget, Google is a search engine. Research needs a lot more than searching. It needs

collation, turning information into knowledge and knowledge into wisdom. And Google does not know your personal financial requirements yet.

Of course, some of you may be wondering what is wrong with looking at websites, spending some time for analysing and then coming to your own conclusion. Nothing, except

that different research outfits offer different data and different opinions. How are you going to consume all those? Besides, what you need in the first place is financial advice, not investment advice. What do I mean by that? You need to know what you want; how much you want and when you want. You jump the gun most of the time to go to how you want. That is, to investing products. Should I invest in stocks or mutual funds or ULIPs or PMS, rather than first knowing what you seek to achieve and whether those products are suitable for you.

This is where your multi-channel advisory process often fails, leading you to finally, simply stacking up a lump sum in a property or land, not knowing again on whether it is the right investment or whether it goes well with the rest of what you have.

Your investment portfolio should be a wholesome entity. It will be poorly served by piecemeal advices from motley sources. What it really needs is an expert who can take a holistic view and guide you through the lifetime of your financial journey.

(The author is a financial analyst)

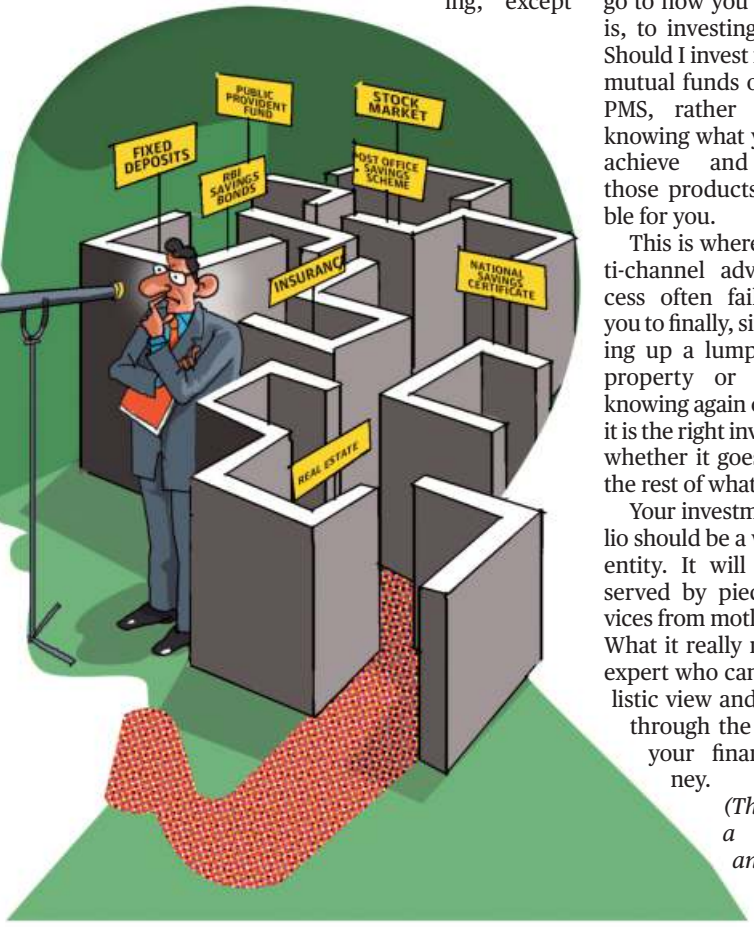


ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

COVER NOTE: NO SWEAT, TEARS

Taking cover is a breeze

Mass insurance policies can be taken online; the claims are settled via banks

K. NITYA KALYANI

Personal finance decisions are based on your knowledge of needs and the intricacies of available solutions.

This enables you to carry out personal social responsibilities as well. You should guide, and even convince, your household staff, support staff at office, or anyone at all who is economically fragile, to secure their family financially.

Mass insurance schemes present attractive advantages to such people. The coverage is very standardised, premiums low and joining, very easy. Your talking to them about it will help immensely since they trust you and look up to you.

Three such schemes administered through a simple savings bank account are: Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) which provides ₹2 lakh in life insurance cover, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) which provides a cover of up to ₹2 lakh in case of accidental death and disability and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) which offers ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 as monthly pension on attaining the age of 60.

Taking the cover is as simple as walking into your bank branch and filling a one-page form with virtually



Keeping it simple: Taking the cover is as simple as walking into your bank and filling a one-page form. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

It can't get any easier

- Mass insurance schemes are advantageous for economically fragile people
- Coverage is standardised
- Premiums are low
- Joining very easy

nothing more than your account number and signature. For those with access to Internet banking, this process can be done online at the click of the mouse.

Tie-up with insurers Different banks have tied up with different insurance companies and your only

point of contact is your own bank.

The policy year is standardised as June 1 each year to May 31 the next year and the renewal premium is auto-debited in end May. The bank works with the insurance company for everything, including claims settlement.

And the premiums? PMJJBY offers the ₹2 lakh life cover for ₹330 per year. PMSBY's ₹2 lakh cover costs just ₹12 per year.

Members can join APY from age 18 to age 40. On attaining age 60, you can get a monthly pension of ₹1,000 for a monthly contribution of ₹42 if you join the scheme at age 18. This contribution will be ₹291 per month if you

join at 40. For a pension of ₹5,000 the same members would have to contribute ₹210 and ₹1,454.

The pension under APY is guaranteed by the Government of India which also co-contributes (for five years) 50% of the subscriber's contribution or ₹1,000 per year, whichever is lower for those who are not covered by any statutory social security schemes and are not income taxpayers.

Members can join PMJJBY from age 18 to 50 and the coverage is until 55 years. The renewal premiums have to be auto-debited without fail for the policy to stay in force. The risk cover will commence only after completion of 45 days from the scheme enrolment date except death due to accident.

As for the PMSBY, members can join from age 18 to 70 and the coverage is through the same period. The death benefit on this policy is ₹2 lakh. In the case of total disability, the insurance cover is up to ₹2 lakh and in case of partial disability, the cover is ₹1 lakh.

The schemes will terminate if there is insufficient balance on the date the premium has to be debited.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

INVESTMENT ZONE: RBI BONDS

Get risk-free returns

Instrument offers income packaged in safety

SATYA SONTANAM

If you are looking for a safe haven with reasonable returns, RBI Savings Bond is an option.

These bonds, known as 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 or RBI savings bonds (in general), have a tenure of seven years and come with cumulative and non-cumulative options.

If you are looking for periodic income, the non-cumulative option, with its attractive interest rate and half-yearly interest payments, is a good choice. If you are seeking cumulative investment, these bonds can be considered after you have exhausted your Section 80C investment limit or if your income is within the tax-exempt limit of ₹5 lakh. With half-yearly compounding, the yield on the cumulative bond comes to 7.9%, comparable with the National Savings Certificate (NSC) and the 5-year post office deposit without considering tax breaks.

In the present scenario where the repo rate and yield on the 10-year G-Sec are heading downward, the interest rate of 7.75% per annum offered by the RBI bonds seems good. On fixed deposits (FD) of 5-year tenure, while private sector banks offer 7.25-7.5%, public sector banks offer a lower 6.25-6.75% per annum.

Investment in the RBI bonds are completely guaranteed.

Individuals and Hindu Undivided Families are eligible to purchase these bonds with minimum investment of ₹1,000 and with no upper limits. Non-Resident Indians are not allowed to invest in these bonds but they can be nominated to receive



the proceeds in case of death of the primary owner.

The bonds will be issued in demat form and credited to the Bond Ledger Account (BLA) of the investors. But these bonds are neither tradeable in the secondary market nor transferable. They are also not eligible to be used as collateral for getting loans from banks, financial institutions and non-banking financial companies.

Investments in these bonds are not eligible for tax benefit under section 80C of the Income Tax Act. Interest income, too, is taxable as per the investor's income tax slab rate. A 10% TDS will be deducted at the time of interest payment if the total interest income in a year exceeds ₹40,000 in a year.

You should invest in these bonds only if you can lock-in your investment for 7 years. However, the lock-in condition is relaxed for senior citizens. You can buy the bonds from the Stock Holding Corporation of India or any of the branches of the nationalised banks and few of the private sector banks. They can also be bought through demat accounts maintained with your broker.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"I want to plan early and start a SIP. It's for buying water after my retirement."

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (₹)		Processing fee
		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure - 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure - 5 years	
Indian Bank	10.7-11.4	10,796-10,971	2,159-2,194	0.512% of loan amount
South Indian Bank	11.6-14.7	11,021-11,816	2,204-2,363	2% of loan amount
HDFC Bank	11.25 - 21.50	10,933-13,667	2,186-2,733	Upto 2.5% of loan amount
Axis Bank	15.75 - 24	12,092-14,383	2,418-2,876	Upto 2% of loan amount
State Bank of India	10.9 - 15.3	10,846-11,973	2,169-2,394	Upto 1% of loan amount
Bank of Baroda	11.6-16.6*	11,021-12,319	2,204-2,463	Up to Rs.10,000
Oriental Bank of Commerce	10.9-12.4	10,846-11,223	2,169-2,244	Upto 1% of loan amount
Union Bank of India	10.55-14.55	10,759-11,777	2,151-2,355	Upto 0.5% of loan amount
Canara Bank	10.9-13.9	10,846-11,608	2,169-2,321	Rs 1,000-5,000
Punjab National Bank	9.4-14.95	10,476-11,881	2,095-2,376	Upto 1.8% of loan amount
UCO Bank	11.4-11.8	10,971-11,071	2,194-2,214	Upto 1% of loan amount
Bandhan Bank	15-15.86	11,894-12,121	2,378-2,424	1% of loan amount
Citi Bank	10.99-20	10,868-13,246	2,173-2,649	Upto 3% of loan amount
United Bank of India	11.75-13.40	11,059-11,479	2,211-2,295	1.18% of loan amount
Corporation Bank	12.85-13.85	11,338-11,595	2,267-2,319	1.5% of loan amount
Kotak Mahindra Bank	11.29-19.99	10,943-13,244	2,188-2,648	Upto 2.5% of loan amount
ICICI Bank	11.50 - 19.25	10,996-13,039	2,199-2,607	Upto 2.25% of loan amount

*Stategic premium in addition to the interest rate may be levied, which depends upon the customer's risk profile.

Source: Paisabazaar.com

New Car Loan - Rates and Charges

Name of Bank	Interest rate (%)	EMI (₹)		Processing fee (₹)
		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure-5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure-5 years	
Andhra Bank	9.45	10,489		1% of loan amount
South Indian Bank	9.5-10.75	10,500-10,808		1% of loan amount
State Bank of India	9.15-12.5	10,416-11,249		0.2% of loan amount*
Canara Bank	8.9-9.55	10,355-10,513		0.25% of loan amount
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.9-10.15	10,598-10,660		1% of loan amount
Axis Bank	9.05 - 11.3	10,391-10,946		3,500-5,500
HDFC Bank	9.5-10.6	10,501-10,772		3,000-10,000
Bank of Baroda	8.6-10.6**	10,282-10,772		0.5% of loan amount
Union Bank of India	8.8-9.05	10,331-10,391		Upto 0.5% of loan amount
Karur Vysya Bank	9.65-11.65	10,537-11,033		3,000-7,500
Indian Overseas Bank	9.15	10,416		Upto 0.6% of loan amount
Karnataka Bank	9.8-10.65	10,574-10,784		Upto 0.5% of loan amount
Punjab National Bank	9-9.45	10,379-10,489		Upto 1,500
Oriental Bank of Commerce	8.8-9.15	10,331-10,416		0.5% of loan amount
UCO Bank	8.8-9.05	10,331-10,391		1% of loan amount
RBL Bank	12-14	11,122-11,634		Upto 2% of loan amount
Bank of India	9.45	10,489		500
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	10.45-11.7	10,734-11,046		1% of loan amount
Allahabad Bank	8.8-11.05	10,331-10,884		0.5% of loan amount
Federal Bank	9.15	10,416		1,500-2,500

*Valid till 31.07.2019

**Stategic premium in addition to the interest rate may be levied, which depends upon the customer's risk profile.

Source: Paisabazaar.com



Thrills and spills: On a day of high drama, England emerged on top of the world, riding on moments like (from top right) the fortuitous overthrow four, deflecting off Ben Stokes' bat, Boult stepping over the boundary after taking a catch off Stokes and Jos Buttler catching Martin Guptill short in the final ball of the Super Over. • REUTERS, AFP & AP



Ecstasy for England, agony for New Zealand in a humdinger

After 102 overs of intense cricket at Lord's, it boils down to boundaries after the match and Super Over are tied



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LONDON

This wasn't a final for the faint-hearted. It was the kind that threatened nails, fastened hearts and quadrupled pure pressure and left both players and fans gob-smacked.

New Zealand scored 241 for eight, England, after thriving on Ben Stokes (84 n.o.), was bowled out for 241. The World Cup's summit clash was tied and a super-over was needed to break the stalemate at Lord's.

The mad over

As a tense Sunday evening waned, England scored 15 with Stokes and Jos Buttler having a biff against Trent Boult. And guess what? New Zealand replied with 15 too, with James Neesham clouting a six off Jofra Archer in a mad over that ended once Martin Guptill got run-out while going for the winning run. Yet, England prevailed as it had more boundaries (26) than what New Zealand (17) scored through the pulsating contest.

England champions, New Zealand runners-up by a hair's breadth. This was a

game for the ages, it was a glorious amalgamation of thrills, heart-break and tears, both from joy and soul-numbing grief.

In the afternoon, on a pitch that wasn't a feathered, England needed its powerful openers Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow to lay the base. Nervous energy rippled as of his very first ball, Boult rapped Roy's pad. The lbw claim never materialised, but Boult and Matt Henry kept luring tentative willows. One such endeavour from Henry forced Roy to nibble and England lost its marauder.

Bairstow, though, had the measure of Boult and Colin de Grandhomme dropped the burly opener on 18, failing to latch onto a stinging chance in his follow-through. The seamer, however, made amends in an oblique way by finding the edge of Joe Root's bat. Bairstow soldiered on until he chopped Lockie Ferguson onto his stumps.

England moved to 73 for three in 20 overs and it's captain Eoin Morgan kept dancing down to unsettle the bowlers. Something had to crack and it did when Morgan tried to pound James Neesham on the off-side. Ferguson ran in from sweeper cover, his eyes like those of a big cat's, firmly on the prey. The ball dipped, Ferguson leapt forward and caught inches off the grass.

New Zealand was a wee-bit ahead when Buttler joined forces with Stokes. Buttler (59) stayed calm, guided Stokes and a partnership

struck roots. The duo played percentage cricket, defending well, striking hard when the opportunity arose and at times the umpires were threatened with decapitation as some shots whizzed across quivering hats.

Score-board pressure

It boiled down to 72 from 10 overs and Buttler with his scoops and stunning square-drives was in ominous form. But big games inflict bigger score-board pressure and in trying to free his arm against Ferguson (three for 50), Buttler couldn't hoodwink Tim Southee on the fence. The 110-run (133b) fifth-wicket

partnership had concluded but Stokes had other ideas. He picked his spots on the mid-wicket fence and it trickled to 15 from the last six.

Boult steamed in, Stokes not trusting a wilting tail, played two dot balls, the third he smote for six, the next he got a bonus six (ran two and an over-thrown four), off the fifth ball Adil Rashid was run out but a run was eked and the final yardstick was two from one. Stokes creamed it to long-off, Neesham fielded, rifled in a throw and Mark Wood was left stranded. By then one run was completed. The scores level at 241 and it was

time for a super over.

Delayed start

Earlier, the day stirred awake to a drizzle's whisper and inside the ground, Kane Williamson opted to bat and after a 15-minute delayed start, Guptill attempted a mighty swipe off a wide bowled by Chris Woakes.

Guptill soon punched a four off Woakes, survived a few close-calls and slashed and drilled for a six and four off Archer. However, Woakes (three for 37) nailed Guptill plumb in front and a needless review was taken and lost. Next man Williamson gingerly settled while there

was swing in the air. While Williamson tided past muffled lbw appeals, Henry Nicholls (55) flicked and pulled Liam Plunkett and a 74-run second-wicket partnership took shape. Just as stability seeped in, Plunkett (three for 42) prised out Williamson and Nicholls.

At 118 for three in the 27th over, New Zealand needed Ross Taylor to drop anchor and he nearly did until Mark Wood secured an lbw.

Later, it came to light that

the ball was missing the citadel but with Guptill having wasted a review, no life-line existed.

Morgan's men choked their rivals in a 15-over phase and southpaws Neesham and Tom Latham (47) broke the dry spell while Stokes and Plunkett felt the heat. The last-named scalped Neesham

and as the innings ebbed away, the highlights were Archer's three wides, Latham's six off Wood and three dismissals but New Zealand seemed to have had just about enough to test the home team. It did, just that the climax was a tie which underwent a metamorphosis through the super over.

STAT SPHERE

1 Wood's 154 kph delivery in the final is the joint fastest bowled in this WC along with Starc and Archer

1 Woakes bowled England's first, and only, no ball in this edition, in the final against New Zealand

57 ODI wickets taken by Plunkett since April 2015 when he has bowled between overs 11-40, the highest by a bowler. Pakistan's Hasan Ali is second with 46

74 The association between Nicholls and Williamson, NZ's highest stand for the second wicket in this WC, beating its previous best by the same pair (68 vs India)

2.50 de Grandhomme's economy rate in the final (two for 25 in 10 overs) is the second best since Derek Pringle (2.20) in 1992 (full quota of 10 overs). It is also the second best in a final against England after Michael Holding (2.00 in 1979)

3 Consecutive maidens bowled by New Zealand against England (overs 10-12) in the final. No team in CWC 2019 managed to bowl three in an entire innings against England!

4 Buttler is the fourth keeper after Gilchrist, Sangakkara and Dhoni to score a half-century in a final England!

8 Wickets taken by Henry in the first PowerPlay (overs 1-10), the highest in this WC

13 Number of wickets taken by Ferguson between overs 11-40, the most in this WC. Root has taken the most catches (13, by a fielder) in a tournament

20 Archer's wicket tally, the most in a WC campaign by an England bowler

34 Plunkett, at 34y 99d, is the oldest to take three or more wickets in a final, beating Pringle's record (33y 189d)

England is the sixth country to lift the World Cup after Australia (5), West Indies (2), India (2), Pakistan (1) and Sri Lanka (1)

578 Runs scored by Williamson, the most by a captain in a single edition

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INNINGS SCAN

NZ	ENG
1	Maidens 4
14	Fours 22
2	Sixes 2
74 (2nd)	Best stand 110 (5th)
4.82	RR 4.82

PROGRESSION

NZ	10 overs	ENG
33/1	10 overs	39/1
91/1	20 overs	73/3
126/3	30 overs	115/4
179/5	40 overs	170/4
241/8	50 overs	241/10

TOP SHOWS

For	Batting	Bowling
New Zealand	Nicholls 55 (77, 4x4)	Neesham 3/43 (7) Ferguson 3/50 (10)
England	Stokes 84* (98b, 5x4, 2x6)	Woakes 3/37 (9) Plunkett 3/42 (10)

SCOREBOARD ENGLAND VS NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND
Martin Guptill lbw b Woakes 19 (18b, 2x4, 1x6), Henry Nicholls b Plunkett 55 (77b, 4x4), Kane Williamson c Buttler b Plunkett 30 (53b, 2x4), Ross Taylor lbw b Wood 15 (31b), Tom Latham c sub (Vince) b Woakes 47 (56b, 2x4, 1x6), James Neesham c Root b Plunkett 19 (25b, 3x4), Colin de Grandhomme c (sub) Vince b Woakes 16 (28b), Mitchell Santner (not out) 5 (9b), Matt Henry b Archer 4 (2b, 1x4), Trent Boult (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (lb-12, w-17, nb-1): 30; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 241.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-29 (Guptill, 6.2 overs), 2-103 (Williamson, 22.4), 3-118 (Nicholls, 26.5), 4-141 (Taylor, 33.1), 5-173 (Neesham, 38.6), 6-219 (de Grandhomme, 46.5), 7-232 (Latham, 48.3), 8-240 (Henry, 49.3).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Chris Woakes 9-0-37-3, Jofra Archer 10-0-42-1, Liam Plunkett 10-0-42-3, Mark Wood 10-1-49-1, Adil Rashid 8-0-39-0, Ben Stokes 3-0-20-0.

ENGLAND
Jason Roy c Latham b Henry 17 (20b, 3x4), Jonny Bairstow b Ferguson 36 (55b, 7x4), Joe

Root c Latham b de Grandhomme 7 (30b), Eoin Morgan c Ferguson b Neesham 9 (22b), Ben Stokes (not out) 84 (98b, 5x4, 2x6), Jos Buttler c (sub) Southee b Ferguson 59 (60b, 6x4), Chris Woakes c Latham b Ferguson 2 (4b), Liam Plunkett c Boult b Neesham 10 (10b, 1x4), Jofra Archer b Neesham 0 (1b), Adil Rashid (run out) 0 (0b), Mark Wood (run out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-2, lb-3, w-12): 17; Total (in 50 overs): 241.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-28 (Roy, 5.4 overs), 2-59 (Root, 16.3), 3-71 (Bairstow, 19.3), 4-86 (Morgan, 23.1), 5-196 (Buttler, 44.5), 6-203 (Woakes, 46.1), 7-220 (Plunkett, 48.3), 8-227 (Archer, 48.6), 9-240 (Rashid, 49.5).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING
Trent Boult 10-0-67-0, Matt Henry 10-2-40-1, Colin de Grandhomme 10-2-25-1, Lockie Ferguson 10-0-50-3, James Neesham 7-0-43-3, Mitchell Santner 3-0-11-0.

Toss: New Zealand.

England won on boundaries count (26-17).

Man-of-the-Match: Stokes.
Player-of-the-tournament: Williamson.

Final over of England's chase (Target 15)

1	2	3	4	5	6
0	0	6	6	1+W	1+W

ENG	Ball Number	NZ
3	1	1wd+2
1	2	6
4	3	2
1	4	2
2	5	1
4	6	1+W
15	Total	15

Batsmen: Stokes and Buttler
Bowler: Boult

Batsmen: Neesham and Guptill
Bowler: Archer

Note: If the scores are tied even after the Super Over (SO), the team which had scored more boundaries (fours and sixes put together in their innings and Super Over) will be the winner. England scored 26 (22x4, 2x6, and 2x4 in SO) compared to New Zealand's 17 (14x4, 2x6, and 1x6 in SO)

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Djokovic leaves Federer heart-broken after epic finale

The Swiss squanders two match points on his serve in the fifth set, loses for the third time to the Serbian in a summit clash at SW19



Baby, you're mine: Novak Djokovic cradles the coveted trophy after his fantastic victory over Roger Federer. • REUTERS



N. SUDARSHAN
LONDON

Novak Djokovic, despite having been a four-time champion, has never quite felt loved at Wimbledon. All he had earned was grudging admiration. On Sunday, he gave the crowd at SW19, and the world at large, another chance to reassess that relationship with a performance for the ages to defeat eight-time winner Roger Federer 7-6(5), 1-6, 7-6(4), 4-6, 13-12(3) and clinch his fifth crown and 16th Major overall.

In the battle of wills that lasted four hours and 55 minutes, Djokovic rose from the dead during the nearly two-hour final set, saving two match points with Federer serving at 8-7. The first was a great forehand pass while the second was a Federer error off a deep Djokovic forehand.

Then at 11-11, he fended off two break points – the second with a daring charge to the net – to drag the set to the newly introduced fifth-set tiebreaker. Once there, it seemed like familiar territory, for he had won the two earlier tiebreakers, as he scampered home losing just three points.

Line of the evening

Djokovic may have edged the on-court duel, but Federer had the line of the evening. “We will never forget this match,” he was told. “I would try and forget,” he replied. For Federer, the defeat will surely hurt. For the first four sets, the Swiss was clearly the better player. Yet, he was magnanimous in his praise for Djokovic.

“I had my chances. So did he,” he said. “I am very happy with the level of my performance. Novak... Congrats man. That was crazy! Now it's back to being a dad and husband. It's all good.”

It was, however, a match Djokovic should have wrapped up long before when he had broken to 4-2 in the fifth set. But Federer clawed his way back to 4-4 and kept up the pressure throughout. Once he had lost the opportunity to serve it out at 8-7 though, there was a sense of inevitability about the tie-break.

Cat and mouse

Earlier in the afternoon, the first set was cat-and-mouse. Federer was brave, hitting ever so closer to the lines, especially on Djokovic's backhand side, to take the ball well beyond the Serb's strike-zone. Whenever under duress though, Djokovic came



Taste of success: Djokovic takes his customary sampling of the grass from the hallowed turf. • CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES



Despondent: Roger Federer ponders on what could have been. • MATTHIAS HANGST/GETTY IMAGES

Match stats		
Djokovic		Federer
10	Aces	25
9	Double faults	6
62	First serve %	63
24/38	Net points won	51/65
3/8	Break points	7/13
54	Winners	94
52	Unforced errors	62
204	Total points won	218

I think that if this is not the most exciting final then it's definitely in the top two or three of my career against one of the greatest players of all time

DJOKOVIC

up with some clutch serving.

It required a tie-break to settle the opening set and Federer, who until then had shaded the tennis, cracked first, missing two uncharacteristic forehands. But the Swiss was quick to shed the lethargy. He went 5-3 up and with a serve still in the bag, it was his to lose. But the 37-year-old pulled two forehands wide, on both occasions trying to find the extreme angle.

An unforced error gave Djokovic the first shy at the set and he duly forced a

Novak's nerves of steel

- Djokovic has beaten Federer in every third set tie-breaker the two have been involved in (Montreal 2007, Australian Open 2008, Indian Wells 2014, Wimbledon 2014, French Open 2018 and Wimbledon 2019)
- Federer has now lost nine Grand Slam finals after being 1-2 down in sets. Djokovic now has an 8-0 win-loss record in Slam finals after being 2-1 up
- Federer vs Djokovic is the longest Wimbledon final (four hours 57 minutes). It had 422 points, 68 games and 35 aces
- It is the first summit clash at SW19 to be decided on a tie-break after being 12-12 in the fifth set
- The last four Slam finals to go to the decider have all featured Federer (Wimbledon 2014 vs Djokovic, Australian

- Open 2017 vs Nadal, Australian Open 2018 vs Cilic and Wimbledon 2019 vs Djokovic)
- Djokovic's win extends the streak of Slam titles won by men's players aged 30-plus to 12. The previous longest streak was 4 when Rod Laver won all 4 Grand Slams in 1969
- The Serbian is the first man to win a Wimbledon final after being down match points since 1948 when Bob Falkenburg saved three match points to beat John Bromwich
- This is the third time Djokovic has saved match points to upstage Federer in a Grand Slam (2010 and 2011 US Open semifinals and 2019 Wimbledon final)

backhand error to clinch it.

Switching off

The defending champion, however, switched off completely in the second, going down two breaks to lose 6-1. Djokovic took a break, as if to clear his thoughts. He didn't necessarily come out with a spring in his step, but composed himself enough to arrest the slide.

The contest was reset and for the first eight games of the third set Djokovic and Federer seemed like two boxers feeling out each other in

the opening rounds of a heavyweight bout. In the ninth, however, the level lifted.

Federer earned a set point with a majestic pick-up volley, which could have left the great John McEnroe teary eyed. The crowd erupted, but by the time they settled Djokovic had fought his way back in and eventually took the set in a tie-break. Play in the fourth vacillated before Federer broke in fifth and seventh games. Djokovic got one break back but Federer held on to drag it to a fifth. But it was not his day.

There is no stopping Vijender Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEWARK



Vijender Singh. • FILE PHOTO: DAVE THOMPSON/GETTY IMAGES

Indian boxing star Vijender Singh remained an unstoppable force, clinching a Technical Knockout over the more experienced Mike Snider on his debut on the US professional circuit here on Saturday.

In what was to be an eight-round super middleweight contest, the 33-year-old from Haryana prevailed in four rounds for his 11th consecutive victory on the circuit.

Winning debut

“It was excellent getting back in the ring after a long time off. It's great to be here in the USA and to get the win. It was really exciting. I am really happy for my winning debut in USA,” Vijender said.

The triumph came in the second minute of the fourth round when Vijender cornered Snider with a flurry of straight punches, prompting the referee to stop the bout in the Indian's favour.

“It took me about four rounds to get back in the swing of things. I expected it to take two or three rounds, but it took me four. I felt good,” said Vijender. This was Vijender's eighth knockout overall.

The 38-year-old Snider was flailing his arms without any significant force in his punches for most of the bout. Vijender, on the other hand, was sharp as ever despite fighting his first bout in more than a year.

The Indian never looked threatened by the local favourite and thwarted his feeble attacks quite easily. Snider came into the fight with a 13-5-3 record.

Vijender would be aiming to compete in two more fights this year after signing up with Hall of Famer Bob Arum's Top Rank Promotions.

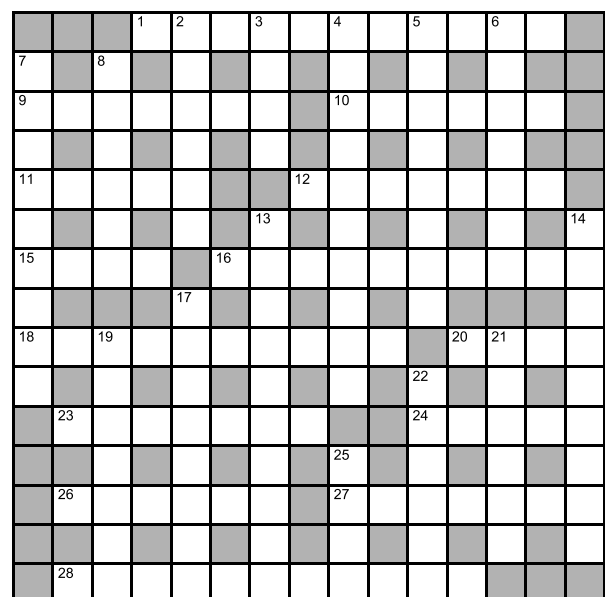
“Top Rank has a bigger plan for me, and whatever they say is next, I'm fine with it,” Vijender said.

Vijender's British trainer Lee Beard too lauded his commitment.

Good fighter

Commenting on his defeat, Snider said, “Vijender is a good boxer and I believe I underestimated his experience and technique. It was his day and he won. I had never thought that I would lose in early rounds.”

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12678



ACROSS

- Contestant to trip captain perversely (11)
- Substance belongs to me? Really odd! (7)
- Coats for decapitated actors (6)
- Antelope begins new year amidst lazy asses (5)

- Fall out, quarrel with bird (7)
- Encounter, on return, swarm (4)
- Glow strangely since dance (10)
- At a loss due to unsold pens? Dreadful! (10)
- Olive Ridley somewhat inactive (4)
- Mind accepts levy in United Kingdom (7)
- Neckwear worn at English racecourse (5)
- Disguised at first, nun leaves disunited (6)
- Unbounded lacy hair of thespian (7)
- In a riot, saddled king escaping (11)

DOWN

- Sailor trio, regular, now overseas (6)
- Charge for ring (4)

(set by Anon)

- Special hat destroyed in kingdoms (10)
- Talk back to, somehow drag Oriental of rank (8)
- Limits direction of darts (7)
- Discharging man in dining (9)
- Convict, dear, loses sex appeal on return (6)
- Singlehandedly, doctor sustains regular lead (10)
- Negativist freethinker without accomplishment (9)
- Apartment supervisor has fish (8)
- Part-Nordic people at US city (7)
- Shorten alien's schedule (6)
- Tycoon introduces tea into farmyard (6)
- Initially retreating from fight? Yell! (4)

SUDOKU

	1	7						
			7	5		1		6
		9			3		7	
		1		3	4			9
9			8		6			2
4			5	9		3		
	9		1			7		
7		8		4	5			
						8	4	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12677

DESCRIBE	S	C	H	E	M	A		
A	A	E	A	E	A	P		
I	N	F	R	I	N	G	E	P
K	E	G	H	A	T	E	P	
O	R	G	A	N	D	I	S	M
N	U	G	A	H	T	I	E	
R	A	G	G	E	Q	U	I	N
J	R	E	L	S	D	A	Y	
O	R	D	I	N	A	L	S	
Y	E	U	E	T	A	I	E	
S	E	M	I	F	I	N	A	L
T	I	L	Z	E	P	A	T	
I	N	S	T	E	P	I	N	V
C	E	C	C	E	R	E		
K	A	R	A	T	E	D	E	A

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	6	7	8	2	4	5	3
3	5	4	6	1	9	7	8	2
7	2	8	5	4	3	6	1	9
8	3	7	9	2	6	5	4	1
1	4	5	8	3	7	9	2	6
6	9	2	1	5	4	8	3	7
2	8	9	4	7	1	3	6	5
5	6	1	3	9	8	2	7	4
4	7	3	2	6	5	1	9	8

FAITH

Preceptor and Protector

A true preceptor illumines the disciple with the truths of life and death and of the purpose of human existence. Who better than the Lord incarnate to transform each spiritual seeker from a 'listener' of the eternal Truth He expounds to a 'seer' in whom the goal becomes clear? Krishna as the Jagad-guru clearly shows that the objective of spiritual quest is to seek Him and the greatest wonder is that He alone can guide the seeker successfully to reach the goal, pointed out Srimati Prema Pandurang in a discourse.

His incarnations are for establishing dharma, protecting the good and for vanquishing evil. Interpreters have explored the far reaching implications of the famous Gita verse 'Ananayas chintayanto mam,' as the Lord's reassurance of His responsibility to be always with every one who seeks refuge in Him. The term 'Yoga Kshemam' in this verse is shown to signify that He grants all the daily needs of His devotees and also firmly sustains what is granted. The story of a poor couple who trust God for their living is often quoted to illustrate the subtle ways by which God reveals and fulfills His role as protector. The husband is inspired by this verse which he chants daily with great fervour, believing implicitly that his family is sustained by God alone. But once the family goes hungry and unable to bear the taunts of his wife he goes to the river bank and in a fit of disappointment and rage, scratches away this verse from the book with a sharp nail. In the meanwhile, food is brought to the family by a young man who claims that He is a servant of her husband. When the grateful wife wishes to know His name, He merely puts out his tongue that is badly bruised. On coming to know of the truth, the husband is ashamed of his lack of faith.

TV PICKS

Hero Intercontinental Cup: Star Sports 2 & 3 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Neymar says he is almost fully fit

SAO PAULO
Neymar says he has recovered "almost 100 percent" from the ankle injury that ruled him out of Brazil's victorious Copa America campaign. The world's most expensive player was speaking here on Saturday ahead of his belated return to Paris Saint-Germain on Monday. PSG was upset at Neymar's no-show at the resumption of training last week, an absence that fuelled speculation of his possible return to Barcelona. But both the player and his father had insisted he had prior agreement from PSG to stay in Brazil to help his foundation, the Neymar Institute. AFP

Impey wins ninth stage, Alaphilippe still in lead

BRIOUDE
South African Daryl Impey of the Mitchelton-Scott team won stage nine of the Tour de France on Sunday as the home fans had to settle for Julian Alaphilippe staying in the yellow jersey on Bastille Day. The Frenchman kept hold of the overall lead while Thibaut Pinot, defending champion Geraint Thomas and the big guns all finished together around 16 minutes behind a mass breakaway. AFP

Sourabh also bows out of US Open

FULLERTON (USA)
India's campaign at the US Open badminton tournament ended after Sourabh Verma lost his men's singles semifinal match to Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk of Thailand 21-9, 21-18 here on Saturday. Sourabh struggled in the first game but put up a tough fight in the second. Other Indians in the fray — P. Kashyap, H.S. Prannoy, Ajay Jayaram and Lakshya Sen — had bowed out earlier. PTI

Ankita finishes runner-up in doubles

VERSMOOLD (GERMANY)
Ankita Raina and Bibiane Schoofs of the Netherlands were beaten 0-6, 6-3, [10-8] by Amina Anshba and Anastasia Detiuc in the doubles final of the \$60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament here on Sunday. The Indo-Dutch pair had beaten Serbia's Natalija Kostic & USA's Chiara Scholl 6-2, 6-0 in the semifinal.



LA Lakers unveils Anthony Davis

LOS ANGELES
Los Angeles Lakers is capable of challenging for the NBA championship next season, said six-time All-Star Anthony Davis as he was formally unveiled on Saturday. The 26-year-old superstar is set to form a potent strikeforce alongside LeBron James after joining Lakers following a blockbuster trade deal with New Orleans Pelicans last month. Davis believes Lakers can make an instant impression as they attempt to re-establish the team as a force in the NBA. Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka said Davis' acquisition could be a "history-shifting" chapter for the franchise. AFP

India u-19 to play Oman, Jordan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DELHI
The Indian under-19 football team will play against Jordan and Oman national U-19 sides during an exposure tour to Turkey in preparation for the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers later this year. India U-19 will face Oman U-19 and Jordan U-19 and also play a friendly against local club Kocaelispor between July 19 and 27.

No place like home for Hamilton!

Streaks to a record-breaking sixth win as Mercedes notches up another 1-2 finish

BRITISH GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SILVERSTONE

Lewis Hamilton made the most of a favourable safety car intervention on Sunday to claim a record sixth British Grand Prix victory at a packed Silverstone.

The defending five-time World champion clocking fastest lap on his final lap to finish 25 seconds clear of Mercedes teammate and nearest title-rival Valtteri Bottas after an action-packed contest.

The Briton moved 39 points clear of the Finn behind in the title race, but Bottas was unlucky with the timing of the safety car which effectively gave Hamilton a free pit stop.

Unlucky Verstappen

Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was third. Pierre Gasly finished fourth ahead of his Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen, whose race was compromised by a late collision when Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari drove into him, and Carlos Sainz of McLaren.

It was Hamilton's seventh win in 10 races this year and the 80th win of his career. He had shared the British Grand Prix record of wins, on five, with fellow-Briton Jim Clark and Frenchman Alain Prost.

Daniel Ricciardo was seventh for Renault ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Alfa Ro-



Cashing in: Lewis Hamilton made good of a fortuitous pit stop to delight the locals. • REUTERS

meo, Daniil Kvyat and his Toro Rosso teammate Alex Albon. "What a day," said Hamilton. "To all the crowd, thank-you so much for coming out."

Hamilton, who stopped on his slow-down lap to collect a British 'Union Jack' flag, added: "I love you Sil-

verstone. I appreciate everything and the opportunity to be a part of this. I couldn't have done this without these guys or without my team."

A glum Bottas said: "Congrats to Lewis... It wasn't my day." A much happier Leclerc said "It's probably the race I've enjoyed the most in

my career." The safety car was deployed when Antonio Giovinazzi spun into a gravel trap in his Alfa Romeo — gifting Hamilton a 'free' first, and only, pit stop. The luckless Bottas, on a two stop strategy, had already pitted before the incident.

Williams celebrates a special 50

Former Race Director Charlie Whiting remembered

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SILVERSTONE

Frank Williams enjoyed another special event to celebrate his 50th year as a Formula One team boss on Sunday when he took part in the drivers' parade ahead of the British Gp.

In a classic MG sports car driven by former Williams driver David Coulthard, Williams joined all of the drivers' taking part in Sunday's race, including defending five-time World champion Lewis Hamilton.

'Hot lap'

Hamilton had been at the wheel on Thursday when he gave the veteran team owner a 'hot lap' of the Silverstone track in a Mercedes high-speed road car, the pair disobeying instructions from Claire Williams, his daughter and deputy team chief, to do only one lap.

Instead, they did two with Williams, 77, admitting it was a thrilling experience that would live long in his memory.

On Sunday morning, however, Hamilton was a passenger during the parade in another classic sports car driven by his father Anthony with his brother Nic in the passenger seat.

The parade was a centrepiece of the build-up



The patriarch: Sir Frank Williams in the Williams garage at Silverstone. • CHARLES COATES/GETTY IMAGES

to the race, started by 12-year-old Justin Whiting, son of the sport's former Race Director Charlie Whiting who died suddenly, aged 66, shortly before this year's season-opening Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne.

Whiting was remembered and his life celebrated on Thursday evening at a ceremony here, where four-time champion Sebastian Vettel delivered an emotional and

poetic speech on behalf of all the drivers.

"In the name of all the current drivers, and for the drivers that worked with you, we finally want to say: You were a true racer. You were our Race Director. You were our guard. You were our friend.

"And you shall stay around because one is alive until the last one forgets about you. We will remember you. Take care, Charlie," Vettel said.

Salahuddin takes the honours with an impressive jump

Inderjeet wins shot put; Indians come up with a rich haul

ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU BISHKEK

A week after producing his personal best (16.64m) at Almaty, Mohammed Salahuddin came up with another big one on Sunday to win the men's triple jump gold at the Tatyana Kolpakova memorial international athletics meet here.

The 25-year-old's 16.53m in the second round brought him an easy gold. The silver went to a Kazakh athlete who measured 15.06m.

Inderjeet Singh, the 2015 Asian champion who had run into doping trouble a year after that, took the shot put gold with 18.67m. He has been in that range for a major part of this year though he has a personal best of 20.65m which came in 2015. Tunlay Narzary won the wo-

men's shot put with 13.83m. Gajanan Mistry (200m, 21.50s) and Mohammed Afsal (800m, 1:51.39s) also won golds while Beant Singh, who had shown a lot of promise a couple of years ago, took a bronze in the two-lapper.

Personal best

Vipin Kasana had a personal best 82.51m as he won the



Mohammed Salahuddin. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

men's javelin gold while Asian and Asian Games shot put champion Tajinderpal Singh Toor produced 20.36m as he finished third at the Kladno international meet in the Czech Republic on Saturday. And Hima Das clocked 23.43m for the women's 200m gold.

The results (Indians only): At Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan): Men, 200m: 1. Gajanan Mistry (21.50s). **800m:** 1. Mohammed Afsal (1:51.39s). 3. Beant Singh (1:52.18). **5,000m:** 2. Ajith (14:46.41s). 3. Rahul (14:49.61). **Triple jump:** 1. Mohammed Salahuddin (16.53m). **Shot put:** 1. Inderjeet Singh (18.67m). **Women, shot put:** 1. Tunlay Narzary (13.83m). **200m:** 2. Revathi (23.54s). **At Kladno (Czech Republic): Men, javelin:** 1. Vipin Kasana (82.51m). 2. Abishek Singh (77.32). 3. Davinder Singh Kang (76.58). **Shot put:** 3. Tajinderpal Singh Toor (20.36m). **Women:** 1. Hima Das (23.43s).

Vinesh grapples to another gold

WRESTLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISTANBUL

Star India grappler Vinesh Phogat won her second consecutive gold in 53kg, winning the Yasar Dogu International with a commanding victory over Russia's Ekaterina Poleshchuk, here.

The Indian wrestler, who stood atop the podium at Grand Prix of Spain last week, beat her Russian opponent 9-5 in the final of the UWW ranking-series tournament.

Vinesh's was third gold in

the women's competition for India after Seema (50kg) and Manju (59kg) triumphed in their respective categories.

Divya Kakran (68kg), who won a gold in Madrid, and Pooja Dhandra (57kg), who won a silver, did not reach the medal rounds. While Divya could not clear the qualification round, Pooja lost in the quarterfinals. Sakshi Malik, who was making a comeback after a minor injury, did not reach the medal rounds.

In men's freestyle, Rahul Aware (61kg) had clinched his first career ranking-series title with a tactical 4-1 victory over Munir Aktas of Turkey.



Vinesh Phogat. • FILE PHOTO

Utmarsh Kale had won bronze in the same category.

'Maradonas in training, but disappear in games'

Stimac wants to get the balance right

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA AHMEDABAD

India's poor showing in the ongoing Intercontinental Cup has not left coach Igor Stimac disappointed.

Rather, the two matches have helped him figure out the National team for the future. With the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers scheduled in September, the Croatian gaffer is focused on getting the balance right.

"Now it is very clear to me about whom to count on and whom not to consider. Everybody got a chance and not a single player can complain of being left out," said Stimac after the team's loss against DPR Korea.

The coach has tried out 27 players for the King's Cup in Thailand and the Intercontinental Cup. In the course of the two tournaments, nine made their debut.

The thought process

Revealing the thinking behind the exercise, Stimac said, "It was essential to give them minutes on the pitch as it is not possible to judge a player properly in training. Some players are (Diego Maradonas in training, but when the games come, they disappear."

"I wouldn't be naming the players, as it is not my way. But you cannot hide the truth and the evidence is there for you to see.

"When I changed the players (after the first session), the new combination started playing, started taking responsibility and start-



Stimac.

ed creating chances," said the coach.

Backing youngsters

Stimac is clearly backing the younger crop of players — Anirudh Thapa, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Sahal Abdul Samad, Kuman Udanta Singh — who were second-half substitutes against DPR Korea.

"Of course, it is not possible to keep the shape and go up and down all the time, but I was proud by the way they played. I won't mind losing a game if you play like that," said Stimac, referring to the two second-half goals India scored in the 5-2 reverse.

"I always have the selection of the first team in my mind, but five or six among them are in the post-operation treatment period or are injured," said Stimac.

He revealed that he would love to get the likes of defenders E. Anas, Sandesh Jhingan (who limped off the pitch clutching his left thigh) and attackers like Ashique (Kurunjan) and Jeje (Lalpekhlu) back in the squad in order to get the right balance.

Indian teams off to a bright start

Go to the top of the medals table with four gold, five silver and two bronze

JUNIOR WC

The Indian pistol shooters were bang on target to warm up for the tough challenges ahead, as the team jumped to the top of the medals table with four gold, five silver and two bronze medals on the second day of the Junior World Cup here on Sunday.

Udhayveer Sidhu and Gaurav Rana won the individual gold in the 25-metre standard pistol and the 50-metre free pistol events.

The Indian shooters also won the team gold medals to boost the tally.

In the rifle prone events, however, India was not at its best, except for Kinnori Konar shooting 621.6 for the ninth place in the junior women's section.

Russia and Norway followed India on the medals table with two gold medals each, while China and Thailand were in the fourth and fifth spots with a gold medal each.

In junior men's trap event, Khelo India Youth Games champion Manavadiya Singh Rathore shot 72 following rounds of 25, 22, 25, the third best score behind leader Thomas William Betts (74) of Britain.

Bhowneesh Mendiratta (70), Vishwa Kundu (68), Vivaan Kapoor (65) were the other Indians in the field.

In junior women's trap,

Kirti Gupta shot 68, following rounds of 24, 21 and 23.

Two more rounds will be followed by the final for the top six on the morrow in the trap competition.

The results: Junior men: 50m free pistol: 1. Gaurav Rana 553; 2. Arjun Singh Cheema 551; 3. Ihor Solovoi (Ukr) 550; 4. Vijayveer Sidhu 547; 22. Sachin Bhati 516.

Team: 1. India 1651; 2. Belarus 1610; 3. Russia 1608.

25m standard pistol: 1. Udhayveer Sidhu 575; 2. Adarsh Singh 568; 3. Anish Bhanuwa 566; 6. Vijayveer Sidhu 564; 9. Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu 560; 28. Dilshan Kelley 560.

Team: 1. India 1707 WRJ; 2. India-A 1676; 3. Czech Republic 1673.

50m rifle prone: 1. Stefan Wadlegger (Aut) 623.4; 2. Grigori Shamakov (Rus) 622.8; 3. Zhang Changhong (Chn) 622.3.

20. Abid Ali Khan 616.1; 24. Harshrajinsihji Gohil 615.3; 54. Fateh Singh Dhillon 606.3.

Team: 1. Germany 1861.7; 2. Norway 1852.5; 3. Austria 1852.3.

Junior women: 50m rifle prone: 1. Jeanette Duestad (Nor) 627.9 WRJ; 2. Sara Karasova (Cze) 627.6; 3. Sheileen Waibel (Aut) 627.2

9. Kinnori Konar 621.6; 23. Bhakti Bhaskar Kharmkar 618.1; 27. Ayushi Podder 616.5; 43. Zenab Hussain Bandookwala 612.9; 55. Nischal 610.1; 73. Shirin Godara 603.9.

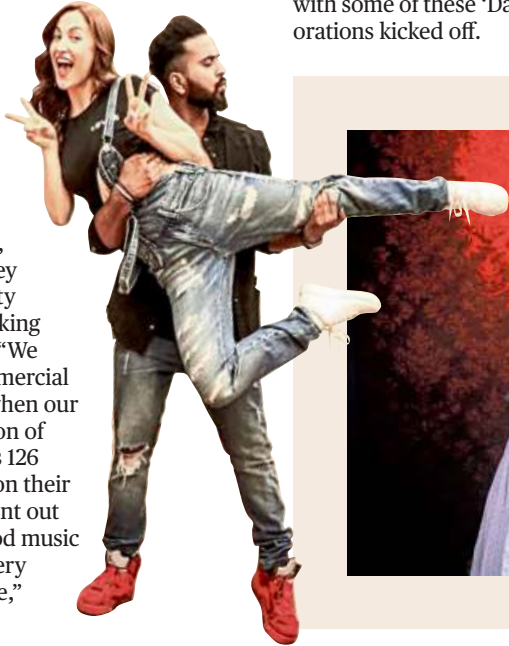
Team: 1. Norway 1865.5 WRJ; 2. China 1864.2; 3. Czech Republic 1659.1; 8. India-A 1847.5; 14. India 1835.6.



DanceFit Live | 3.2 million subscribers

When Nasik-based Tejas Dhoke and Ishpreet Dang, the duo behind DanceFit Live, reached out to Sony last year for a No Objection Certificate to use the song 'Kya Baat Ay' in one of their videos, the music label one-upped the deal. They suggested that the singer, Hardavinder Singh Sandhu (Hardy Sandhu), perform alongside them for a dance cover. Dhoke admits that they were stunned by the idea that one of India's top singers would want to work with them. "Hardy Sandhu had said that he was a fan of ours," says a still-credulous Dhoke. The video resulted in more collaborations coming in through music channels, and today, DanceFit has added names like Rakul Preet Singh (above) and Elli Avram (below) to its list of celebrity collabs.

The duo started out as a local dance group, performing at shows with crowds of around 1,000 people. But when they began posting regularly on YouTube in 2016, their early videos (like their cover of 'Nashe si Chadh Gayi') racked up as many as 4 lakh views. Their covers often feature them dancing alongside students from their workshops and classes, which they conduct regularly. They admit that the channel's popularity skyrocketed after they started making covers of Punjabi songs last year. "We made it a point to cover non-commercial songs," Dhoke explains. "That's when our views shot up." Their interpretation of 'Daru Badnaam', for instance, has 126 million views, one of the highest on their channel. But they are quick to point out that they also work with Bollywood music and sometimes, Tamil songs. "Every video has its own unique audience," adds Dang.



With millions of subscribers and a ready fan following, meet the 'DanceTubers' who are helping promote Bollywood's new releases

DANCE

for publicity

MIRIAM ALPHONSUS

Posters, television interviews and press meets are not the only way to promote a film today. Social media's potential, after all, feels limitless. Take Samantha Akkineni's recent challenge, where she encouraged fans to dress like it was the '60s and tag her in their Instagram posts (to promote her recently-released Telugu film, *Oh Baby!*). Last year, the actress challenged her followers to post videos of them dancing to 'The Karma Theme', from *U-Turn*, zeroing in on music to make a connect with fans. Other stars have taken to collaborating with YouTube's top dance channels, joining in for choreographed sequences from soon-to-be-released films. Earlier this year, Sonam Kapoor appeared at the halfway mark of Team Naach's cover of 'Gud Naal Ishq Mitha' from her film, *Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga*. Similarly, Rakul Preet Singh made an appearance in Melvin Louis' YouTube channel to promote her film *De De Pyar De*, with the song 'Hauli Hauli'.

The collaborations are a win-win situation, admit these YouTubers, even though they do not get paid and production costs are usually split. With millions of followers, they help provide some buzz around the film, while also upping their own subscriber count thanks to wider viewership. Louis, for example, has nearly doubled his subscribers just in the past six months. We speak with some of these 'DanceTubers' to find out how their collaborations kicked off.

Melvin Louis | 3 million subscribers

Melvin Louis' students include well-known names like actress Sandeepa Dhar, so a collaboration was practically inevitable. His 'Aankh Marey' cover from *Simmba* in December last year saw singer Neha Kakkar (left) — a YouTube star herself — dancing, and it clocked in over nine million views.

He also believes that the informal tone of his videos — single camera set-up and no "flashy accessories" — helps put celebrities at ease, not to forget the rapport he has with his subscribers. In fact, his work is so popular that fans are now making covers of his covers. Look up #MelvinLouisChoreography on Instagram, and you'll see dance routines performed in bedrooms, gardens and terraces. "We don't want people to be bullied for their low-quality videos inspired by us. That's why we stick to low cost productions," says Louis, adding that dance should not be limited to show business. Louis thinks that the rise in fitness culture and internet accessibility have helped boost his popularity. But he also admits that his switch from hip-hop to Bollywood in 2016, including his viral cover of 'Kala Chashma' is what landed him the views. His real passion, though, lies with choreographing songs that do not already have a dance routine. One such video covering 'Rocket Saiyyan' from the film *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan* has almost as many views as the original music video.



Money talk
While YouTube's most-subscribed-to content creators — like Ryan ToysReview and the controversial PewDiePie — earned many millions in revenue, thanks to their large followings, the revenue model for these dancers works differently. Choreographed covers, which feature songs from popular films, do not generate any ad revenue because the music is licensed to a label. Instead, income is generated by partnerships with brands across verticals: from property to tech to clothing. These dancers feature their products or provide shoutouts in their videos. AdSense — YouTube's revenue system based on the number of ads that are clicked — does apply to tutorial-style videos. And in the offline world, these dancers have their wildly-popular workshops.

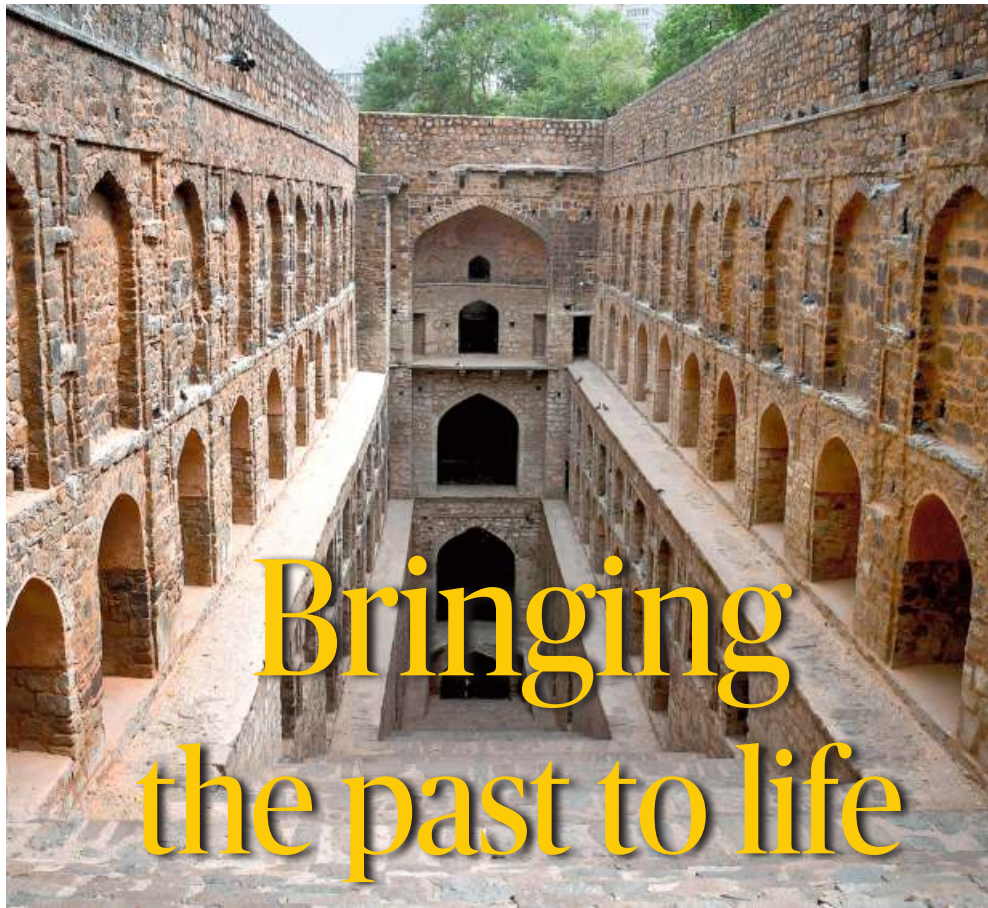
Team Naach | 2.2 million subscribers

Sonam Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, Will Smith — these are some of the celebrities that Mumbai-based Sonal Devraj and Nicole Concessao have collaborated with. They reveal that the first move is often made by an actor's PR team, a production house or a music label. Typically, the star only has about 15 or 20 minutes, "so we try our best to create choreography that's easy to remember and perform on the spot", says Devraj. Perhaps that also explains why many collab videos see the star magically appearing halfway through the song.

Often, these tie-ups are part of a larger plan. Varun Dhawan and Alia Bhatt's dance collabs with Team Naach, for instance, were part of the #CreateTogetherwithKalank campaign on the Internet, to promote their then upcoming film, *Kalank* (left). "Social media is much more dynamic, that's why public relations companies have now warmed up to having collaborations," says Concessao, adding that TeamNaach's following shot up after these celebrity appearances. "It's definitely an extra boost." And of course, there's the increased demand for the duo's workshops, which are conducted across the country.



DOWN MEMORY LANE



Bewitching angels or dead persons who lived years ago have had psychic effect on humans, even in modern times



R. V. SMITH

The last days of the Samvat calendar month of Asadha (June-July) are said to be marked by optical illusions that sometimes charm and sometimes baffle the viewer, especially at historical sites. The Mughal prince Rafiushan out hunting, got caught in a thunderstorm in a thicket beyond the Jamuna in the 18th century and was accosted by a beautiful woman with long flowing hair in a ruined monument. He was charmed by her sudden appearance, but she never reappeared though he made frequent visits to the place. Some centuries earlier Raja Ugar Sen had a similar experience

when an 'apsara' (angel) appeared before him at a ramshackle Shivalya (Shiva temple) while he was on a shikhar (hunting) trip. She asked him to build a baoli (stepwell), which the raja did, and his creation is still there on Hailey Road. Firoz Shah Tughlak built Bhuli Bhatiyari ka Mahal in similar circumstances on the part of the Delhi Ridge that now falls in the Karol Bagh area.

Some years ago, the Delhi papers reported an incident in which two men taking shelter during a stormy evening in late June at a deserted shrine in Nizamuddin saw images of people in medieval clothes rotating on the walls as though somebody was operating a magic lantern. They ran out when they could not stand the effect of the eerie scene any longer.

At the Taj Mahal, according to gossip, Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal can be seen at midnight sitting on the lotus pond seat when the Malhar, the rainy

season raga is sung in neighbouring Taj Ganj, originally built for the artisans who erected the edifice of love in a labour lasting more than 20 years.

The sudden death of an English lady during a moonlight party at the monument in the 19th century and the impulsive murder (also at night) there two years later by a British Army major of an Irish woman and her lover are also probably pointers to the psychic effect evident at historical sites.

Weird energy from thunderstorms can bring strange events from the past to life, say psychologists. On a monsoon night near the Qutub Minar in 1950, five history buffs sat in a British-era Dak Bungalow attending a seance by Nawabzada Farooqur-Rahman Khan of Datoli. Among them were a thakur, a doctor, a noted shikari, a zamindar and my elder brother, Maxie. Dr Dayal wanted to establish contact with a medical student who had committed



Poltergeist on the prowl (left) Ugar Sen ki Baoli; sketch of a ghost in the jungle • SANDEEP SAXENA & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

suicide and whose heart was later found missing from the body buried in the ITO graveyard. At the time, police investigation had shown that the medical student's lover had approached an Ustad, well-versed in the occult, with a request for her heart as a keepsake. Later the same day, after dusk, the Ustad, the lover and two others made their way to the mud grave, exhumed the corpse and cut out the heart despite a chilling feeling after their dastardly act, for which they were arrested and tried. But the case failed for lack of evidence, as the heart could not be recovered from them. At the 1950s seance when the girl's spirit was 'conjured', some years after her death, a thunderstorm broke out. Lightning flashed all around the Dak Bungalow, there was a clap of thunder and an image became visible. The assembled men looked out of the window and froze in their seats, for there standing in the waning moonlight was a girl with a bleeding heart. She made a gesture of despair and vanished.

According to the late Sarfaraz Khan, tourist guide, prior to certain monsoon nights, murdered Mughal princes can be seen at the Red Fort, Khooni Darwaza and Humayun's Tomb but the ASI dismisses this as plain superstition.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

Intervening for SEL

After making her voice heard at the G20 Summit, Delhi girl Richa Gupta is re-energised in her efforts to make space for Social and Emotional Learning in the Indian education system

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

A little ahead of this year's G20 Summit held in Japan, 24 young women delegates from different parts of the world gathered together in a room. As they sat there, Heather Barnabe, a rights activist asked them to close their eyes for a minute: could those who thought they had no chance of making it to this gathering put their hand up?

They did, and when 24 girls opened their eyes, they looked around and saw that each one of them had a hand in the air.

This was at one of the opening sessions of the G(irls)20 programme this year, and Barnabe, the programme's CEO. The gathering takes place annually in the lead up to the G20, an international summit for 19 countries and the European Union to address issues concerning the global economy. Launched in 2009 by the Clinton Global Initiative, its purpose is to hear the voices of and get inputs from 18-23 year-olds, from across the world, making space for their suggestions in the G20's decisions for the year.

None of the delegates were there by chance. They'd arrived in Japan after an intense six-month selection process — each of them had also worked for community change, through activism or entrepreneurship. And yet for these leaders, impostor syndrome was real.

"This session was one of the most interesting ones for me," says Richa Shivangi Gupta, a Delhi-based 23-year-old, the Indian who made it for this year's edition. "This and the workshop on negotiation was super useful for me," she adds.

Two years ago, and right out of college, Gupta had started a non-profit called the Labhya Foundation, which introduces Social

and Emotional Learning (SEL) into mainstream education. They had a rocky start. Gupta remembers going from school to school with a proposal to address the "moral crisis" in children today. It was shot down by 79 schools. Learning and sharpening her proposal along the way, Gupta finally landed an opportunity with the 80th attempt, at the Om Foundation School in Noida.

Today, Labhya is one of the few organisations to be partnering with the Delhi Government to formulate and implement the "Happiness Curriculum". The curriculum, which launched in July last year, aims to also add on the concepts of emotional intelligence, critical thinking, self-awareness, and mindfulness in mainstream school education.

At the G(irls)20, Gupta met with Farah Mohamed, founder of the summit and now CEO of the Malala Fund. They shared their backgrounds in the field of education interventions, and also of their grow-

ing up years in Africa.

"We had very good conversations in terms of what kind of vision I want to develop for my organisation, and I could connect with," recalls Gupta. Other G(irls)20 alumna from France are also now helping her articulate Labhya's programme, look at her grant applications and give her feedback from their experiences.

Gupta might've learnt a great deal from women around the world with a similar purpose; but she can proudly claim contribution to: in the months leading up to their meet in Japan, the delegates participated on calls, and worked on areas in which they could make policy recommendations. They then sharpened this in their six days in Japan, putting together their official communique.

When the G20 Summit ended, and the leaders put out their declaration, the delegates found that one of the recommendations from their communique, around women in STEM fields, was included.

"That was a good thing, we were heard," says Gupta, who was one of the three delegates chosen to present the group's communique to Japan's G20 Sherpa, Ambassador Koji Tomita.

Back home, Gupta says she is also in talks with Dr. Vikas Mahatme, an MP in the Rajya Sabha for introducing a private member bill on SEL. Mahatme has been an advocate for social and emotional awareness in academic education. In parallel, she is also expanding her work with Labhya to schools in other states like Uttarakhand as well.

To know more, or to donate: www.labhya.org/contribute



For a holistic future
Richa Gupta during the 2019 G(irls)20 Summit in Japan earlier this year
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Looking for a bridge

So the doctor pronounced you have a lifestyle condition and you must change your ways. Now what?

RASHMI VASUDEVA

Around a year ago, I consulted a dermatologist regarding a persistent skin allergy. He told me in no uncertain terms that my ailment was related to stress and weight. I was instructed to practise meditation or yoga and walk every day for at least 45 minutes. I was also told to stop table sugar and follow a healthy diet. I nodded solemnly and came home all charged up. For a person who's only walking is to the fridge and back, I had no clue how to bring in all these alarming changes to my routine. Unsurprisingly, it took four days for my enthusiasm to die a quiet and embarrassed death. My allergy though is more obstinate and rears its head now and then.

When it comes to implementing lifestyle changes suggested by doctors, my woe-filled tale will resonate with many. Doctors, especially specialists, routinely dole out advice to patients with lifestyle-related diseases such as heart ailments, hypertension and diabetes. They cannot be expected to do a follow-up of every person to check if they have tweaked their lifestyle. The problem is, no one is doing this follow-up.

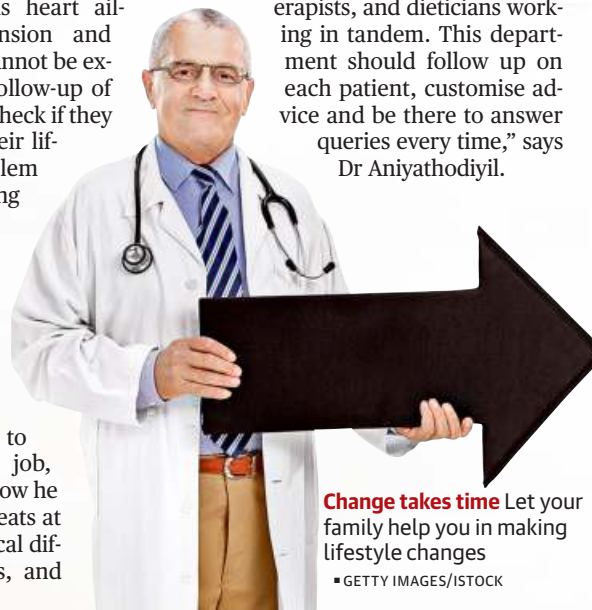
The first P: personalised "Ideally, lifestyle and dietary advice must be customised according to the individual's job, where he stays, how he travels, what he eats at home, the practical difficulties he faces, and

so on," says Dr Gopi Aniyathodiyil, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, Fortis Hospital, Bengaluru. We all know that rarely happens, if ever.

Dr Alpesh Jain, Consultant Diabetologist at Masina Hospitals and Lifespan Diabetes Clinic, Mumbai, recalls a case of an overweight woman in her 40s who had developed hypertension. He advised her to follow a strict exercise programme. She said she could not because she was a single mother who had to take care of her child as well as work in an office far from home, which meant she left home at 9 and returned only in the late evening, which left her with no time for exercise of any sort.

The second P: pause

Evidently, doctors too realise there is a problem. "No one is really bridging this gap. Ideally, every hospital should have a dedicated rehabilitation and education department with qualified nurses, physiotherapists, and dieticians working in tandem. This department should follow up on each patient, customise advice and be there to answer queries every time," says Dr Aniyathodiyil.



Change takes time Let your family help you in making lifestyle changes
* GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

However, since no such department exists, he feels doctors can only reinforce their message when the person next visits them. Another problem doctors face is resistance. "Sometimes, patients and their well-wishers suspect the hospital has some money-making agenda if we insist on a follow-up... it is a delicate balance we have to maintain," he rues.

What Dr Aniyathodiyil does not spell out loud, Dr Alpesh does. "This 'advice gap' is being filled by WhatsApp forwards, internet quacks and self-declared health gurus. This 'annoyance' has now reached epidemic proportions and doctors are having to pit their professional knowledge against click-bait websites and unqualified influencers." He says he has had to deal with people who despite detailed instructions about their diet come back after a few weeks armed with WhatsApp forwards about how good (or evil) a particular food is and demand to know why the doctor had advised them against eating it. Patients routinely fall for market-driven counsel (often with poor scientific backing) such as eating quinoa by the bucketful, shifting to olive oil, or replacing good old eggs with the latest influencer favourite quail's eggs!

tially dangerous lifestyle practices (such as bingeing and smoking). And most importantly, whom to trust when it comes to the nitty-gritty of following the doctors' advice without having to run to his clinic for every little doubt.

Chennai-based sports nutritionist and strength and conditioning coach Rahul Gopal is one of the few people trying to fill this gap. Rahul is co-founder of The Formula, a lifestyle clinic that creates customised nutrition and exercise protocols for its clients. Rahul's journey began after a few routine blood tests revealed he had pre-diabetes; his thyroid and cholesterol markers were not great either. By overhauling his lifestyle, as he puts it, he managed to not only lose 16 kg over a period of time but also ensure his pre-diabetes was reversed. "Expecting doctors to worry about implementation of their advice is unfair and is not good use of their precious time. We desperately need qualified 'middlemen' who can do the necessary follow through," says Rahul.

Having said that, Rahul believes ultimately the motivation for any overhauling must come from within: "You cannot outsource your health; you have to take control. If you have to live well, you will have to do it."

The third P: preventive

One assumes such situations arise because lifestyle and dietary changes are a matter of habit formation and willpower (or the lack of it). However, this is not always the case. People are, more often than not, simply clueless about how to implement the suggested changes, where to fit in the exercise, how to form habits that are viable and how not to fall back on comfortable and poten-

TWITTER TWITCH

A week ago, American model Chrissy Teigen, posted a picture of her arm twitching, after she said she "stretched funny". The video garnered 2.07 million views.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BRIDGE THE GAP?

KEEP IT SUSTAINABLE: To find what works for you, you have to take into account your environment, current lifestyle, work schedule, dietary practices and monetary circumstances. A single course of action that falls outside these parameters will eventually peter out.

TRY DIFFERENT THINGS: Diet and lifestyle changes will involve a whole lot of research as well as trial and error. Don't get disheartened in the process.

LOOK TO THE 'BRIDGE' PROFESSIONALS: Find a trustworthy dietician or physiotherapist. Do not hesitate to ask for their qualifications.

INVOLVE YOUR FAMILY: Let them know of the dietary changes you are planning to bring. Ask for their help to keep you motivated while following an exercise programme.

(Inputs by Rahul Gopal and Dr Aniyathodiyil)

POOCH CAFE



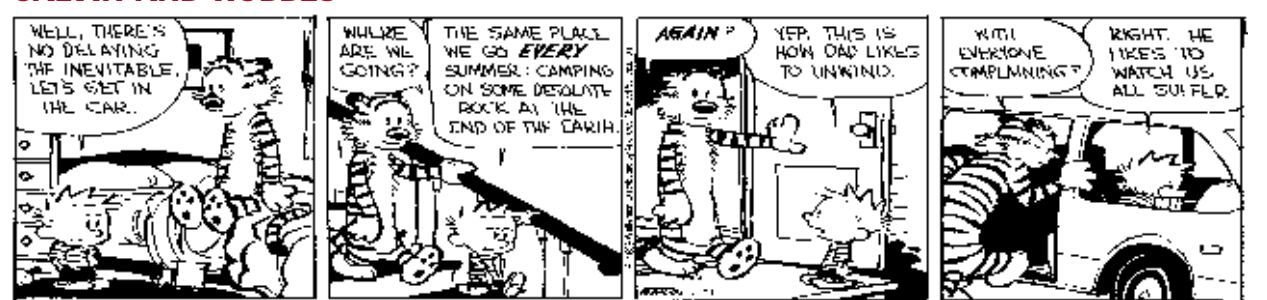
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



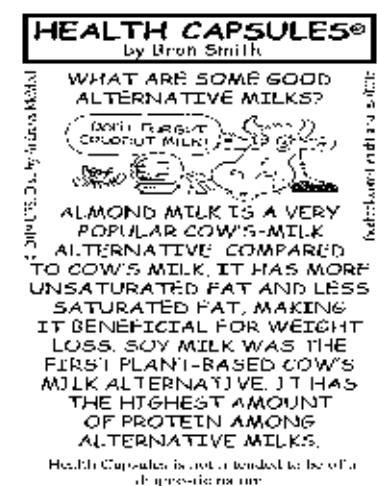
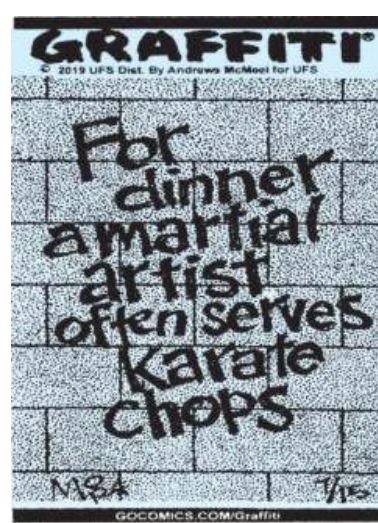
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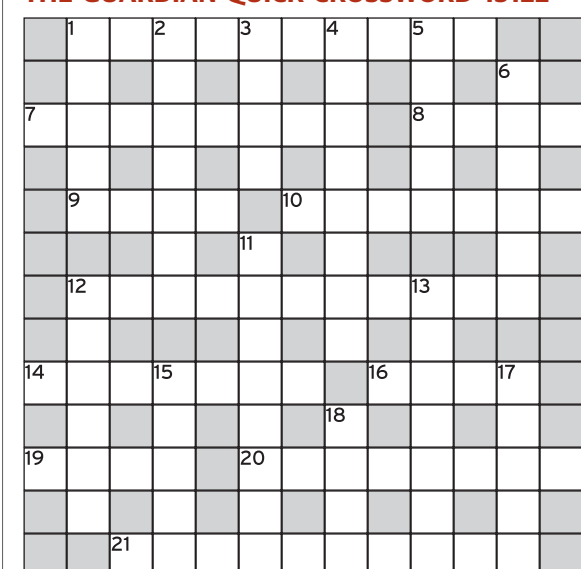
WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13122



- © GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016
- Across**
- 1 The Hunchback of Notre-Dame author (6,4)
 - 7 Actually present (2,6)
 - 8 Julius Caesar's unlucky day in March (4)
 - 9 Glandular secretion from a male deer, used in making perfume (4)
 - 10 Go away (like a swarm?) (4,3)
 - 12 Hot spot in the Mojave Desert, some of it 282ft below sea level (5,6)
 - 14 Obstreperous (7)
 - 16 Shivering fit (4)
 - 19 Where coins were made (4)
 - 20 Member of a former confederacy of six Native American peoples (8)
 - 21 In the first place (10)
- Down**
- 1 Malice (5)
 - 2 London football club (7)
 - 3 Approximately (2,2)

- 4 Central American country, capital Tegucigalpa (8)
- 5 Garishness (5)
- 6 Interior of a steeple (where bats hang out?) (6)
- 11 Gigantic (8)
- 12 Particular (6)
- 13 Attempt, as a joke, to make somebody believe something that is not true (3-4)
- 15 Freshwater mammal with webbed and clawed feet (5)
- 17 Enlighten (5)
- 18 Soft feathers (like this clue) (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 16, 2019.

Solution No. 13121



IN BRIEF



Mediterranean sharks face risk of 'disappearing'

PARIS
Sharks are at risk of disappearing from the Mediterranean as overfishing and plastic pollution choke populations of the endangered hunters, warns a report by World Wildlife Fund (WWF). More than half of shark and ray species in the Mediterranean are under threat, it says. **AFF**



Bull festival in Spain ends with 3 gorings

PAMPLONA
A bull broke from the pack and gored two Australians and a Spaniard during Sunday's final bull run of this year's San Fermin festival. That took the number of gorings to eight for the eighth bull runs. **AP**

India is home to 1,256 species of orchid, says first comprehensive survey

Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide, which was published recently, puts the total number of species endemic to India at 388

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

The Botanical Survey of India has come up with the first comprehensive census of orchids of India putting the total number of orchid species or taxa to 1,256.

Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide, a publication detailing all the species of India was unveiled earlier this month by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The 1,256 species or taxa of orchids belong to 155 genera and 388 species are endemic to India. The publication, authored by Paramjit Singh, former director of BSI, A.A. Mao the present director of the institute, scientists S.S. Dash, S.K. Singh, D.K. Agarwala and J.S. Jalal, also contains photographs of 775 species.

Three life forms

Orchids can be broadly categorised into three life forms: epiphytic (plants growing on another plants including



(From left) *Pleione maculata*, an epiphytic orchid; *Cymbidium lancifolium*, a terrestrial orchid; and *Aerides odorata*, an epiphytic orchid. ***SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

those growing on rock boulders and often termed lithophyte), terrestrial (plants growing on land and climbers) and mycoheterotrophic (plants which derive nutrients from mycorrhizal fungi that are attached to the roots of a vascular plant). About 60% of all orchids found in the country, which is 757 species, are epiphytic, 447 are terrestrial and 43 are mycoheterotrophic.

The epiphytic orchids are abundant up to 1800 m

above the sea level and their occurrence decreases with the increase in altitude. Terrestrial orchids, which grow directly on soil, are found in large numbers in temperate and alpine region whereas mycoheterotrophic orchids, mostly associated with ectomycorrhizal fungi, are found in temperate regions, or are found growing with parasites in tropical regions.

A State-wise distribution of orchid species point out that the Himalayas, North-

East parts of the country and Western Ghats are the hotspots of the beautiful plant species.

State-wise distribution

The highest number of orchid species is recorded from Arunachal Pradesh with 612 species, followed by Sikkim 560 species and West Bengal; Darjeeling Himalayas have also high species concentration, with 479 species.

While north-east India

rank at the top in species concentration, the Western Ghats have high endemism of orchids.

There are 388 species of orchids, which are endemic to India of which about one-third (128) endemic species are found in Western Ghats. The publication points out that Kerala has 111 of these endemic species while Tamil Nadu has 92 of them. Among the 10 bio geographic zones of India, the Himalayan zone is the richest in terms of or-

chid species followed by

Northeast, Western Ghats, Deccan plateau and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. "The publication is the result of years of hard and methodical research through careful examination of protologues, literature and voucher herbarium specimens. Every record has been verified from published floras, revisionary works, doctoral thesis and scientific papers," Mr. Mao said.

Considering the impor-

tance of orchids in floriculture, the publication, which has photographs of 60% of all species, is the first authentic inventory and will be useful for researchers, growers, nature lovers and people with different backgrounds, Mr. Mao said.

Marked by extremely beautiful flowers with unique shape and ornamentation, orchids have complex floral structure that facilitates biotic cross-pollination and makes them evolutionarily superior to the other plant groups.

Another interesting factor is that the entire orchid family is listed under appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and hence any trade of wild orchid is banned globally.

"Some of the orchids like *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Oncidium* and *Cymbidium* are quite popular in floriculture trade," Mr. Dash, an author said.

53 years on, Bareilly to get its jhumka

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
BAREILLY

Bareilly shot to fame in 1966 when the late Bollywood actress Sadhana danced to the song *Jhumka gira re, Bareilly ke bazaar mein* in the movie *Mera Saaya*.

The city, however, had no speciality in making or selling 'jhumkas' (ear danglers) and neither did it make any efforts to cash in on the popularity of the song. Finally, after over 53 years, Bareilly will get its 'jhumka', a symbolic replica of this piece of jewellery.

According to sources, the Bareilly Development Authority (BDA) has sought the approval of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to install a 'jhumka' at the Parsakhera zero point.

The project was first conceived in the early 90s, but hit a roadblock due to paucity of funds and availability of a suitable location.

The BDA had even invited designs for the 'jhumka'. The replica will now come up at the entrance of the city on the Delhi-Bareilly road at Parsakhera.

BDA sources said that the proposed jhumka will be 2.43 m in diameter and 12-14 feet in height. The landscaping around the 'jhumka' is estimated to cost around ₹18 lakh. There will be three surma (kohl) bottles (inspired from the word 'surme daani' used in the song) surrounding the structure. Surma bottles will be kept in parapet walls, which will also have colourful lights installed there.

Besides, colourful stones and zari work, for which the city is famous, would be used for decoration.

Rainbow wave



Shattering boundaries: Members of LGBTQ community taking part in a Pride Parade in Bhopal on Sunday. ***A.M. FARUQUI**

As ransomware rages, debate heats up on response

Globally, losses from malicious software rose by 60% last year to \$8 bn, according to latest data

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Services in the U.S. cities of Baltimore and Maryland were paralysed earlier this year when a ransomware attack locked up computer networks and made it impossible for residents to make property transactions or pay their municipal bills.

Officials refused to meet hacker demands for a ransom of \$76,000 to unlock the systems, but have been saddled with an estimated \$18 million in costs of restoring and rebuilding the city's computer networks.

The dilemma in such cases highlight tough choices

faced by cities, hospitals and corporations hit by ransomware.

Two Florida cities reportedly paid a total of \$1 million in ransom this year, after which a new attack by the same group hit the State court system in Georgia.

Globally, losses from ransomware rose by 60% last year to \$8 billion, according to data compiled by the Internet Society's Online Trust Alliance.

At least 170 county, city or State government systems have been hit since 2013, with 22 incidents this year, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which



adopted a resolution opposing ransomware payments.

"We're seeing more attacks against cities because it's clear cities are ill-prepared," said Gregory Falco, a researcher at Stanford University.

Ransomware has been a thorny cybersecurity issue

for several years globally, marked by global ransomware attacks known as "WannaCry" and "NotPetya."

Pay or resist?

While the FBI and others warn against paying ransoms, some analysts say there is no clear answer for victims when critical data is locked. "You have to do what's right for your organisation," Mr. Falco said.

Josh Zelonis at Forrester Research offered a similar view, saying in a blog post that victims need to consider paying the ransom as a valid option, alongside other re-

covery efforts.

But Randy Marchany, chief information security officer for Virginia Tech University, said it's best not to pay.

Victims often fail to take preventive measures such as software updates and data backups that would limit the impact of ransomware.

"If the encryption in ransomware is implemented properly, there is a zero chance of recovery unless you pay the ransom," Brett Callow, of Emsisoft, said. "Often it isn't implemented properly, and we find weaknesses in the encryption and undo it."

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LOS ANGELES

A healthy lifestyle can reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia even in the presence of genes that raise the risk for these mind-destroying diseases, says a study.

People with high genetic risk and poor health habits were about three times more likely to develop dementia when compared to those with low genetic risk and good habits, researchers reported on Sunday.

Regardless of how much genetic risk someone had, a good diet, adequate exercise, limiting alcohol and not smoking made dementia less likely.

"I consider that good news," said John Haaga of the U.S. National Institute on Ageing, one of the study's many sponsors.



Healthy habits include limiting alcohol and not smoking. ***ISTOCKPHOTO**

with no signs or symptoms of dementia at the start. Their genetic risk was classified as high, medium or low based on dozens of mutations known to affect dementia. They also were grouped by lifestyle factors.

About eight years of study, 1.8% of those with high genetic risk and poor lifestyles had developed dementia versus 0.6% of folks with low genetic risk and healthy habits.

Among those with the highest genetic risk, just over 1% of those with favourable lifestyles developed dementia compared to 2% of those with poor lifestyles.

One limitation - Researchers only had information on mutations affecting people of European ancestry, so it's not known whether the same is true for other racial or ethnic groups.

Disney's *Lion King* takes a break from tradition

It was filmed in virtual reality



Animation roars: Red-billed hornbill Zazu and young lion Simba, right, in a scene from *The Lion King*. ***AP/Disney**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LOS ANGELES

Disney's blockbuster 3D re-makes of classics have rampaged through box offices in recent years, but the studio is banking on its latest - *The Lion King* - to climb right to the top of the food chain.

With a star-studded voice cast, including Beyonce, and estimated \$250 million budget, Hollywood's reigning hitmaker has spared no expense bringing its beloved lion roaring to photorealistic life.

A trailer for the new *Lion King* was watched by 225 million people in its first 24 hours in November, shattering Disney's record.

Almost every shot was conjured from scratch using computer-generated imagery. And yet *The Lion King* is not strictly a 3D animation either, in any conventional sense.

It is instead something totally new, says director Jon Favreau - a film shot by a traditional camera crew, but entirely inside a virtual real-

ity 3D world.

Filmmakers and actors at the studio were able to don digital headsets and "step into" a video game-style African savannah to film rough computer-generated versions of Simba and his pals cavorting through the Pride Lands. "The crew would be able to put on the headsets, go in and scout and actually set cameras within VR," Mr. Favreau said.

The novelty was not lost on child actor JD McCrary, who voices the young Simba early in the film. "We saw everything, we saw the Pride Lands, Pride Rock, the watering hole... We saw it all man, and it was so cool!"

But this groundbreaking method had practical benefits that shape the way the film actually appears, according to Mr. Favreau.

In another break from tradition, the voice actors were recorded together on theatre stages, giving them free rein to improvise.

Czechs go crazy as pop singer Karel Gott turns 80

People queued to get their hands on 'Zero Euro', recognised by European Central Bank as souvenir banknote, depicting the pop icon

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PRAGUE

Hundreds of people from home and abroad queued in steady rain in central Prague Sunday to buy a "Zero Euro" souvenir banknote depicting Czech pop singer Karel Gott in honour of his 80th birthday.

The first fans and collectors arrived on Thursday to buy the zero-denomination banknote for the equivalent of €2 from special ATMs in the shop of a local record company.

"We arrived at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday. We slept in a sleeping bag on the pavement," said Lukas Gandzala,



A man shows 'Zero Euro' souvenir banknotes depicting Czech pop singer Karel Gott at a shop, in Prague. ***AFP**

who came from the northern Slovak city of Poprad, some 450 km from Prague.

"We collect the banknotes, the Zero Euro is a big phenomenon in our country,

and so is Karel Gott," he said, folding his umbrella to finally get inside the shop after his rain-drenched 26-hour wait.

Unlike Slovakia, with which it formed a single State until 1993, the Czech Republic has not yet introduced the euro and its government has no plans to replace its koruna currency in the near future.

Created by Frenchman Richard Faille in 2015 and authorised by the European Central Bank, the Zero Euro notes used solely as souvenirs have so far depicted well-known sites, such as the Eiffel Tower and the Big Ben, and people like Dutch pain-

ter Rembrandt van Rijn.

Dubbed "Divine Karel," Gott has been voted the most popular singer 42 times in the annual Golden Nightingale poll of Czech music fans.

Golden voice

Very popular also in neighbouring Germany, Gott has released almost 300 LPs and CDs, selling dozens of millions of them.

Relishing the singer's hits as well as the title song for the *Maya the Bee* children's TV series, German fans have dubbed Gott "the Golden Voice from Prague".

Born on July 14, 1939, Gott rose to stardom in the 1960s



You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.

INDIRA GANDHI

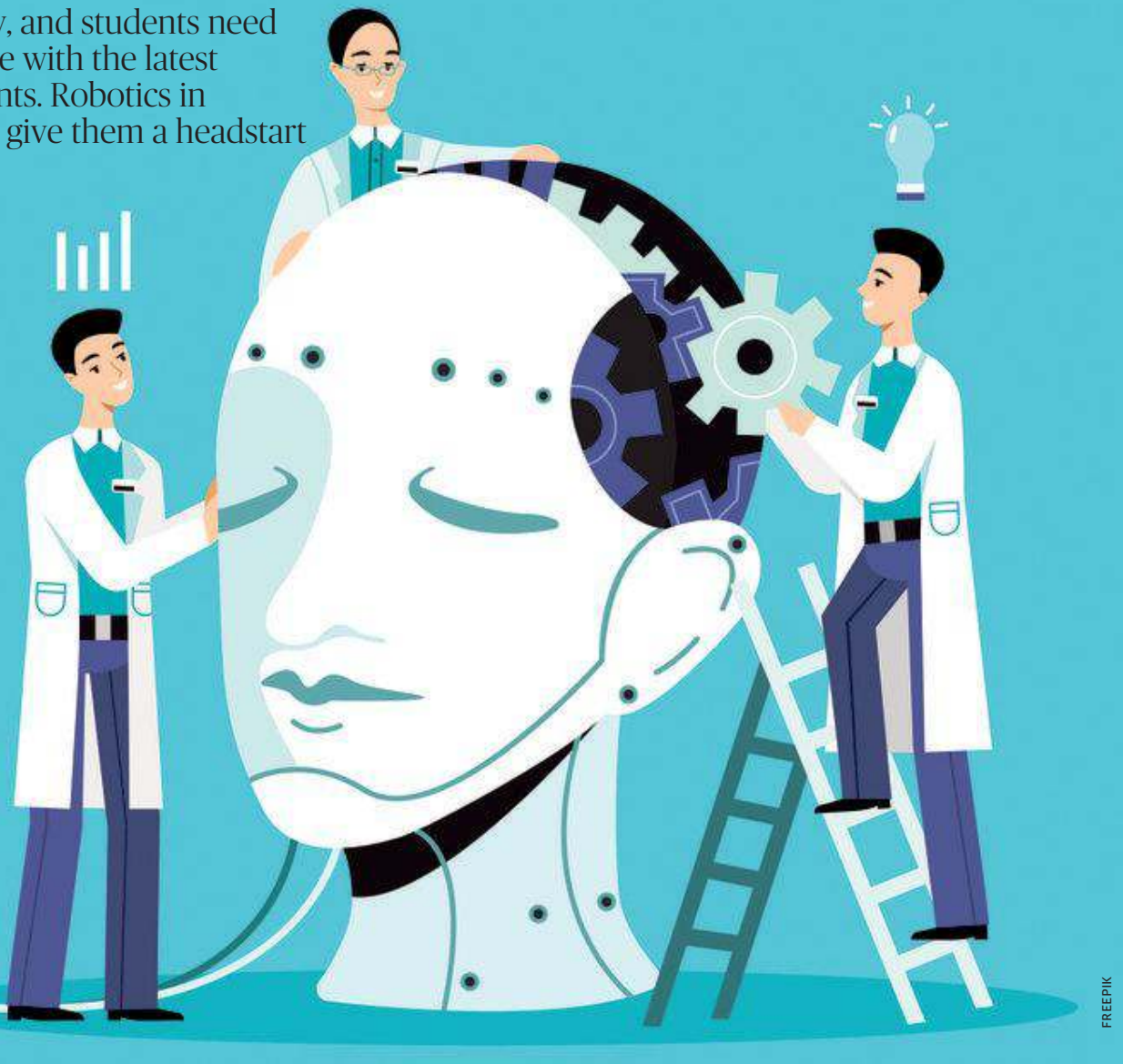


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DELHI
MONDAY • JULY 15, 2019

Get future ready

Technology is what drives the world today, and students need to be in tune with the latest developments. Robotics in schools will give them a headstart



■ MONICA MALHOTRA KANDHARI

Robotics as a career choice is gaining popularity among today's students. Robots are machines that can either independently, or on command, carry out a series of operations and functions. It is a branch of engineering that involves the design, construction and operation of robots. From moving goods around on a production floor to performing complex medical procedures, and being on space exploration missions, robots are fast becoming an important part of our lives. Coupled with advancements in other areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics will play an increasingly integral role in our way of life.

India is still at a nascent stage when it comes to the rise of robotics. As per a global report in 2017, there are only three robots per 10,000 employees in India. This is clearly insufficient to support the country's industrial growth targets for sustained growth. Interventions therefore must be made in our education system to prepare younger students for the future by introducing robotics early on. Learning through robotics can be more effective in engaging the students and also instilling scientific temperament in them. Technology is what drives the world today and students must be adept with the latest developments to be a productive member of society.

Early start

In a job market that is dominated by STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), demand for candidates with qualifications in robotics has seen a near 200% growth. This trend is likely to sustain for the

foreseeable future as the demand-supply gap stabilises. By introducing robotics in schools as part of the educational curriculum, students' interest in the field can be nurtured early on. Learning robotics also encourages the development of higher-order thinking capability and problem-solving skills to produce highly qualified and productive talents for the future.

Robots are being developed and deployed in an increasing number of roles across different industries. With increasing sophistication of robots, robotics calls for greater collaboration and communication in inference drawing, model construction, and testing and controlling of a robot. With students exposed to robotics from a young age, they also learn valuable life skills in teamwork, communication and even community participation in the process.

Introduction of robotics in schools, will therefore deliver benefits on multiple fronts. Ironically, schools, despite being centres of learning and education, are startlingly resistant to change. Even today, schools are largely dependent on teacher-led instruction despite the demonstrated benefits of practical learning. However, with rising awareness and in-parts due to increasing demand,

- Robots are fast becoming an important part of our lives.
- Learning through robotics can be more effective in engaging the students and also instill scientific temperament in them.
- Introduction of robotics in schools, will therefore deliver benefits on multiple fronts

With increasing sophistication of robots, robotics calls for greater collaboration and communication in inference drawing, model construction, testing and controlling of a robot

schools are making headway in adopting new technology and introducing new courses such as robotics.

With the cost of acquiring starter kits or advanced robotic kits falling, affordability concerns, which once was a stumbling block in the mass adoption on robotics in the curriculum, is now resolved. Basic concepts of robotics can also be taught cheap with a little creativity and DIY approach. Students propelled by their interest and aided by creativity and common sense have been known to assemble working prototypes using nothing more than cardboard and other such household items.

In this regard, the government has established Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India with an aim to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds. It also helps in inculcating skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing and so on. Under this initiative, young children get a chance to work with tools and equipment to understand the concepts of STEM. ATL contains educational and learning 'do-it-yourself' kits and equipment on science, electronics, robotics, open source micro-controller boards, sensors, and 3D printers and computers.

The writer is MD, MBD group.

VOICES

Lead learners

Last November, the Ministry of Human Resource Development launched the Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) to improve the quality of higher education faculty. Has it been useful? Some expert comments

■ NEHA RUPEJA



SANDEEP PACHPANDE, CHAIRMAN, ASM GROUP, PUNE

Faculty investment is a worldwide phenomenon, with Nordic countries being the best example of how it can improve a nation's progress.

Recently, Bhutan took an initiative to prioritise its teachers over civil servants.

High quality and committed teachers are critical for shaping the talent of the youth. Combined with the policy of 'Study in India' and the formation of 'National Research Fund', the long pending demand for focus on education can be achieved. Such initiatives will be more effective if remuneration for teachers, across India is standardised.



VAMSI KRISHNA, CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, VEDANTU, BENGALURU

This initiative was launched at the right time as it provided educators a push towards staying relevant and being equipped to tackle today's learning challenges. Such schemes help teachers expand their boundaries while providing them with the know-how for their roles in the next stage of their career, through new-age technology, training and relevant course content. Therefore, this is a well thought out initiative by the government to bolster the education system and demonstrate measurable impact.

Besides improving the infrastructure, the government needs to invest in training teachers who can address these gaps and work towards improving the quality of education.

ANURAG BANSAL



YAJULU MEDURY, DIRECTOR, MAHINDRA ÉCOLE CENTRALE, HYDERABAD

One of the pressing issues of higher education is the lack of quality teachers. The government's decision to set up an annual refresher course has been a step in the right direction as it will lead to better teaching outcomes, subject to stringent implementation. Faculty development is an integral part of any education system, and the quality of education can only improve if more faculty members are encouraged to pursue research and are up-to-date with the developments in their respective fields.



ANURAG BANSAL, SENIOR DIRECTOR, HUGHES GLOBAL EDUCATION, GURUGRAM

India's education sector has witnessed a widening skill gap, and therefore, there is an urgent need to transform the country's education system.

Besides improving the infrastructure, the government needs to invest in training teachers who can address these gaps and work towards improving the quality of education.

But, until sustained efforts and investments are made, it is difficult to deliver significant impact on learning outcomes.

SCHOLARSHIPS

UGAM - Legrand Scholarship Programme

The scholarship is open for girl students who have cleared class XII board exam from the science background. Under this programme, meritorious students who are interested in pursuing B.Tech/B.Arch programmes or are already enrolled for the same this year, will receive financial aid.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must be a female, having cleared class X and XII with not less than 75%, and family income not more than ₹5 lakh p.a. The applicant must be intending to do graduation in B.Tech., B.E. or B.Arch. anywhere in India.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Eligible applicants will get scholarship of ₹60,000 p.a. or 60% of the fee (whichever is less).

APPLICATION MODE: Online
DEADLINE: July 25
<https://bit.ly/2YMyFET>

SHDF Scholarships

Sikh Human Development Foundation (SHDF) and Nishkam Sikh Welfare Council are providing financial assistance to marginalised but brilliant students, who wish to pursue educational courses for higher education.

ELIGIBILITY: Students who have scored at least 60% marks in two latest academic

exams, and are pursuing a professional course at a recognised institution in India may apply for this scholarship if their family income is below ₹1.80 lakh p.a.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Based on their financial need and performance in scholarship test, selected scholars will be provided scholarships worth up to ₹30,000 each.

APPLICATION MODE: Offline
DEADLINE: July 27
<https://bit.ly/2Shp7H>

Global Youth Video Competition

(Television for Environment) is inviting applications from environment conservation enthusiasts to submit short videos of inspiring stories about saving the planet from climate change. Selected top entries will get global exposure and a chance to work with the United Nations' Climate Change Conference.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian citizens between the ages of 18 to 30 years

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Winning entries will get global recognition at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit in New York. Winners will also get the chance to interact with climate change leaders during a round trip travel to UN Climate Conference COP 25 in Chile in December this year.

APPLICATION MODE: Online
DEADLINE: July 28
<https://bit.ly/2xPFLHL>

Courtesy: www.buddy4study.com

Archaeological beginning

Amity University and PAMA Institute for the Advancement of Trans-disciplinary Archaeological Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram, have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share research and academic resources in the field of archaeology, architecture, anthropology, history, civil engineering, geography, geo-informatics, remote sensing and community development.

The collaboration aims to deliver advancements in Indian archaeological research. The memorandum was signed following a meeting of the leadership of both institutions at the Amity University, Noida.

Diploma in animal law

The Animal Law Centre of NALSAR (National Academy of Legal Studies and Research) University, Hyderabad, recently launched India's first academic course on animal protection laws. The one-year PG diploma course is brought in collaboration with the Humane Society International, India. This will be a distance learning course with few contact classes every semester. The main objective behind it is to deliver a strong foundation on the subject of animal protection and establish policy development and research in the field. The last date for admission is August 10. The course details are available on <https://bit.ly/2S0k461>.

Agency for Science, Technology & Research
A*STAR Youth Scholarship
(4 years)
<https://www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/scholarships/astar>

Singapore Airlines
SIA Youth Scholarship
(2 years)
<https://www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/scholarships/sia>

Application Period: 24 Jun 2019 to 28 Jul 2019

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- Evidence based Practice
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- Well Equipped Hostels
- Bank Loan Assistance

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Eligibility : Any Bachelor Degree

Admission Contact : 7397 760 760, 8012 131 111

OFFBEAT... ARTS

ARCHANA SUBRAMANIAN

Each time one hears the word "offbeat", these are the things that come to mind: passion, lesser pay, niche, convincing parents, good teachers to teach them and colleges to opt for. This year, many colleges across India have introduced innovative courses for aspiring students, to bridge the gap between what they want to do and what is available. Watch this space as we feature new courses. This week, we bring you courses you can choose from the Arts stream.

Holistic

There is a dearth of mental health professionals in India where the number of people with mental health issues is on the rise. One factor that contributes to this is the lack of opportunities to gain high quality education in mental health. To bridge this gap, the Department of Psychology, at Mumbai's St. Xavier's College, launched a new master's degree course – **M.A. Psychology: Lifespan Counselling** last month. Any student with a bachelor's degree, across disciplines, having studied at least one paper in psychology during the three years, can opt for this course. On completion, you could pursue an M.Phil in Clinical Psychology, or work in this field.

In an endeavour to further the holistic understanding of ancient Indian culture in all its parameters, the **MA in Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology**, offered by St. Xavier's, Mumbai, provides a sound understanding of the various vistas of our history and culture.

It helps in promoting the conservation of our herit-

What's new?

There's too many fish in the sea, and you don't know which one to hook? Here are some exciting courses in the Arts, launched across colleges in the country

age, and in heritage management. It provides opportunities in the streams of archaeology, museology, conservation, social sciences and the humanities. Graduates have a wide range of job opportunities such as civil services, educational services, journalism, museums, tourism, research, and so on.

For details: <http://xaviers.edu/main/pukar>, an independent research collective and urban knowledge producing institution, has collaborated with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, for a year-long activity-based weekend course which offers an avenue to identify, un-

derstand and study the issues of local communities. The **Diploma in Community-based Participatory Research and Advocacy** aims to nurture the knowledge, passion and talent of youngsters, and promotes their right to research.

The knowledge and skills that the students gain provide them the confidence to become informed thinkers and leaders of their communities.

The course offers skill-based training, discussions and participatory tools through activity-based learning, where the youth begins to examine their everyday lives through an alternative lens. The discussions

on social institutions and events enable them to become more informed stakeholders.

Another course offered by TISS is an **Integrated BED-MEd**. A full-time three-year integrated programme for the preparation of faculty for teacher education, as well as other professional work in education, this programme offers a unique multidisciplinary, applied social science approach towards the study of teaching. With a strong research focus, intensive engagement with schools and teacher education institutions, the course includes a year-long internship and a choice of specialisation. It will enable

a critical understanding of education studies and practices, and develop competencies to contribute to the sector.

For details: <https://www.tiss.edu/>
With an aim to focus on the intersection of law and politics, and the importance of shaping a better understanding of modern India, **M.A in Law, Politics and Society** has been introduced in Ambedkar University, Delhi. This is a two-year degree on research and analysis.

There are four mandatory courses on constitution and public law, criminal justice system, criminal imagery, and law and humanity. The

With a strong research focus, intensive engagement with schools and teacher education institutions, the course includes a year-long internship and a choice of specialisation.

electives in this programme are far ranging, which include law and literature, environmental justice, gender, sexuality and law, supreme court and politics in India. On course completion, you could either get into research, teaching, legal practices or work with non-governmental organisations and law firms.

For details: http://aud.ac.in/admissions/undergraduate/programmes-5/Karampura_Campus/programmes

B.Voc. is a unique programme with multiple exit points. In addition to the normal completion, students have the option of exiting the programme at the end of the first year after earning a diploma, or at the end of the second year and earn an advanced diploma. Students will be trained in skill components, and will be certified by the National Skill Development Corporation on successful completion.

B.Voc. Tourism and hospitality is being offered in Stella Maris College, Chennai. The programme is designed in a manner that the syllabus meets the requirements of the industry and the National Occupational Standards.

For details: <http://stellamariscollege.edu.in/>
(With inputs from Neha Rupeja and Saradha Udayakumar)

Clarity is key



OFF THE EDGE

NANDINI RAMAN

I completed my BE in 2010, joined an IT company, and quit the organisation in 2014. I tried to appear for public sector exams, but I was not able to clear them. So, I started taking math tuitions at home. I also joined as a teacher in a school for a short while. Today, I feel lost. At home, there is parental pressure to get married, but I am not interested. Kindly suggest what my next course of action should be. – Prashant Kumar

Dear Prashant,
What would one expect with no direction in one's prime? What would you want to do? Are you currently a full-time math tuition teacher? Does that make you happy? Why can't you get back to IT again? Marriage can wait till you and find your identity. Please try and meet a good counsellor and get some clarity.

I am a class XI PCM student and want to pursue B.Arch. However, I hear that architects are not paid much, despite working hard. Is it true? What should I do to build a strong career in architecture? What are the career prospects? – Shanthi Vijay

Dear Shanthi,
I am not sure what the source of your information on architects not making good money is. A beginner can expect to earn anything between ₹3 lakh to ₹4.5 lakh per annum; the salary increases gradually with experience and further education. An experienced architect can command up to ₹8-10 l per annum, in the current market. As with many industries, salaries vary based on your location, companies that you work for and other factors. Please speak to a few architects in the business and then make your final choice. NATA is the basic eligibility test for admission into architecture. You need a minimum of 50% marks in 10+2 in any stream (Commerce/PCM) with math. You could start basic NATA coaching classes over the weekends, to get an edge to prepare for the entrance.

I am a B.E. mechanical engineer graduate. I worked for seven months in a tier-2 automotive company, but resigned and have been preparing for UPSC CSE for the last two months. I am interested in it and working hard everyday. But my family's condition is not conducive. As I am the eldest, I don't know whether to work, or pursue my interest at a later stage. Please help. – Vasiq Riaz

Dear Vasiq,
I understand your dilemma and the conflict it is creating for you. Right now, focus completely on your exam and give your best for its preparation (two months is hardly any time to be ready for it or give up). However, be mindful, realistic and practical of how long you are willing to give yourself to crack this exam. Set a realistic time period and should you, for any unforeseen reason, not make it to this, move to plan B and take up a job again in your area of competence and expertise.

I am 23, and completed my B.Tech in chemical engineering in 2017. I was unable to find a suitable job. At present, I am preparing for government exams such as banking, SSC, and so on. However, I am interested in space science, especially in the field of propulsion of rockets. Is there any PG course in India to further continue my studies in rocket science? – Vijay Simha

Dear Vijay,
We are fortunate to have some of the finest aerospace and rocket engineering colleges in India. If you could balance your electives, IIT has a list of eligible courses for each specialisation. Visit the websites, go through the admission processes, look up the eligibility criteria, and start communication directly with the faculty through emails. All the best.

Disclaimer: This column is not a substitute for long-term therapy. It is merely a guiding voice. Some issues may need medical intervention.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. She will answer questions sent to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com. The subject line should be: 'Off the edge'

VIDEO CAFE

KRITIKA RATHORE

The 16-year-old calling out global leaders on climate change

VICE follows the journey of the global climate strike on March 15, across Europe. Students from different countries share their experiences and take us behind-the-scenes of these mass gatherings.

The video begins with the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg stating, "We are facing the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced. If your house is on fire you don't sit down and talk. I want people to panic."

It shows how her actions snowballed and made her small strikes into a global phenomenon – Students call out global leaders to act immediately on the issue of climate change. The short documentary shows the students coming out on streets, skipping school on Fridays, to mark their movement – "Fridays for Future".

Greta's efforts to gather students from all over the world and make the movement visible have earned her a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Watch more about what inspired her here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocVQdr9QFwY>

EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN



The writer teaches at the University of Hyderabad and edits Teacher Plus. usha.bpgll@gmail.com

Set the priorities right

Focus on primary schooling and teacher training would go a long way in strengthening the quality of education

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO



WIDE ANGLE

ALBERT P' RAVAN

While presenting her maiden budget, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made certain statements on education which drew loud applause from ruling party parliamentarians. When she mentioned terms such as 'New Education Policy', 'National Research Foundation', 'Study in India' and 'research fund' in her budget speech, the law-makers thumped their desks and expressed their joy.

The Finance Minister proudly said that three Indian institutions figured in top 200 institutions in the world. She proposed an allocation of ₹400 crore for world-class higher education institutions and announced setting up of the National Research Foundation. Yes, it is good news because every Indian wants their country to achieve greater heights. The bad news is that Sitharaman did not say anything about improving the quality of primary and secondary education in the country. Her budget speech on the education sector focused more on higher education than on school education.

The budget earmarked for education is ₹94,853 crore. Of the total, ₹56,536 crore is for school education and ₹38,317 crore is for higher education. The budget allocation for teacher training and adult education is mere ₹125 crore, which is quite insignificant compared to the budget allocated for this purpose in previous years. ₹50 crore has been earmarked for the appointment of language teachers though it is not the need of the hour. These figures make me raise another important question: What

are our top priorities?

Worrisome

The plight of primary and secondary education in the country is tragic. The problems that plague school education in the country are lack of infrastructure, unqualified and untrained teachers, poor teacher-student ratio and an unhealthy education system. As a result, teaching and learning do not take place. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2018 states that only 50.3% of the Indian students in class V can read texts meant for class II students. The condition is the same in most government and private schools. It clearly indicates that the quality of school education is not up to the mark.

Literacy rate

Right to education is a fundamental right. Article 21-A of the Indian Constitution states clearly that the all children between the ages of 6-14 years should be provided free and compulsory education. What is the reality? India's literacy rate is just 74.04% and in Bihar it is only 63.82%. Shocking, indeed! The Right to Education (RTE) Act does not seem to be effective. The Act states that schools should keep a 25% quota for students whose families earn less than ₹1 lakh per annum. Such students' education costs (fees, uniform, study material, transportation) should be borne by schools, which in turn will get money from the government. As the government does not pay such schools adequately, the outcome of RTE does not materialise. The Global Education Monitoring (GEM) 2017-2018 report also states that India has not been able to provide even the basic elementary education to all children.

Expenditure

Every year, during the pre-budget and post-budget presentation, educationists lament that the country's spending on education constitutes an insignificant part of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). India spends only 4% of the GDP on education whereas some developing countries spend more on education. For example, South Africa's expenditure on education is 6.1% of its GDP.

It may sound pleasant to the ears when our law-makers talk of setting up institutes of excellence, achieving top-ranks in the world university rankings. But, what actually sounds pleasant to the ears are the sincere efforts taken to improve the quality of school education in the country. Though it is desirable to compete with globally well-known and top higher education institutions in the world and figuring in the list of top 200 institutions in the world, what is more important is to strengthen school education.

Recommendations

It is crucial that the government sets its priorities and takes proactive steps to make India a truly developed nation in the field of education. Here are my recommendations:
The focus should be more on school education than on higher education. Primary and secondary education is the foundation for tertiary education. Strengthening the foundation is the need of the hour. Setting a target of 90% literacy rate and achieving it should be a top priority. As the schools of the future need qualified and well-trained teachers, teacher training should be another top priority. Without focusing on the professional development of school teachers, the quality of school education cannot be improved. To make all these happen, it is important to allocate at least 6% of the GDP on education.

The writer is an academic, columnist and freelance writer. rayanal@yahoo.co.uk

Focus on the present

Push away past regrets and go forward with a clear mind



BACKPACKER'S GUIDE

USHA RAMAN

Surprising discoveries and insights happen when you are really not looking for them, when your mind is relaxed and open, free from the many things that normally distract us. I recently listened to the economist Sendhil Mullainathan, speak to podcast host Ezra Klein (June 24) about scarcity, explaining how it can limit performance, particularly in the context of poverty, which he says can claim a huge cognitive load. If people are constantly worried about making ends meet, or where the next meal is coming from, they are unlikely to have much mental energy to spend on planning how to improve their situation. He says a similar situation occurs when one is consumed by a sense of time scarcity. In other words, just thinking about how little time you have to do all the things you need to do, can wear you down, leaving you with far less energy to actually begin doing some of those things.

Confusion

Imagine the state of mind of a student who goes into one class, thinking about the two others for which she has not completed her homework, or the third in which she has a test later that week. All through this class, her mind is only partially on the lecture, wandering frantically between all she needs to do to complete preparing for the test and excusing herself for the unfinished assignments. Her notes, if she takes them at all, are likely to be incomplete and confused. She is consumed by the sense that there isn't enough time to do it all, and makes it true by dissipating attention – and therefore energy. Most of us know that if

we pay attention during a class, we have to do less work (and therefore spend less time) in revision. You are more likely to grasp the concepts if you are listening carefully, besides having the opportunity to clear doubts as they present themselves.

How then does one "clear" the mind and conserve that energy for action? How can you get past a sense of scarcity to take the time you do have? The first step is to recognise your state of mind, and acknowledge that your attention is fractured. The next is to consciously tell yourself that there is nothing you can achieve by thinking about 10 different things, when all you need to do is to focus on the one thing you can do at the present. Mullainathan talks about how he made the decision to not look at his phone first thing in the morning, and avoid becoming distracted by the notifications that would inevitably pop up, demanding his attention. So many of us begin our mornings by reading through messages as we hit the snooze button on our smartphone alarms. Even before we are fully awake, we have given in to these distant demands. When we obsess over tasks that haven't been done, or those yet to be done, we have less mind space for tasks that can be done – in the here and now.

Suppose you walk into that classroom with a mind as clear and open as you can make it, pushing away for the moment, the invading regrets and anxieties of past and future. Suppose you make space for listening and thinking and – hopefully – understanding that comes from giving attention to the present. It could make all the difference – after all, the only time we really have is now.

The writer teaches at the University of Hyderabad and edits Teacher Plus. usha.bpgll@gmail.com

MONEY MATTERS

Ease the load

Opting for a scholarship — a right one at that — can ease your education burden

■ MADHUMITHA SRINIVASAN

As is common with students today, Arun Kumar Thangavelu is planning to pursue his higher education in a university abroad. He has completed his graduation in journalism from Madras Christian College and has applied for the MA Broadcast Journalism course at the University of Sheffield, the U.K. And like it is for most students, studying abroad can be expensive. So, he has applied for a scholarship hoping to get a waiver off the tuition fee.

"I have applied for the International Post Graduate Taught Merit Scholarship 2019. If I qualify to avail it, I will get 25% off the tuition fee. The course fee is approximately around £20,000 and 25% of it is a big deal. I can use the money for accommodation and living expenses," he says — an opinion held by many of his peers.

Many students, besides putting in the effort to choose the right university, also work towards qualifying for scholarships that can help ease the financial and mental strain.

Moving to a new country, finding suitable accommodation, settling into a different culture and starting a new academic process can be stressful. And with a student loan adding to the stress, any sort of monetary relief can be a big stress-buster. This is why many students, besides putting in the effort to choose the right university, also work towards qualifying for scholarships that can help ease the financial and mental strain.

Options

Most universities offer several types of scholarships to make themselves attractive for prospective students and help ease the transition. Broadly there are means-based scholarships (based on income or community criteria of students), merit-based scholarships (based solely on a student's academic performance), talent-based scholarships (on the basis of their academic or non-academic talent such as sports or performing arts), and research scholarships (specifically for students pursuing research studies under independent or guided projects at research institutions).

There are also crisis scholarships provided to students



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

based on their vulnerability indices or situation such as the state of being differently-abled or orphaned, and academic promotion scholarships are provided to students based on their promotion to next level of education in the same institution.

"There are scholarships available outside the university provided by few associations based on empowering or uplifting women and students from low-income families but they are rarely based on academic credentials and are mostly availed by the locals at that particular locality whereas scholarships that come from the university are

mostly the ones we (international students) consider," adds Ramyaa Rathna Kumar, an engineering graduate who is off to pursue Masters' in Electrical and Computer Engineering, from Texas A&M University, the U.S.

With so many options, how does one go about choosing a scholarship? Rutuja Dandgaval, a masters' student at the School of Public Health and a Future of Change scholar at University of New South Wales, Australia, says: "Students must do a thorough research about all available options. Present to the scholarship team one unique quality of yours that makes you more deserving

than others."

While she is a recipient of a partial scholarship, she knows of students who proved that inadequate financial support can be a barrier to their dreams and passion having received a full-tuition scholarship.

Advantages

Rutuja sees even a scholarship that offers partial financial relief as a big advantage. "The reality is that most students from India take casual jobs to support their living in Sydney which affects their academic performances. In such cases, even a partial scholarship makes a difference. You save on the tuition

fee and support your living with it instead of taking casual jobs. That's how it has been a privilege to me. Because of it, I have been able to grab significant career opportunities such as unpaid internships and international study trips without a second thought about expenses," she explains.

Besides financial advantages, scholarships also provide numerous academic, professional, and personal benefits. Ankur Gupta, Assistant Manager Content, Buddy4Study, a scholarship platform that connects scholarship and education loan providers with seekers, lists the benefits: a vote of

credibility and achievement to one's academic profile; added advantage during recruitment or while interviewing for other scholarships; and an impetus to maintain their academic records as most running scholarships (provided periodically) are based on scholars' continued academic performance.

"Some scholarships also offer career guidance, mentorship, and exclusive access to resources like research labs, elite community memberships and so on which other students are not able to secure," he adds.

(With inputs from Sarada Hidayakumar)

Points to consider while choosing scholarships:

- Scholarships covering both academic and non-academic expenses are more beneficial.
- Generally, scholarship programmes that allow students to benefit from multiple programmes or do not restrict them to just one programme should be chosen.
- Some scholarships are provided as interest-free loans to students. Hence, it is preferable to choose scholarships which are non-refundable over loan based scholarships.
- Students should try to apply for scholarships which are not bound to partner academic institutions of the scholarship provider.
- Scholarships which pay academic fees directly to the institution and the remainder to the scholar for subsistence are generally more convenient to manage.
- Scholarships which allow scholars to adjust their education loan payments help them to manage their liabilities.
- Scholarship awards which include a contingency grant or fund which is provided on request help students to manage the emergency expenses.
- Other factors include the fees of the scholarship application, level of match with the applicant's profile, the field of specialisation and so on.

Inputs: Buddy4Study

IN FIRST PERSON



Internship with a cause

For Benjamin Jakob Torjesen, coming to Mumbai was a great learning experience

This Spring I was one of the four undergraduate students who came to India for the annual 'Strathclyde India Prosthetics and Orthotics Project'. The trip was a part of the Strathclyde Engineering for the Development programme, supported by the Strathclyde Alumni Fund. The aim was to create a long-term collaboration with services in India. This trip included an internship with the Ottobock Artificial Limb Centre and Jaipur Foot clinic in Mumbai, a non-profit social enterprise which provides artificial limbs to people below the poverty line.

Learning on the job

One of the main purposes of this trip was to compare the privately funded and the free services in Indian clinics. At the privately funded Ottobock, I shadowed the lead clinician, as well as took part in patient care and assisted the technicians in the workshops. Along with my fellow intern, we took below and above knee casts of pa-

tients, and then filled them. Then, we adapted and modified them to fit the patients using a combination of features taught by Strathclyde and Ottobock. We also adapted several orthotic casts for patients with cerebral palsy.

The Jaipur Foot clinic is a clinic run by technicians who are trained on the job to make prosthetic and orthotic devices free of charge. The clinic, where everything is produced from scratch, is supported by the government and relies mainly on donations. The Jaipur Foot, a rubber-based prosthetic leg for people with both above and below-knee amputation, is made from recycled materials including car tyres and wood. Here all patients are prescribed a similar socket design which is made from a drainpipe material.

I also attended a Jaipur mobile foot camp in Mumbai where we saw polio patients who would typically be prescribed a long-leg orthosis called a KAFO — Knee-Ankle-

Foot Orthosis — which aims to stabilise the joints and assist the muscles of the leg.

My experiences here have shown me that there are many ways to solve a problem. Many of the amputations which take place are due to traffic accidents and diabetes. Even though people are vaccinated against polio now, many are still affected by this, and also by cerebral palsy. So, the need for these services is growing.

Organisations such as the Jaipur Foot clinic are making a big difference in people's lives. Many patients are concerned with appearance and do not want to come across as disabled. If it was not for these services, many people would not have the chance to work and take care of themselves and their families. I felt a great spirit of unity working alongside these technicians and clinicians.

The writer is a final year student of BSc (Honours) programme in Prosthetics and Orthotics at the University of Strathclyde.

ECETERA

■ Global Excellence Scholarship

University of Dundee is awarding Global Excellence scholarships to students wanting to pursue full-time undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at the University in the session starting this September.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must hold an academic offer of entry for an undergraduate or postgraduate programme in any of the academic schools for the September 2019 entry. Applicants must be classified as overseas fee status.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected students will be provided a stipend of £5,000 per year up to five years for undergraduate programmes and for one year for postgraduate programmes.

DEADLINE: October 31
APPLICATION: Online
<https://www.dundee.ac.uk/study/scholarships/sept2019/uod-global-excellence-sept-ug/> (Undergraduate programmes)

<https://www.dundee.ac.uk/study/scholarships/sept2019/uod-global-excellence-pg/> (Postgraduate programmes)

■ MBA Business Excellence Scholarship

Newcastle University is providing MBA Business Excellence scholarships for MBA candidates.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must hold a conditional or unconditional offer of admission to the full-time MBA programme of the 2019 entry. Applicants must hold an English language qualification of IELTS 6.5 or its equivalent with no subskill below 6.0. They must also have substantial managerial experience (minimum three years).

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected students will be awarded £ 7,000, payable towards the cost of tuition fees.

DEADLINE: Application starts from THIS September, for one year of study.

APPLICATION: Online
EMAIL: scholarship.applications@ncl.ac.uk

■ Dean's Indian Scholarship (Journalism and Communication)

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, is offering Indian students the scholarship for undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Journalism. This is applicable for the full-time programmes beginning in September 2019.

ELIGIBILITY: The applicants must be Indian residents. They must be applying for a full-time undergraduate and postgraduate programme in journalism.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected students will be awarded £3,000-£4,000 towards the cost of their tuition fee for each year.

DEADLINE: August 30
APPLICATION: Online
hass-pg-enquiries@strath.ac.uk

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■ ARATHI MINI

VisualCV

This app is user-friendly and convenient to create resumes, online portfolios and cover letters for job applications. With the help of professionally designed templates, you can create your resume and continue to edit it as many number of times as you require. Apart from the available templates, you can create your own template and add additional information to existing ones. The templates allow you to add your



photos to the resume. VisualCV also features options to convert your resume to PDF or Word, and import resume data from LinkedIn. (<http://bit.ly/30xwiy>)



CV Engineer

The app comes with a set of professionally-created CV templates that will help you add information and come with up a resume in minutes. It helps create cover letters and provides tips on how to write each section of the resume. There are also examples of CVs with each template to see how it will look once completed. Once your CV is completed, you can save it to Google Drive or share it through your email. The app also features prep questions and answers to help you ace interviews. (<http://bit.ly/32g3h3s>)



Resume Builder

This free app comes with 10 pre-set templates that will help you create resumes and convert them to PDFs or Word. There are also options to add signature or photos. Apart from personal hobbies, interests, and academic achievements, the templates also let you add job descriptions in case you already have some work experience and would like to elaborate on it. You can save your resume offline in case you need to work more on it. (<http://bit.ly/2XCGW14>)

ADMISSIONS

■ MSc Molecular and Cellular Basis of Human Disease

INSTITUTION: University of Sheffield, the U.K.

DURATION: One year

ELIGIBILITY: Three-year bachelor's degree with a minimum of 65% in a biomedical-related subject. Medical students who wish to intercalate their studies are also accepted. Overall IELTS grade of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component or equivalent.

COMMENCES: September

FEES: £24,600 for overseas students, for 2019

https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/bms/study/masters/mol_cell

Correction: In the Voices column (issue dated June 08) the location of T.A. Pai Management Institute was wrongly mentioned as Manipur instead of Manipal. The error is regretted.

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VALUE ADD

Hone your skills

Inclusion of writing in school and college curricula will enhance the quality of the students' thought process

■ R. W. ALEXANDER JESUDASAN

Identifying the potential of a student early, while in school or at home, is vital for his/her development. Further, the student needs to be exposed and taught properly following right methodology so that all virtues are honed and put to proper use, thereby benefiting and shaping the individual's future. Overall development in reading, comprehension, speaking and writing should be given due attention while the student is in school or college. One of the key components essential for shaping the future of the student besides other virtues is the ability to write.

Writing ignored: Though there are efforts made to inculcate writing habits in a preliminary way, there is hardly any focus on how to compose the contents to be written in a systematic and efficient way. As a result, the child does not get the practice to effectively communicate his/her thoughts through writing. Either the student ends up as a poor writer or a vague writer, and does not rise to higher levels because of this deficiency. Sometimes by the time the student develops this habit or skill, it becomes too late and doesn't contribute adequately to one's career progression in our educational system.

Writing, a portfolio among teachers abroad: During my recent visit to US institutions, I found many of them had a portfolio known as "Professor of Writing" and a department titled Writing, which baffled me, as it is unheard

of here. In a detailed discussion with the concerned faculty in the U.S., I came to know that there is a separate portfolio in UG colleges, to help students, especially freshmen.

As a student joins the institution in the U.S., proper orientation and screening of students are carried out in the first few days or weeks of commencement of an academic year, in order to identify one's strengths and weaknesses or shortcomings, and if one needs special attention, it is provided. Since writing constitutes a major component in the academic journey of an individual irrespective of any field one pursues, this area, if properly channelised and groomed, for which a Department of Writing or a Unit is established in schools and colleges, it would help many students.

Application of writing in UG courses: Through the involvement of professors focused on writing, the student receives due attention and training as the student ought to do composition, presentation of project proposal (as independent or joint project/research which is a part of UG education in the overseas institutions), project report or a research thesis and so on. Specialised focus on writing enables one to properly put across one's thoughts in the right and proper perspective and not to mince words in the presentation. This method of approach wards off unwanted usage of words and expressions and makes the presentation crisp and to-the-point, thus making reading meaningful and appropriate. This makes the reader to capture the thoughts of

the writer in the best possible manner.

Proper writing, leading to laudable outcomes: During my three decades of teaching, research and administration, I have had the distinct privilege of associating with officials and friends through many international engagements, and used to be appreciative of the manner in which they have their presentations clearer and in a sharply focused manner. No wonder many of the overseas writings such as project proposals and reports, etc are widely accepted with appreciation as they have been properly and systematically exposed to writing skills in their formative and developing years of the lives.

Nobel laureates and quality publications in globally acclaimed journals and magazines emerge from some of the world's well-known nations, and one of the secrets of such success would undoubtedly be the focus on writing in the educational systems, in these countries. Hence, it would be worthwhile to consider the portfolio of writing in our educational system both in schools and colleges as that aspect is expected to enhance and augur Indian education, which is undergoing, frequent changes in the past few decades.

The writer is Principal and Secretary, Madras Christian College.

■ KARTIKEYA LADHA

When we consider people who are currently making a living through writing, we are usually just thinking about journalists or scriptwriters most of the times. However, there are other job opportunities you can consider if you want to make a career out of creative writing.

The main job of a creative writer is to produce work that is engrossing and appealing. You need to know exactly what you are writing, who you are writing for, and how you are going to get the material out in the market for your target audience. You have to write as a creative individual but also think like a marketer when getting the work out there.

Many people take pleasure in creative writing as a pastime, and with the growing use of social media and digital platforms, there already is an increasing demand for quality content creation. And for the content to be of prime quality, you need good writing.

So, it is essential that you do not restrict yourself in the possibilities of what you can do with your writing abilities. You can write novels, short stories, journalistic articles for digital media platforms, and even work as a copywriter, content writer and other freelancing jobs.

Job prospects

It is not mandatory to have a certificate or any sort of degree in creative writing. Anybody with a good command over a particu-

lar language can infiltrate this attractive but highly demanding field. Though, in today's world, English is the primary language to focus on as it is already the most established out of all the other languages, especially in the globalised business world.

Some of the existing opportunities for innovative writers are:

Copywriter: Mainly in the field of marketing/ advertising field. The job of a copywriter is to create content highlighting the features of a particular product/service in a compelling manner for the customer. These people are accountable for writing the brochures, publicity letters, product catalogues, circulars, and so on.

Article writer: Article writers can write a variety of articles on the subjects ranging from fashion, food, travel, health, trade, entertainment, sports, education, politics, etc. and can also decide to write for various platforms like dailies, magazines, and websites.

Author: One can become an author by penning a story on a topic of interest. It can be in the segment of fiction or non-fiction. But expecting to just write a book in the hopes its sales will automatically pick up after it is published is not how it works. Plenty of work goes into the marketing of the book.

Scriptwriter: Scriptwriters write the content and stories for movies, plays, and television shows. They do thorough research and have to put in a lot of work to figure out a plot and the storyline of a given theme or topic.

One can also get into the training profession, after acquiring a master's degree in creative writing.

Another alternative is to hunt for jobs in firms that are focussed on producing specialised content. The success in this field highly depends on the quality of your work.

Groundwork

Creating a portfolio of your best written work with a focus on including your published work is essential in building your reputation as a serious writer.

Just try to read and write as much as you can. There is no limit to how much you can improve.

Try to get your work out in the world. Don't be afraid of facing criticism. Try and submit it wherever you can. Enter competitions. Approach local drama groups to see if they will use your scripts.

To make yourself more employable, look for prospects of getting some solid work experience. Don't just focus on building a resume, but put your energy in learning new skills and mastering the old ones. You could work as a paid managerial for a company or choose to volunteer in an organisation you admire. You could also associate yourself with a charity and try to get endorsements for them or write grant letters.

Formal training

The field of creative writing does not require formal education. An educational background in English literature or journalism and communication will definitely be an added advantage.

Few institutions in India do offer short term courses in creative writing. The minimum educational qualification needed for applying to a creative writing course is Higher Secondary or class X/ XII with humanities or arts as the main discipline. The duration of these courses is usually for one year. Most universities offer courses in creative writing as optional subjects in addition to the regular bachelor's and master's programmes.

The writer is the author the book *Dream Beyond Shadows*.



On the 'write' track

If you are aiming for a career as a creative writer, finding the right opportunity could be challenging, but not scarce

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MBA - EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Are business leaders born or made? Undoubtedly they are made but definitely not in class rooms. Today's businesses pose complex challenges. Classroom inputs alone cannot equip managers to tackle these challenges. Managers need intense industry exposure. GEMS B School Bengaluru, a twelve year old, dynamic business school, a pioneer in Work-Study MBA programs, located in the precincts of the Bangalore Palace, offers you various MBA program where you can work and study, Learn and earn, experience and explore.

Industry Synergised MBA

This is a two year MBA offered in Specialisations like Marketing, HR, Finance, IT, Logistics and supply chain etc.

The moment you join this 2 year MBA, you will be offered a full time salaried job in a corporate in the specialization you choose. Monday to Friday you will learn management concepts hands-on in a corporate, Saturdays and Sundays you will come back to the GEMS B School campus to study management fundamentals. At the end of two years you will have an Internationally recognised MBA, a steady job with a good salary and two years of work experience. Your career takes off. GEMS B School students are currently employed in corporates like Accenture, Capgemini, Dell-EMC, Yahoo, Flipkart, Ernst & Young, Amazon, J.P Morgan, HSBC, Wipro, Infosys, Daimler, Mercedes, SAP, Goldman Sachs, to name a few.

MBA in Healthcare Management & Hospital Administration

World over there is a growing demand for qualified and skilled healthcare managers. MBAs in the Healthcare Management and Hospital Administration are playing key leadership roles in large corporate hospitals starting as professional healthcare managers and growing up to leadership roles like CEOs, CFOs, COOs and Healthcare Entrepreneurs. While doctors are busy handling clinical issues, vital administrative functions of hospitals are effectively managed by healthcare managers.

GEMS B School offers a 2 year MBA in Healthcare Management & Hospital Administration. These students will be placed in a corporate hospital and will work Monday to Friday and study in the campus on Saturdays & Sundays to get an Internationally recognised MBA in Healthcare Management & Hospital Administration with 2 years experience.

Students enrolled for this programme work with leading Hospitals like HCG, Cloudnine, Sparsh, Columbia Asia, Apollo, Baptist and many more.

MBA in Hospitality & Travel, Tourism

Travel, Tourism and Hospitality is a sunrise industry offering exciting job opportunities in India and abroad. If you are adventurous and have a passion for travelling this is the right career for you. There is an acute shortage of qualified Travel, Tourism and Hospitality professionals.

This is a 2 year MBA programme where, the student is placed in a full time salaried Job in 'Fiestaa Resort-n-Event venue', a luxury resort and events venue located near the Bangalore International Airport, owned and Managed by GEMS B School. Students will learn various aspects of Travel Tourism and Hospitality hands-on for 5 days and in the classroom for two days. At the end of two years the student earns an Internationally recognised MBA in Hospitality and Travel Tourism with 2 years experience.

MBA in Event Management

Event Management is the application of project management skills to the creation and development of events like Conferences, Symposiums, Seminars, Fairs, Exhibitions, Concerts, Festivals and functions. Event Management is an excellent career option for youngsters who love action, variety, challenge and freedom. Ideal for those youngsters who want to be independent and love outdoor work.

GEMS B School offers an MBA in Event Management, a two-year earn while you learn, work while you study program. Soon as students join this course they will be placed in an Event Management company, Monday to Friday they will work with a reputed event management company in Bengaluru and Saturdays & Sundays attend classes in the campus.

An MBA student in Event Management with a few years of work experience can also start his/her own event Management Company and flourish. Many of our students have.