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*Terms & Conditions Apply:
Fixed Group Departure on 23AUG'19.
Booking before 20JUL / Visa charges and Gst extra.
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DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 16 JULY 2019

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WEATHER

Max: 33.0°C
Min: 25.2°C
RH: 87%
Rainfall: 5mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Rain, thundershowers likely. Max/Min 33/25°C

WORLD

Trump continues his 'colour' attack on Congresswomen

SPORTS

Kiwis overthrown! Officials gave extra run to England

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ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Ashada Shuddha Purnima till 3.08 am (Wednesday)
Star: Purvashada till 8.44 pm
Varjyam: From 5.29 am (Wednesday)
Durmuhurtam: 8.29 am to 9.21 am; 11.16 pm to 12 midnight
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR
Ziqaad 12,1440 AH

PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.42 am
Zohar: 12.32 pm
Asar: 4.56 pm
Maghrib: 7.00 pm
Isha: 8.16 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.50 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 3.44 PM
MOONSET TODAY 4.16 AM

MOON LANDING

Chandrayaan-2 launch aborted

Glitch noticed while loading propellant into rocket engine

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC NELLORE, JULY 15

The launch of Chandrayaan-2 was put off at the eleventh hour early on Monday morning after a snag was detected which was causing a gradual drop in the high-pressure helium bottles where were to operate the valves of the cryogenic upper stage.

The launch was postponed after detecting a decline in pressure inside a tank containing helium gas, which is used to operate valves to cook the liquid-fuelled rocket engines. Sources noted that the problem was observed on the GSLV rocket and not the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft. Isro scientists decided to stop the 2.51 am launch when there were still 56 minutes and 24 seconds were left to go. Isro will now need to fix the problem and await a new "launch window" when the optimum path to the moon can be taken.

The postponement caused a ripple of disappointment not only among scientists at the mission control room but also in the visitors room where President Ram Nath Kovind had arrived to watch the launch and in the viewers gallery outside that was packed despite the hour, and those who sat up to watch the historic event.

That quickly gave way to thousands of messages for Isro, which had built the mission of a shoe-string budget of ₹978 crore. The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter will orbit the moon for a year, it will launch a lander carrying a rover to the moon. The lander Vikram and the rover Pragyan will work for one lunar day, or 14 earth days. Nearly an hour after halting the countdown, a spokesman of Isro announced that a technical snag was observed in the launch vehicle system at T-56 minutes and as a measure of abundant precaution Chandrayaan-2 launch has been called off.

■ Page 2: Launch date not decided

NIA Bill gives more teeth to fight terror

India will become a police state, says Oppn

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 15

The government on Monday assured that it would never abuse the NIA law to target anyone even as it asserted that it would ensure that terrorism is finished off in the country, irrespective of the "religion of the accused".

Seeking to give more teeth to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Lok Sabha on Monday passed a Bill to allow it to probe terrorist acts against Indians and Indian interests abroad, cyber-crimes and cases of human trafficking.

In an intervention during the discussion on National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019, home minister Amit Shah said Parliament should speak in one voice in giving powers to the NIA to send out a message to terrorists and the world. Some MPs said the anti-terror law is misused at times to target members of a particular community. "Let me make it clear the Modi government has no such intention. Its only goal is to finish off terrorism... we will also not look at the religion of the accused while taking action."

AMIT SHAH, Home minister

■ Report on Page 8

TISS suspends classes, tells students to vacate

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 15

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on Monday suspended academic activities in the city and closed the institution indefinitely until further orders to avoid disturbances on the campus. This follows an unsuccessful attempt to end a students' strike over fee that began on July 8.

The closure is limited to the academic campus, while the hostels are still open for the students.

However, a large number of students are frightened by the recent developments.

The TISS administration spoke of "possibilities of disturbances" and the fear that "the situation may deteriorate". This has further unsettled students.

The management in order to curb the strike called the parents of students who were on hunger strike and forced them to step back.

■ Page 6: Students' right to protest denied

COUNTER POINT

How nice would it be if the status quo continues for the next 4 years!

Short-circuit in hostel kills girl

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, JULY 15

Ten-year-old Barapati Spandana who lived in the SC Welfare Hostel located in NSP Quarters, died when a tubelight under which she was sleeping exploded and set the room on fire.

It had rained on Sunday night. The little girl's bed was under a tubelight. There were nine other children sleeping in the hostel room. When the tubelight exploded it fell directly on Spandana who died on the spot.

"The flames from the tubelight spread to the room and set the beds on fire. There was thick smoke which made it difficult for the other girls to breathe. They were in the dark and shouted with fear."

Fortunately, watch woman N Laxmi who was on duty that night, rushed into the room, saw the flames and smoke, and began getting the other girls out of the room one by one. She saved all the other nine girls in the room. She could not see Spandana in the room full of smoke, and this is what pains her the most. "It is a very sad incident in my life that I failed to notice her in the thick smoke," she said sadly.

Two students of a nearby hostel, Veerababu and Narayana, rushed to the girls' hostel after hearing the shouts and helped in the rescue and evacuation of the hostel.

■ Page 6: Most hostellers were away

Don't point finger, Owaisi tells Shah

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 15

The Lok Sabha on Monday witnessed a spat between home minister Amit Shah and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi.

The verbal duel started during a discussion on the NIA (Amendment) Bill, when opposition members started interrupting BJP's Satyapal Singh.

Mr Singh alleged that the then Hyderabad police commissioner was asked by a political leader of the state to change the course of investigation in a particular case else he could be transferred out. He said he is aware of the development as at that time he was Mumbai police commissioner. Objecting to his claim, Mr Owaisi, demanded that Mr Singh should place all records on table of the House.

On this, Mr Shah got up and pointing out at Mr Owaisi, said opposition members should have the patience to listen to others point of view. Mr Owaisi got agitated and asked Mr Shah to not point a finger at him and said he cannot be frightened.

In response, Mr Shah said he is not trying to frighten him. "When you have fear in your mind then what can I do," he hit back.

TS, AP provide more jobs

Hyderabad: AP, Telangana state, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh lead the states in the quality and quantity of jobs they provide to their people, while Bihar, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh are last, said a survey done by the Centre for Policy Research (CPR). AP and TS together secured the top position with 57.3 points.

■ Report on Page 6

TWO CRPF MEN FROM AP SAVE GIRL IN J&K

COREENA SUARES AND YUSUF JAMEEL | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 16

Two CRPF jawans of the 176th battalion M. Gowri Naidu and Nalla Upendra, who hail from Vizianagaram and Srikakulam of Andhra Pradesh, saved the life of 14-year-old nomad Gujjar girl by risking their lives on Monday. A video of the rescue of the girl from the gushing waters of a mountain stream in J&K's Baramulla district has gone viral.

In the video, Jawan Naidu is seen jumping into the stream and he is joined by Jawan Upendra as they fight against the strong currents of the Feropzora stream near the township of Tangmarg, about 38 km northwest of Srinagar.

The girl, identified as Nageena, was taken to a nearby sub-district hospital for treatment.

■ Report on Page 6

Treasure hunters kill 3, give bloodbath to lingam

NAGABHUSHANAM HOSKOTE | DC ANANTAPUR, JULY 15

A family of three elderly persons was allegedly sacrificed and their blood offered to a Shiva lingam at Korthikota village under Tanakal manal in Anantapur district early on Monday.

The victims were identified as Shivarami Reddy, retired instructor at an ITI college, his wife Kamalamma, 70 and his sister Satyalakshmi, 70. Kadiri DSP B. Srinivasulu said Shivarami Reddy was working to renovate the centuries-old Shivalayam on the outskirts of Korthikota soon after his retirement. He used to spend most of his time at the temple, along with his wife. His sister Satyalakshmi arrived from Bengaluru to support her brother in the renovation effort. The trio was sleeping in the temple on Sunday night when alleged treasure hunters attacked them. The gang was reportedly searching for ancient treasure believed hidden in the temple, a popular myth in these areas.

The gang reportedly slit the throats of Shivarami Reddy, Kamalamma and Satyalakshmi and collected their blood in vessels. The blood was offered as *rakthabhishekam* to the lingam in the temple and smeared around the temple premises.

It is suspected that the gang performed the sacrifice before they began hunting for the treasure they believed was hidden there.

■ Page 4: Cops hunt for killer treasure hunters

₹5 lakh for accident victims

New Delhi: A compensation of five lakh for death and ₹2.5 lakh for suffering grievous injury in a motor vehicle accident case have been proposed by the Centre, as it was introduced in the Lok Sabha the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2019 on Monday, aiming to make it more stringent.

■ Report on Page 7

INSIDE

■ CITY... PAGE 2
Teachers, priests help to stop child wedlocks

■ POLITICS... PAGE 5
TRS awaits KCR return of BJP fire

JAGAN GOVERNMENT TELLS CENTRE ALL NAIDU PPAs WILL BE REVIEWED

S.N.V. SUDHIR | DC VIJAYAWADA, JULY 15

The Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government appears to be determined to review the Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) signed by the previous government despite the Centre red-flagging the entire procedure.

Two days after the Union minister N.K. Singh wrote to Mr Reddy on the PPAs, the Chief Minister's principal adviser Ajeya Kallam amply clarified that the PPAs will be reviewed.

Talking to media persons, Mr Kallam said that during the past five years, PPAs were entered for wind and solar energy sectors. He clarified that those PPAs were finalised at exorbitant prices.

"The previous government made agreements for 25 years at exorbitant prices which do not exist in any other part of the country. These agreements will cost the state exchequer ₹25,000 crore for 25 years," he said.

■ Report on Page 5

CLINICAL | CHANGE

Surrogacy for a fee, advertising it or exploiting surrogate mother punishable

Commercial surrogacy to be banned

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Commercial surrogacy would become a thing of the past as it will soon be banned. Only close relatives would be permitted to act as surrogates to infertile couples for "ethical altruistic" reasons.

Undertaking surrogacy for a fee, advertising it or exploiting the surrogate mother will be punishable with imprisonment for 10 years and a fine of up to ₹10 lakh according to a Bill. The Centre on Monday introduced the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha that also provides for the constitution of surrogacy boards at the national and state levels, as well as that the intending couples should not abandon such a child under any condition.

The proposed legislation says that only Indian couples who have been legally married for at least five years would be allowed to opt for surrogacy. Health minister Harsh Vardhan introduced the bill in Lok Sabha.

The bill seeks to "allow ethical altruistic surrogacy to the intending infertile Indian married couple between the age of 23-50 years and 26-55 years for female and male, respectively".

■ Due to lack of legislation to regulate surrogacy, the practice of surrogacy has been misused by surrogacy clinics, according to the Bill.

2018 but lapsed as it could not be passed in Rajya Sabha.

The proposed legislation defines surrogacy as an arrangement whereby an intending couple commissions a surrogate mother to carry their child.

No payment other than reasonable medical expenses can be made to the surrogate mother. The surrogate child will be deemed to be the biological child of the intending couple, it says further.



Ticket app

SCR GM Gajanan Mallya appeals to rail users to avail UTS mobile app for buy tickets, avoid standing in queue

SOCIAL ILL

Teachers, priests help to stop child wedlocks

SHE teams play active role in protecting child's future

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

The parents of 16-year-old Divya (name changed) showed her *jathakam* or horoscope to a priest near the Yadadri temple. Her horoscope matched with that of a man twice her age, and the marriage was scheduled. The police got wind of the illegal child marriage, prevented it and bound the parents over before a magistrate not to commit the crime again.

Using informers of all kinds, the Rachakonda SHE teams have averted 65 child marriages.

Temple priests, Angawadi teachers, fellow villagers, Child line and Child Welfare Committee, and fellow students have provided information to the police about impending child marriages.

In some cases, the arrival of the police at a wedding has led to attacks on them by guests and family of the couple. To avoid such incidents, the crack-down is done a day before the marriage.

In an incident reported in Sunkishala-Valigonda, a group of elderly persons in the village tipped off the police about the marriage of a 16-year-old minor being married off to a 23-year-old man. The Choutuppal She-team went to the house of the girl days before the marriage and found enough evidence of the intended crime to bind over the parents before the executive magistrate.

The school management played a crucial role in exposing a child marriage. The Ibrahimpatnam She team were informed by the management of a private school in Turkayamjal village that a 10th class student, 15 years old, was to marry a 24-year-old. The girl had stopped coming to school which alerted the school management.

AREA	NO OF CHILD MARRIAGES STOPPED IN RACHAKONDA LIMITS
Bhongiri	34
Choutuppal	17
Ibrahimpatnam	7
Kushaiguda	1
LB Nagar	1
Malkajgiri	5
Vanasthalipuram	1
Total	66



INFORMERS

Village priests **6** Anganwadi teachers **4** Village elders, Childline and CWC **54**

CLASSMATES

A girl informed the She-Team in Bhongiri that her 16-year-old classmate had stopped coming to school. After inquiry, the She-Team found that the girl was being married. They stopped the marriage and counselled parents before letting them off.

VICTIM DIALS COPS

A minor girl called up the Child Helpline 109 to them about her parents' to get her married. While her parents were performing wedding, the SHE Team stopped the marriage.

When their 15-year-old friend stopped attending classes at Zilla Parishad High School at Ramanthapur, her friends dialled 109 and shared the information about the wedding date and location. Following the tip-off, the She Team in Malkajgiri division went to the girl's house and found the family was planning her marriage.

ANGANWADI TEACHER

An Anganwadi teacher alerted the She-Team after she received about her 16-year-old student getting married to a 22-year-old man. The Choutuppal She team visited the house and caught the parents preparing for the marriage.

The marriage was cancelled.

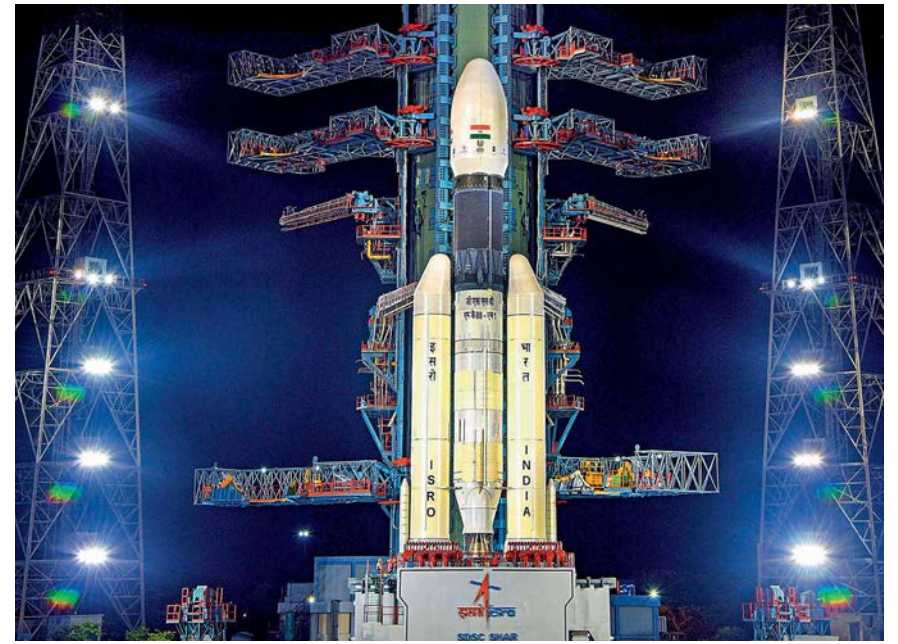
Despite having a law that prohibits child marriages, they are a reality in many parts of the country. Child marriages account for 27 per cent of marriages in India. The incidence of child marriage is higher amongst the socially, economically and educationally backward sections.

According to Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat, "What-

ever the reasons may be, one cannot overlook the crippling effect that child marriages have on the overall growth of the child. There is a fear of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Her nutrition, education, employability, confidence all take a beating in an alien household. There are high chances of death during pregnancy for minor girls, and it also has a huge impact on the baby."

He said that if the parents assure the police they will not commit the crime again, they are left off with counselling, but they can also be booked.

They are cases where the rescued girl has gone on to do wonderful things. One such is Anusha from Saroor Nagar, who has represented the state in women's cricket. She was awarded ₹10,000 as a reward from the commissionerate.



A photograph of the GSLV Mk3 rocket — carrying the orbiter and probe as payload — at Sriharikota before the mission was put off during early hours of Monday due to a gas leak. — PTI

Panel to find reason for helium leak from engine

B.R. SRIKANTH | DC SRIHARIKOTA, JULY 15

A new date for the launch of India's much-vaunted second lunar probe Chandrayaan-2 will be announced as soon as a committee of experts identifies the rogue component which forced a hold on the GSLV MkIII rocket's flight in the wee hours of Monday.

Mission control at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota Range, halted the countdown 56.24 minutes before the launch, on discovering leak of helium from the cryogenic upper stage of the rocket.

Sources in Isro told Deccan Chronicle that a pre-dawn review meeting about the snag was chaired by Isro chairman Dr K. Sivan, where a decision was taken to set up a committee to identify the malfunctioning component in the cryogenic upper stage of the rocket.

This committee would be able to commence its probe after draining of tonnes of fuel over the next two days.

"These experts must be able to reach the upper stage at the launch pad, and find out what caused the leak of helium. In case this is not possible, the rocket will be moved back from the launch pad to the assembly facility. Dr Sivan and other top scientists and engineers will meet again to study the report which will be submitted by the committee and subsequently take a decision on the next launch date. This entire process could take about two weeks," sources added.

Sources said though Dr

Technical snags routine in rockets

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC NELLORE, JULY 15

A rocket launch is a risky business. Anything can go wrong at any time. India has called off previous missions at the last minute to rectify glitches.

In August 2013, a GSLV D-5 mission was called off 1 hour 14 minutes and 20 seconds before launch due to a leak in fuel system during the filling up of the liquid propellant. The mission was successfully launched on January 5, 2014.

If technical snags occur during the countdown, it may delay the launch by a few days or weeks. If the glitch was not noticed by ground support system, it may lead to a havoc.

In Monday's scrubbing of the GSLV launch for Chandrayaan, Isro demonstrated its technology of spotting snags even during the last minutes of the countdown, an engineer explained.

CALLED OFF

MAY 2018: 58 seconds before the first launch of SpaceX's Falcon 9, an automatic abort triggered a shutdown. Technicians scrambled to rescue the mission but were forced to reschedule the launch.

AUGUST 2017: Japan Space Agency postponed the launch of a H-2A rocket with a navigation satellite due to a possible leakage of helium gas, a few minutes before the launch.

JANUARY 2015: Elon Musk's SpaceX rocket launch aborted a minute before take-off.

Sivan hinted about the possibility of a launch on July 16 in case of a snag, it would not be possible because of a very brief launch window on Tuesday and the fact that a number of tests and dry runs are essential before announcement of the launch date.

Former Isro chairman G. Madhavan Nair said a dip in pressure in the fuel

tanks or a leap in these tanks were handled with ease earlier.

"I remember that we had a leak during fuelling of PSLV rocket which launched Chandrayaan-1 in October 2008. Despite a downpour, I went along with other engineers, to fix the leaking fuel line a few hours before the blast off," the former Isro chairman added.

Launch date not decided

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JULY 15

The launch of Chandrayaan-2 was put off at the eleventh hour early on Monday morning after a snag detected which was causing a gradual drop in the high-pressure helium bottles where were to operate the valves of the

cryogenic upper stage. The revised launch date will be announced later, he added.

It is expected that the process of investigating the technical snag may take around 10 days.

Earlier this year, when the Chandrayaan-2 launch dates were announced, Isro chairman Dr K. Sivan

had said that the launch window - the time period within which space missions would be launched - would end on July 16.

The next opportunity may arise on July 29 or 30. If the spacecraft is not ready by then, the next launch window opens only a few months later, sources in the Isro said.



Nalgonda, Suryapet medical colleges will get superspeciality facilities

— Etala Rajendar health minister

BRIEF

TikTok use gets notice for KMC

Khammam: Outsourced employees working in the Khammam Municipal Corporation (KMC) landed in trouble because they were shooting TikTok videos and chatting on WhatsApp groups during office hours. The issue went to the notice of Collector R.V. Karnan after the videos of the personnel busy with their social media accounts went viral. He issued a memo to KMC commissioner Srinivasa Rao and asked for an explanation. There are many outsourced employees working in different departments in the corporation office. There have been complaints that these employees are not serious in performing their duties. The KMC chief is expected to submit a report soon.

TS YOUTHS STRANDED IN SAUDI ARABIA

NARENDER PULLLOOR | DC NIZAMABAD, JULY 15

Around 30 youths from the north Telangana districts are stranded in Damman city of Saudi Arabia for the last few days. Due to expired work permits, they are unable to return home. Reportedly, a few of them are facing criminal charges for illegally stay. They urged the Telangana state government and the Central government to take the initiative of their safe return.

Around 400 youths from undivided Nizamabad, Adilabad and Karimnagar districts went to Saudi Arabia in 2015 in search of a livelihood.

A Delhi-based agent sent them to Damman city, assuring employment. For two years, they worked in Damman and after expiry of their work permits, they continued to stay in Saudi Arabia.

Speaking to this newspaper, Gulf migrant workers welfare society president Shaik Chand Pasha said the travel agent had cheated the unemployed youths. Instead of a salary of 1700 riyals per month, a mere 500 riyals were paid to Indian workers, he said. After four years' stay Saudi Arabian officials initiated stringent action against illegal migrants. In this context, most youths returned homes, but 30 youths were stranded in Damman as they did not have any legal documents to reach home.

CORNEA REPAIR ENZYME BEING TESTED IN CITY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

A tissue softening enzyme collagenase is being clinically tested through the first human trial at L V Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad for treating burns, accidents and acid attacks that affect eyes.

According to research conducted by the UK-based Newcastle University and published in famous journal *Nature*, the application of collagenase to cornea, softens the underlying tissue and allows for stem cells situated to repair damage. The clinical trial would be conducted on 30 patients in Hyderabad.

Dr Sayan Basu, the director for the Centre for Ocular Regeneration, at LVPEI, explained, "The 30 candidates for trial will be selected after proper scrutiny and the results are expected in 2021."

Dr Vivek Singh, lead scientist at LVPEI, explained, "If the trial is successful, it will save time and money in treating alkali burn patients without the need for long term follow up."

Corneal trauma is seen in 1 of every 5 burns cases and it is estimated that 5,00,000 people lose their sight due to chemical burns including acid attacks.

EXIT EXAMS ARE FOR COACHING CLASSES: TJDA

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

Proposed exit exams are only for private coaching classes, said junior doctors who state that the government is not interested in improving medical education instead only want to tax the medical students.

Dr P.S. Vijayender, the chairman of Telangana Junior Doctors Association, said, "Most TS medical colleagues have 60 per cent faculty." The junior doctors have also expressed unhappiness.



The Sai Baba temple at Dilsukhnagar has been decked up for the Guru Purnima celebrations on Tuesday. The full moon day in Hindu month of Ashadha is known as the day to worship teachers (gurus). The Guru Purnima celebrations were started at Shirdi in 1908 and the practice subsequently spread to all Sai Baba temples. — DC

CIVIC ISSUE

Officials show their helplessness in checking Bonalu visitors

ASI barricades Golconda mosque

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 15

Officials of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have removed empty liquor bottles from a mosque at the Golconda Fort and barricaded it with bamboos. The bottles were believed to have been thrown away by devotees who visited the fort for Bonalu.

Photographs of some youth sitting in a mosque situated at the Nazri Bagh inside the Fort with liquor bottles have gone viral on social media, upsetting local Muslims.

Officials claim that the devotees were not aware that they were sitting in the mosque as there were no signboards to indicate that the structure is a mosque.

There are five mosques inside the Golconda Fort,



People gather at an unused mosque in Golconda Fort on Tuesday after reports on social media suggested some people were sitting there with liquor bottles. — DC

but none of them are in use.

Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin on Monday interacted with the officials of the ASI and expressed his anguish over the sacrilege of sanctity of

the mosque and asked to maintain the sanctity of mosques inside the Fort.

Mr. Osman bin Mohammed Alhajiri, a Congress leader and Deccan Waqf Properties Protection Society president, has also

submitted a petition to the superintending archaeologist Milan Kumar Chauhan and demanded him to maintain the sanctity of the mosques inside the Fort.

Though ASI regulations

do not allow liquor inside a protected monument, he said ASI officials failed to check if the devotees were carrying the liquor bottles inside the monument.

He asked the government to take action against the officials.

The ASI officials, however, clarified that it was not possible to frisk the devotees during the Bonalu festival as they arrive thousands in numbers.

Understanding the sensitivity of the issue, ASI Venkateshwar Rao said we have cleaned the floor of the mosques and washed with water. "Now we have posted security guards to guide the visitors."

Two local youth — Fahad bin Jubair and Shaiykh Riyaz — have lodged a complaint before Golconda Police Station about the sacrilege of sanctity of the mosque.

HC grills state on arts panel

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

Asking whether an Urban Arts Commission is existing or was constituted earlier in the state, the Telangana High Court directed the TS government to submit details about such a commission which is to be constituted under the Urban Areas (Development) Act of 1975.

In each state for protection and conservation of heritage structures. The division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Shameem Akther raised the issue while senior counsel Niroop Reddy brought to the notice of the court on Monday that the Commission had identified Errum Manzil as one of the 10 distinguishable architectural styles

prevalent in Hyderabad, which is to be protected as per the Constitution.

Mr Niroop Reddy, counsel representing senior journalist Pasham Yadagiri, who filed a PIL challenging the Telangana Heritage (Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Maintenance) Act 2017, stated that the enactment by the legislature had led to utter confusion in the preservation and conservation of ancient monuments.

His counsel submitted that as per the resolutions of UNESCO's World Heritage Convention of 1972 which was adopted by India in 1975, states have a bounden duty to protect ancient monuments to pass on to generations of the future, their rightful inheritance. The bench adjourned the case to Tuesday.

Bharat 6
Petrol & Diesel

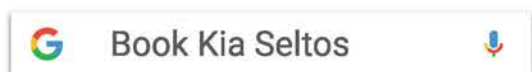
PRESENTING
SELTOS
BADASS BY DESIGN

Signature Kia Design Globally Acclaimed	Next-gen AT & MT Petrol & Diesel BS VI Engines	1.4 Turbo GDI with DCT First-in-segment	37 Connectivity Features With Kia UVO Connect
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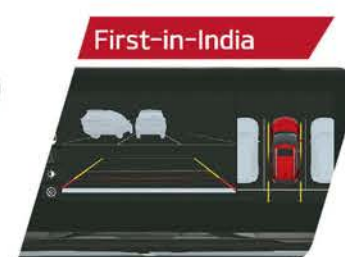
BOSE Premium 8-speaker Music System with LED Sound Mood Lights



10.25 HD Touchscreen Navigation



Smart Pure Air Purifier with UVO Controls



360° View Camera with Blind View Monitor (BVM)



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26 New Additional Features:

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The Power to Surprise

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: **TELANGANA: HYDERABAD: CAR AUTOMOTIVE, JUBILEE HILLS, PH: 7997705333, PPS MOTORS, HITECH CITY, PH: 6309908117, LB NAGAR, NAGOLE, PH: 6309908118, VIHAAN AUTO, SECUNDERABAD, PH: 9738312345, VIHAAN AUTO, KUKATPALLY, PH: 9394812345** **ANDHRA PRADESH: GUNTUR: SIMHA, INDIRA AUTONAGAR, PH: 7331122066 TIRUPATI: HOSHI AUTO, TIRUPATI, PH: 8688829739 VIJAYAWADA: SIMHA, ENIKEPADU, PH: 7331122055**

INCCEN-102/19





Bright future

Hyderabad top cop Anjani Kumar tells probationary women RSIs to study all fields of traffic policing, master IT



KCR not bothered about health and education, only the Secretariat

— D.K. Aruna
BJP leader

Another dowry death in city

Hyderabad: Unable to bear harassment for dowry by her husband, whom she married after an affair, a 22-year-old woman committed suicide by hanging at her house in Kukatpally. Police said N. Jyothi had married Naresh about two years ago and the couple was staying at Sangeethanagar in Kukatpally. Jyothi was working at a supermarket while Naresh was doing odd jobs. Police said Naresh had started harassing Jyothi for ₹2 lakh additional dowry. A panchayat was held at Kubhya thanda in Ranga Reddy district from where Jyothi hails and Naresh promised not to trouble her. On Saturday evening, Naresh and Jyothi attended a birthday party at IDPL and returned home in the night. On Sunday morning, Naresh called Jyothi's brother Jawaharlal to inform that she had committed suicide. Alleging that Naresh and his family were responsible for Jyothi's death, Jawaharlal lodged a complaint.

Woman ends life after tiff

Hyderabad: A woman attempted to set herself on fire when her husband reportedly started asking her to go to work. Police identified the victim as Muni Begum, 40, wife of Md Basha, a watchman, in a serious condition at the Osmania General Hospital. Police said the couple had migrated to the city in search of livelihood 20 years ago from Kurnool and were living in Moghalpura. They have a 20-year-old son. Moghalpura inspector A. Ravi Kumar said, "Her husband who works as a watchman asked her to go out and work and earn money. She got vexed with this. After her husband and son left to work, she doused herself with kerosene and set herself ablaze." Neighbours who were alerted by her screams called the police who rushed her to Osmania Hospital. She reportedly sustained 100 per cent burns.

5 arrested for man's murder

Hyderabad: Five persons involved in the murder of Syed Muqtar Ali, 21, on Tuesday last were arrested by the Kalapathar police on Monday. Police said he was in love with one of the accused, Hasan bin Raouf. Muqtar was chased and stabbed by the accused at about 7.30 pm last Tuesday. Police identified the other alleged attackers as Ahmed Yafai, Abu Misri, Samad Misri and Syed. Haider Moinuddin. Two others are at large. Police said said that family elders had advised Muqtar not to meet the girl. Kalapathar inspector K. Kanakaiah said since then the two groups were quarrelling. During Ramadan, police were called in separate them.

Techie ends life at home

Hyderabad: A software engineer working with an IT giant in Gachibowli reportedly committed suicide by hanging at his house on Monday. Gachibowli inspector R. Srinivas said the victim, S. Revanth, 32, was staying with his wife in a flat at Siramnagar in Gachibowli. On Sunday, Revanth's wife went to her parents house and returned on Monday morning. When she opened the door, she found his body hanging from the ceiling with a rope. She called his parents who live in the neighbourhood and an ambulance. The paramedics reached the house and declared the techie dead, said the inspector. Later, Revanth's father Vijay Kumar lodged a complaint.

CHILLING PLOT

Swords to kill bizman stored in a cricket kit

Business rivalry reason for Ramprasad's murder

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 15

Nine days after Vijaywada-based steel unit owner T. Ramprasad was stabbed to death in public in Punjagutta, police announced the arrest of his ex-business partner and other accused on Monday.

Business rivalry was stated to be the reason for the murder.

A.R. Srinivas, joint commissioner, West Zone, said the main accused was Koganti Satyanarayana alias Satyam. The murder was allegedly carried out by his associate Tekyem Shyam Sunder and three others identified as Pulivarthi Bala Naga Anjaneya Prasad, Ramu and Pritham.

Mr Srinivas said Ramprasad, his brother-in-law Vura Srinivas Rao and Satyanarayana were partners in a steel factory from 2003. They ran into losses in 2013.

Suspecting that Ramprasad was at fault, Satyanarayana demanded that he pay ₹70 crore.

The amount was brought down to ₹23 crore, to be paid by Ramprasad and his brother-in-law.

The DCP said Ramprasad was supposedly

It was killer's return favour

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

The Hyderabad police has unearthed chilling details from the plotting that led to the fatal attack on steel unit owner T. Ramprasad, including how one of the alleged assailants was persuaded to participate in the murder.

Joint commissioner A.R. Srinivas said that on June 28, Shyam Sunder, an accused in the murder, and Pulivarthi Bala Naga Anjaneya Prasad, who attacked the victim, came from Vijaywada to Hyderabad and stayed at a lodge in Abids.

They tracked Ramprasad to the Venkateswara Swamy temple in Punjagutta. Police said the main accused Koganti Satyanarayana lured Anjaneya

Prasad into the plot by helping him get his father-in-law's premises vacated by a tenant who had filed a civil case. To return the favour, he had to murder Ramprasad.

Satyanarayana and Shyam Sunder also roped in others identified as Tirupathi Suresh Chandika Anand, Sriram Ramesh, Sheik Azharuddin, Pathipati Naresh and Venkat Ram Reddy.

The gang mounted surveillance at Ramprasad's factory at Parigi, his residence at Khajaguda, Gachibowli and near his office at Durganagar in Panjagutta. They chose Durganagar to attack him. When Ramprasad went to the Balaji temple, Anjaneya Prasad was already there. When he came out, they attacked him.

avoiding the accused and filed cases against Satyanarayana and Shyam

Sunder because of which they were arrested by the Vijaywada

police in 2012 and 2013 with the help of influential politicians.

In 2015, Ramprasad shifted base to Hyderabad and started a steel factory in Parigi. Satyanarayana and Shyam Sunder began looking for hired killers kill Ramprasad, Mr Srinivas said.

After tracking the movements of Ramprasad, Shyam Sunder lay in wait with the alleged killers Anjaneya Prasad, Ramu and Pritham at a park in the lane opposite Durganagar Colony.

Shyam Sunder brought a cricket kit containing swords in a two-wheeler, parked it opposite a temple and walked away.

Mr Srinivas said when Ramprasad left the temple, the trio took out swords from the cricket kit and rushed to attack him.

Ramprasad tried to escape but got stuck between his car and the fencing.

The trio attacked him and escaped.

Passersby rushed him to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to injuries the following day. His wife T. Vaidehi filed a complaint with the Panjagutta police.

3 CITY YOUTHS ARRESTED IN ATM THEFT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

Three youngsters from the city, who were involved in six cases of attempting to steal cash from ATMs, were held by the Moinabad police on Monday.

Another suspect is absconding. According to Moinabad police, they gang was involved in three attempts to steal from ATMs at Narsingi, two at Moinabad and one at Raidurgam. No money was lost.

Based on the footage recovered from CCTV cameras installed at the ATMs, the suspects were identified as intermediate student Md Sarfaraz, 20, graduate student Md Ameer Rayees, 21, both from Dhankota, Golconda, Md Fardeen, 19, of Kishan Bagh and were apprehended, while their associate Abdul Raheem is absconding, said the police.

Most hostellers were away

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, JULY 15

Ten-year-old Barapati Spandana who lived in the SC Welfare Hostel located in NSP Quarters, died when a tubelight under which she was sleeping exploded and set the room on fire.

Firefighters reached the hostel and brought the flames under control. Only then was Spandana's body found.

Pravallika, one of the rescued students, said, "We were asleep and woke up with the sound of the exploding tubelight. I jumped from my cot and noticed the flames spreading."

Pravallika and another student Nandini had been sleeping on either side of Spandana and were in a state of shock. They were sent to a hospital for treatment.

Spandana's parents B. Sanjeev and Laxmi, from Maddirala village in Nutankal mandal, Suryapet district, were called and told the tragic news.



The charred room following a tubelight explosion at SC Welfare Hostel in Khammam on Tuesday.

Hostel warden V. Vinoda said, "I left the hostel at 9 pm and I received a phone call at 11.50 pm on the fire accident. I informed the higher officials immediately."

It is fortunate that there were only 10 students in the room at the time of the fire incident. There are 105 students in this hostel of whom 70 were away.

Social welfare director V Satyanarayana gave the bereaved parents ₹20,000 in cash and ₹2 lakh in cheque as compensation from the government.

According to the electricity department, rain-water must have fallen on the tubelight, which was situated under the ventilator, and this caused the short circuit.

N. Nageswara Rao, district CPM secretary, said that the incident showed the conditions in welfare hostels and said the electric wiring in hostels should be checked immediately. Hostel warden V. Vinoda and watchman Laxmi have been suspended. A show cause notice has also been issued to assistant warden Sripatha.

SAVAGE HUNT ■ Gangs believe rumours of Vijayanagar trove

Marauding treasure hunters destroy heritage in Seema

NAGABHUSHANAM HOSKOTE | DC ANANTAPUR, JULY 15

The human sacrifice at the Lord Shiva temple in Korthikota, reportedly by treasure hunters who offered the blood of the three murdered persons to the Shivalingam and surrounding parts of the temple, has galvanised the police.

As no effective action has been taken to curb hunters of hidden treasures, hundreds of centuries-old temples and sculptures have been destroyed by such gangs in the Rayalaseema region.

Durgams (forts on hills) are a natural defence system. There are more than 20 such forts in various parts of the Rayalaseema region that were constructed by the Vijayanagar rulers. Experts say each durgam took 10 years to build, but today, most of them are in a dilapidated

4 SPECIAL TEAMS HUNT FOR TREASURE HUNTERS

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, JULY 15

A family of three elderly persons was allegedly sacrificed and their blood offered to a Shiva Lingam at Korthikota village under Tanakal manal in Anantapur district early on Monday.

Kadiri DSP A. Srinivasulu told Deccan Chronicle that they were suspecting role of

condition, having been ruthlessly destroyed by those in search of hidden treasures in the forts. Gooty fort, that goes back to the 7th Century AD, had 15 small forts inside its premises along with a large number of wells.

The treasure hunters are encouraged by politi-

cal leaders. Their greed has destroyed or damaged many ancient structures. Many cases are pending with the archaeology department.

An ancient Ganesh statue at Lepakshi was stolen two years ago and the case is pending with the police.

cal leaders. Their greed has destroyed or damaged many ancient structures. Many cases are pending with the archaeology department.

HC: Give Nowhera report in a week

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

Asking the Telangana police why it has delayed taking action against Heera group chairperson Nowhera Shaik, when the first FIR against her was filed in 2012, the Telangana High Court directed the investigation officers to submit the status report of the investigation in the seven cases filed against her in Telangana state.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Shameem Akther was dealing with a petition by the All India Heera Group Victims Association seeking to direct the CBI to conduct an inquiry into the scam of ₹50,000 crore and on the money transactions of the Heera group.

The bench found fault with the officials for not providing sufficient information related to the investigation and asked when they could complete it.

Justice Chauhan observed that inaction in the case registered in 2012 till 2018 made it appear that the police was hand in glove with the Heera group. When

government counsel Sanjeev said that the accused was in judicial custody, the bench asked whether she was taken into custody in 2012. The bench inquired about the cases lodged against the Heera group in 2018 and 2019 and directed the police to submit the status report on the investigation within two weeks.

The court opined that a CBI inquiry should be taken up if the issue has national ramifications.

Mr Tauseef Basha, counsel for the petitioner association, submitted that the CBI would be the suitable agency for investigation as the money collected by the accused had been sent out of the country through hawala routes.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

MAN, 52, HELD FOR MOLESTING FIVE-YR-OLD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

A five-year-old girl was molested by her 52-year-old neighbour at his house on Monday at Pudur mandal in Vikarabad district. She was playing when the accused, J. Ravakoti, 52, took her to his house and touched her private parts. He was later arrested.

Parigi circle inspector Y. Mogulaiah said the incident took place at Pedda Umenthal of Pudur mandal under Chengomul police station limits on Sunday. The victim is the daughter of a labourer couple in the village. Rayakoti is an electrician.

After he sexually assaulted her, the girl went to her house crying and informed her mother. The mother lodged a complaint with the police.

"Rayakoti showed porn videos to the victim and touched her private parts," the inspector said. Rayakoti was booked under the IPC and the POCSO Act. The girl was sent for medical examination and would be provided counselling.

TRIO SENT TO PRISON FOR NUISANCE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

Three persons were convicted on Monday for creating nuisance on the road in an inebriated condition at Chaitanyapuri and obstructing the police from performing their duty. The court directed the trio to undergo two days of imprisonment and pay ₹500 each as penalty.

According to the Chaitanyapuri police, three persons, G. Chetan, 28, N. Rakesh, 23, and N. Johnny, 30, were seen creating nuisance on the road and disturbing passersby near a private bank.

The police patrol approached the drunk trio and asked them to leave the place and not create a ruckus. The drunk men instead of complying blocked the police.

The police said that a case was registered on the trio under IPC Sections 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions) and 290 (punishment for public nuisance) and Section 70 (A) of the Police Act.

FARMER NABBED FOR SNATCHING

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

A farmer and his friend were arrested police for snatching a gold chain from a pedestrian.

Police said that at about 12.15 am on July 13, B. Alivelu, a hotel worker, was on her way home when two persons on a bike snatched her gold chain.

The Saroornagar traced the bike (TS06 EA 2967) and arrested Govindu Niranjan, 24, a farmer from Chennaram in Nagarkurnool district, and his friend A. Saibaba, 20.

37th ANNIVERSARY EVER LOVING MEMORY



Late Sri VANKAMAMIDI RAMULU

Born: 28-11-1923 Expired: 16-07-1982
We have lived for 37 years dearly with fragrance of your affectionate memories for years each day. You poured us with love, joy and all that was best. You shall always live in our hearts.....

Inserted by: V.MALLAMMA (Wife), RAVI, MADHU, UMA, ROOPA SHOBHA, MADHAVI, SRINIVAS PRABHU, DR. SHANKAR RAO, GRAND SONS & DAUGHTERS

OBITUARY "The righteous shall live forever"



Sad demise of Mrs. MARY REEVES

(Retd. State Electricity Board) W/o Late. William Reeves DOB: 15.8.1934 DOD: 15.7.2019
Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Bandlines, Hyderabad at 10.30 AM on 16th July, 2019.
Inserted by: Sons, Daughter Son-in-law and Grand Children Ph: 9866067155, 9866647524

Praise the Lord 11th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

NEVER TAKE REVENGE, MY FRIENDS, BUT INSTEAD LET GOD'S ANGER DO IT. FOR THE SCRIPTURE SAYS, I'LL TAKE REVENGE, I WILL PAY BACK, SAYS THE LORD ROMANS 12:19



PULLELA INDIRA DEVI

Luv you and miss you...amma

OBITUARY



Wg.Cdr. M. SADATULLA S/o Late M. Farhatulla Expired on 15th July, 2019 Mobile: 9652785925

(CA-2888)

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Late Sri. KATHIRISETTY MADHAVA RAO

Retd. Superintendent Engineer (Irrigation) DOB: 28-10-1931 DOD: 27-07-2018

"We miss you. Your memories remain in our Hearts forever"
Inserted by: K.V. MAHALAKSHMI (Wife) K. RAMAKRISHNA (Son) K. SRINIVAS (Son) K.V. UMA KAMARAJ (Daughter & Bro. in Law) Cell: 9849027435, 04023317674

Venue: N K M GRAND HOTEL, Erramanzil, Hyd. Date: 16-07-2019, Lunch 12.30 pm onwards



Pidishetty Indira w/o. Pidishetty Veera Swamy

DOB: 16-07-2010 Nainamma
Your Blessings for ever with us Grand Daughters & Grand Sons M. Shrikha, Dr. Santhosh Kumar P. Praveen - Soumya P. Pavan - Swetha Dr. P. Praseen - Navyatha BABA Group of Companies



JAKKIDI GANGA REDDY

Age 98 Years (Retired Assistant Engineer PWD - Irrigation Dept.) D.O.D: 15-07-2019
Funeral on 16-07-2019 at 11 a.m. at Bansilalpet. By: Family Members. (B/1920/D0006)

4th ANNIVERSARY



Sri. Tenneti CHANDRA SHEKHAR

Retd. ITI Principal, Sangra Reddy 16/09/1946 16/07/2015
You left us four years ago leaving behind void in our Lives we pray that your soul rest in peace. We love you and miss you.
Beloved Wife: Bhanu (Urmila)
Daughters: Shashi, Chinna & Pinky, Sons-in-Law, Grand Children and Tenneti Family



Pidishetty Indira w/o. Pidishetty Veera Swamy

DOB: 16-07-2010 Amma
Your Blessings for ever with us Son: Pidishetty Prabhaker Daughter in Law: Pidishetty Sujatha BABA Group of companies



Pidishetty Indira w/o. Pidishetty Veera Swamy

DOB: 16-07-2010 Thathaamma
Your Blessings for ever with us Great Grand Children M. Yagna- Agastya P. Srithya - Shristi - Sahasra, Swaksha P. Prajwal - Pradyun - Prayoth, P. Sahasra BABA Group of Companies



JAKKIDI GANGA REDDY

Age 98 years (Retired Assistant Engineer - PWD - Irrigation Dept.) D.O.D 15.07.2019
Funeral on 16.07.2019 at 11am Bansilalpet By Family members



Growth route

Chevella MP Dr. G. Ranjit Reddy asks Centre to clear project report for Hyderabad-Nagpur industrial corridor



Naidu spent about ₹39 crore on 38 foreign trips in the last 5 years

— Buggana Rajendranath
AP finance minister

MANUU TO DISCUSS NEW EDN POLICY

Hyderabad: Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) will be organising roundtable discussions on the draft National Education Policy (NEP), 2019 on July 17 from 10 am to 3.30 pm at its campus as per the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission and the ministry of human resource development.

PARTIES ASK GUV TO STOP NEW BULDINGS

Hyderabad, July 15: Opposing the construction of new buildings for the Secretariat and the legislature, the opposition Congress, BJP, TD, Telangana Jana Samiti (TJS) and others on Monday urged Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan to use his powers to stop the "misuse" of public money by the TRS government.

BJP leader and former minister D.K. Aruna alleged that Mr Rao sought to earn fame for the construction of new buildings and that their construction was not going to benefit people.

TJS president M. Kodandaram said the delegation explained to the Governor that he had all the powers to protect the buildings as he is the custodian of the buildings as per Section 8 of the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act.

CPI state secretary Chada Venkat Reddy said there were more pressing issues than construction of the new Secretariat like drought and drinking water shortage.

"This reflects his Tughlak-like thought. Why does he need a new Secretariat? The Chief Minister does not even come there," he said.

Dismissing opposition criticism, TRS leaders had earlier alleged that Congress had tried to create hurdles in the construction of irrigation projects as well.

The TRS government would take decisions in the interest of the people and in a way that reflected the pride of Telangana, they had said.

TRS awaits KCR return of BJP fire

CM advises them to wait for the counter

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 15

TRS cadres and leaders are curious about the strategy that party president and Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu will adopt to stymie the aggressive approach of the BJP in the state.

Though Mr Rao is said to have told the party leaders not fall for the "mind games", many TRS leaders are worried by the statements being made by BJP leaders from the national to the district level that ruling party MPs and MLAs and lower rung leaders are in touch with them.

The TRS and BJP are in the middle of enrolling members in the state.

TRS sources disclosed that during a recent meeting with senior leaders Mr Rao told them that the BJP was playing mind games in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state, as was done by the Telugu Desam during the Assembly elections here.

During the Assembly elections, the TD had allied with the Congress and other parties and projected that the Mahakutami was coming in power.

TRS leaders said Mr Rao had countered this by targeting the Mahakutami and playing on the Telangana sentiment.

With speaking with senior leaders, Mr Rao said the BJP leaders were playing games with the TRS, Congress and the Telugu Desam in both Telugu states stating that many MLAs and MPs from the three parties were defecting to the BJP.

Mr Rao told the party leaders that the BJP will not get much ground to expand in the state as there was no scope for communal politics in Telangana state, according to the sources.

Mr Rao told the party

BJP says TS has no strong Oppn

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL JULY 15

BJP general secretary P. Muralidhar Rao said the party was emerging as an alternative in the state as was evident from the recent Lok Sabha elections, where it won four seats. "The people are unhappy with the misdeeds of the TRS, they are looking at the BJP as an alternative," Mr Muralidhar Rao said.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, he said the BJP had up the role to provide a strong Opposition which it is currently lacking. The party has been working on strengthening its base across the country since coming to power in 2014, Mr Muralidhar Rao said.

"We are out to prove that the party's success is not based on any political wave but on its performance. While the BJP has penetrated the northeastern states, our next target is the southern states. In addition to our stronghold in Karnataka, Telangana state takes the top spot on our agenda," he said.

Mr Muralidhar Rao said the BJP provides

the right platform for the leaders to fight against the TRS. He claimed that a large number of leaders cutting across political ideologies were ready to join the BJP.

"With the people starting to believe in the BJP, political leaders are strongly considering following the pulse of the people. Soon, the BJP will have a lot of leaders joining from various parties," Mr Muralidhar Rao said.

He asked why the TRS government was not utilising the funds meant for Central government schemes and welfare schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Ayushman Bharat.

Threatening to "expose the failures" of the TRS government especially its promise of providing 2BHK houses to the poor Mr Muralidhar Rao said the BJP will take the issues to the people during the upcoming municipal elections.

Warangal Urban district BJP president Rao Padma Reddy, former MLA Marthineni Dharmarao and former Rajya Sabha member Rapolu Anand Bhaskar were present.

leaders that as of now there was no threat to the TRS from the BJP. In the long run, the BJP will aim to divide the majority vote by trying to create an environment to move the TRS away from the MMP.

Sources disclosed that Mr Rao felt this was not the time to counter the BJP and asked them to

wait and watch its moves. He would react at appropriate time, Mr Rao told the leaders.

Sources disclosed that some senior leaders during the meeting felt that a watch should be kept on the movements of BJP leaders so that they could get information on which leaders are meeting them.

YSRC steps into Kia Motors fight

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JULY 15

The BJP and the TD have been fighting for the credit for getting Kia Motors to set up an automobile plant in Anantapur. On Monday, the YSRC government stepped into the battle.

The YSRC government claimed it was due to the intervention of then Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh, Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, in 2007 that the South Korean automobile giant had come to Andhra Pradesh.

During the ongoing Budget session in the Assembly, finance minister Buggana Rajendranath showed a letter written by Kia Motors Corporation CEO and president Han-Woo Park to AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on June 13, days after he was sworn in Chief Minister.

In the letter, Mr Park explained his association with Dr Rajasekhara Reddy in 2007 when he was a senior executive with Hyundai Corp.

Mr Park recollected that Dr Rajasekhara Reddy had urged them to set up an automobile manufacturing plant in the state in 2007, according to the letter.

Mr Rajendranath said everyone in the state should know the truth behind the establishment of the Kia Motors plant in the state. "They have been telling the world that it was due to N. Chandrababu Naidu's persuasion and visits to South Korea that Kia Motors had invested in Andhra Pradesh but the truth is otherwise," the minister said.

While Telugu Desam leaders says the company came to AP due to Mr Naidu's efforts, the BJP says it was the outcome of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Seoul.

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completed so far and it appeared that the police had no intention to file the chargesheet.

Mr Gadipally Malla Reddy, counsel for the police, submitted that the investigation authorities had examined three witnesses and had been waiting for relevant documents.

Counsel for the petitioner submitted that they had submitted all the evidence to the investigation officials. The court directed the police to submit the status report about the investigation within four weeks.

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AP firm on cancelling Naidu's power deals

Jagan aide says PPAs force AP to pay ₹25,000 cr in 25 years, 5 cos benefit

S.N.V. SUDHIR | DC
VIJAYAWADA, JULY 15

The Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government appears to be determined to review the Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) signed by the previous government despite the Centre red-flagging the procedure.

Two days after Union minister N.K. Singh wrote to Mr Reddy on the PPAs, the Chief Minister's principal adviser Ajeya Kallam amply clarified that the PPAs will be reviewed.

Talking to mediapersons, Mr Kallam said that during the past five years, PPAs were entered for wind and solar energy sectors and finalised at exorbitant prices. "The previous state government made agreements for 25 years at exorbitant prices which do not exist in any other part of the country. These agreements will cost the state exchequer ₹25,000 crore for 25 years," he said.

"This is the main reason we want to review the PPAs," Mr Kallam said. He said that only five companies were responsible for 70 per cent of the PPAs. "Of the 221 PPAs in wind energy, over 70 pc (about ₹40,000 crore value of PPAs) were signed after 2014 benefited only five players. State policy has been tweaked," he said.

He said that in order to conduct an inquiry, the government had constituted an expert committee on power and a Cabinet subcommittee to enquire into the irregularities. Once the committees give their report, the YSRC government will examine the criminal angle, and appropriate legal

action will be initiated against those responsible.

He said a parallel high-level negotiation committee was constituted to hear the developers, and negotiate with them to bring down the unsustainable costs in order to bring relief to the consumers and the financial distress of the state government. "All the views of the high cost renewable power sellers are being heard fairly and transparently," he said.

Mr Kallam called this decision as part of Mr Reddy's commitment to cleanse the system. He refused to comment on the previous government but ridiculed the need for entering into PPAs, by paying exorbitant prices for wind and solar power, when thermal energy was available.

He said that reviewing the PPAs will not scare away investors. "We have many people willing to provide solar power at cheaper rates without any PPA. Some vested interests seem to have been making such propaganda which made investors step back," Mr Kallam said. He added that the state government will reply to the letter written by the Union minister.

Mr Kallam said that there was loss due to gas allocation to Spectrum and Lanco. "The previous government purchased power at high cost from Spectrum and Lanco even though their PPAs expired in 2016. It did not state the facts seeking reallocation of the gas to GMR which had a long term PPA, up to 2029, at a lower price. They entered into a short term PPA at a higher rate with Lanco and Spectrum after their PPAs lapsed."

KCR CALLS CABINET MEET ON JULY 17 FOR NEW MUNICIPAL ACT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 15

Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu has called a Cabinet meeting on the evening of July 17 to discuss the new Municipal Act.

The Cabinet will meet in Pragathi Bhavan and discuss the provisions of the legislation and approve its introduction in the two-day special session of the Assembly which commences at 11 am on July 18.

The Bill will be introduced on the first day of the session, and legislators will be given a day to go through its provisions.

Sources said that the Cabinet will also discuss the municipal elections which are likely to be conducted in the first week of August.

Mr Rao wants to complete the municipal elections process in the first week of August.

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CYBER SECURITY MEET IN SEPT.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD JULY 15

The state government in association with the Israeli government and Global Cyber Security Forum, a non-profit organisation, will host a global cyber security conference

on the September 4 and 5 at the Indian School Business. The conference will bring more than 400 technology leaders together from industry, the government, critical infrastructure and regulatory areas to discuss the latest trends in IT.

Organized By IDEMI Mumbai Ministry of MSME Govt. of India

Government Certificate Course on Hospital Management

Date: 20 & 21 July 2019 Time: 10 am to 5 pm

Venue & Registration: Hotel IK London Residency, 6-3-656, Kapadia Lane, Somajiguda, near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Hyderabad - 500 082

Local assistance: 9700048140 Technical Details: 9373912840

NABH Accredited, Safety Management in Hospitals, Fees: Rs. 6000 + 18% GST in the name of IDEMI, Mumbai. (Includes Breakfast, Lunch & Tea) Registration & Postage Rs. 100/-

Mobile: 3806614943 / 9764646491 / 9067769437

VETERINARY COUNCIL OF INDIA
(Statutory body of the Government of India)
August Kranti Bhawan, New Delhi

REVISED PUBLIC NOTICE- (VCI COUNSELING SCHEDULE)

This is in continuation to the Public Notice dated 28th November, 2018 issued by Veterinary Council of India and in pursuance of the letter No. K-12052-6/1/2107-LH dated 27.11.2018 of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India pertaining to use of qualified Merit List of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (UG)-2019 [NEET (UG)-2019] for admission of students to B.V.Sc. & A.H. course during the academic session 2019-20 for filling up of seats in the recognized Veterinary Colleges (except Jammu and Kashmir) under 15% All India quota and letter dated 10.07.2019 of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India conveying approval for revised Online Counseling Schedule- 2019. The Schedule for Online VCI Counseling is as under:-

1st Round	
(Only the candidates who have registered for online counseling shall be eligible for allotment of seats under All India quota) Publication of available seats under 15% All India quota and information Bulletin	16th July, 2019 (5.00 P.M.)
Online Registration and Choice Filling / Choice Locking	17th July, 2019 to 22nd July, 2019 Upto 5.00 PM of 22nd July, 2019 as per Sever Time
Mode of Payment of Online Registration Fees	17th July, 2019 to 22nd July, 2019 Upto 5.00 PM of 22nd July, 2019 as per Server Time. Payment of fee through Debit/Credit Card. Details may be seen in Information Bulletin of Counseling available in the website (www.vcicounseling.nic.in).
Processing of Seat Allotment	23rd July, 2019 to 25th July, 2019
Publication of Result of Allotment	26th July, 2019 (6.00 PM)
Reporting by students at the Allotted College	29th July, 2019 to 2nd August 2019 (Upto 5.00 PM)
2nd Round	
Publication of vacant seats	6th August, 2019 (6.00 PM)
Processing of Seat Allotment	7th August, 2019 to 8th August, 2019
Publication of Result of Allotment	9th August, 2019 at 6.00 PM
Reporting at the Allotted College against seat allotment of 2nd Round	13th August, 2019 to 19th August, 2019 (Upto 5.00 PM)
3rd Round	
Publication of vacant seats	21st August, 2019
Processing of Seat Allotment	22nd August, 2019 to 23rd August, 2019
Publication of Result of Allotment	26th August, 2019 at 6.00 PM
Reporting at the Allotted College against seat allotment of 3rd Round	27th August, 2019 to 3rd September, 2019 (upto 5.00 PM)
Mop Up Round Counseling	
Publication of provisional allotment of seats	5th September, 2019 at 6.00 PM
Submission of online payment of security money by the candidates who have provisionally allotted seat.	6th September, 2019 to 7th September 2019 upto 5.00 PM
Declaration of final result	9th September, 2019 (6.00 PM)
Reporting at the Allotted College against seat allotment of Mop Up Round.	11th September, 2019 to 16th September, 2019 (upto 5.00 PM)

(Note - As the 15th September, 2019 is Sunday, hence last reporting date has been taken as 16th September, 2019)

Important -

- Detailed information on counseling for admission is available on the Council's: (www.vcicounseling.nic.in)
- Students desirous of taking admission into B.V.Sc. & A.H. course under 15% All India Quota are advised to keep visiting the website mentioned above regularly.
- The entire process of counseling is online; the students need not require to send any documents to VCI.
- The original documents related to the candidature of the candidate shall be verified by the respective allotted Veterinary College/ University at the time of reporting for admission to B.V.Sc. & A. H course under 15% All India quota.
- Security deposit collected during Mop-Up round shall be refunded to the candidates upon reporting to the College. The Refund will be sent to the same account from which it was paid. No refund shall be given to non-reporting candidates.

Dated: 11.07.2019
davp 01201/11/0001/1920

Sd/- Secretary (Addl. Charge) VCI

POWER | PLAY ■ City family says conned of ₹2.2cr with job offer

HC asks about BJP leader case

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 15

The Telangana High Court on Monday directed the police to submit a status report about the investigation done so far in the case filed against BJP leader P. Muralidhar Rao and eight others at the Saroornagar police station that they had cheated a city resident by promising a nominated post at the Centre.

Justice Rajasheker Reddy was dealing with the petition by Ms Talla Pravarna

Reddy, wife of Mr Mahipal Reddy, urging the court to direct the police to conduct a proper investigation and take action against Mr Muralidhar Rao and the other eight accused. She alleged that the police had been delaying the probe.

She said she and her husband were cheated by the accused who had promised that they could secure for Mr Mahipal Reddy a nominated post as chairperson of PharmaExil (Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India). They pretended that they had sent

the proposal for his nomination to the Union commerce ministry, then headed by Ms Nirmala Sitharaman who is now finance minister.

She complained that one Krishna Kishore, who said he was an aide of Mr Muralidhar Rao and five others had taken ₹2.17 crore for the job.

Based on directions from a lower court, police lodged FIR against the accused persons in March. The petitioner approached the High Court by stating that the investigation has not been

completed so far and it appeared that the police had no intention to file the chargesheet.

Mr Gadipally Malla Reddy, counsel for the police, submitted that the investigation authorities had examined three witnesses and had been waiting for relevant documents.

Counsel for the petitioner submitted that they had submitted all the evidence to the investigation officials. The court directed the police to submit the status report about the investigation within four weeks.



Power prayer

Harish Rao offers special prayers at the Venkateswara Swamy temple through VIP darshan in Tirumala



Accreditation, assessment and ranking must be strengthened

— T. Papi Reddy
Chief of Higher Education Council

POWER | SHUTDOWN

10 am to 1 pm: Ravindranagar, Model School, Blackside Wall, Mainkeshwarinagar.
10 am to 12 noon: Namalagund Ramalayam Temple, Sai Balaji Store, Hanuman Temple, Nehru High School.
12 noon to 1 pm: Seethaphalmandi, Mandir Gada, Teinetra Super Market, Road No. 1 Gharonda.
12 noon to 3 pm: SP Mandi Welfare Association, LN Towers, Andhra Bank, Ganesh Temple, Classic Apartments.
2 pm to 5 pm: RTC Hospital, National Institute of Nutrition, Tarnaka, Telephone Exchange, Huda, HMDA and Hotel Noma.

SHORT TAKES

AP PANCHAYAT TRANSFERS DEAD SECRETARY

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, JULY 15

In an embarrassing incident, the Chittoor district administration has issued transfer orders to panchayat secretary P. Lakshmi, who had died three months ago.

Lakshmi, was working at the Mairipadu panchayat in Gurramkonda mandal of Piler constituency and had died while undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

She was among the 276 panchayat secretaries whose transfers were ordered. She was told to report to the Atturu panchayat in Renigunta mandal.

Sources said Lakshmi met with an accident on April 11 at B. Kothakota police station limits while going to her native place, and died in a hospital.

A case was registered at the local police station. Her funeral was attended by several senior panchayat officials, despite which her family received the transfer orders.

Reacting to this, Chittoor collector Dr Narayana Bharat Gupta said he would take up corrective measures immediately and the list of transfers would be suitable revised.

SMART INDIA HACKATHON AT IIT-H ENDS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

The four-day 'Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2019' hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) came to an end on Friday.

A nation-wide initiative provided students with a platform to solve some of the pressing problems faced in daily lives and inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving.

The SIH nodal centre at IIT-Hyderabad includes nine teams from all over India consisting of six team members, each with two mentors.

Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering, Chennai, won the event for the problem statements given by for National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Cognizant, Kokuyo Camlin companies respectively.

Speaking about this event, Dr G.V.V. Sharma, faculty coordinator for the event and Associate Professor, department of electrical engineering, IIT-Hyderabad, said, "Industry experts mentored a total of nine teams working round the clock on diverse projects in areas such as drought control and ocean cleaning. Mentors guided teams with design, practicality and optimisation of the ideas. A panel of judges evaluated each team daily. Cultural events like Zumba, fun games, dance and yoga were conducted to keep participants fresh and active."

■ **THE NATION-WIDE initiative from July 8 to 12 provided students with a platform to solve some of the pressing problems faced in daily lives and inculcate a culture of product innovation.**

AP, TS have best jobs

■ UP, Odisha worse; least women employed in Kerala, Goa

ANURAG | DC HYDERABAD JULY 15

AP, Telangana state, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh lead the states in the quality and quantity of jobs they provide to their people, while Bihar, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh are last, said a survey done by the Centre for Policy Research (CPR).

AP and TS together secured the top position with 57.3 points, followed by Maharashtra with 57.2 and Chhattisgarh 56.39, while UP is below Bihar at 37.28 and Odisha with 37.70 at last.

While creating the index, each state was analysed on indicators such as employment, formality, benefits, income equality, and gender equality, which were given equal weight.

Researchers observed the data released by government organisations such as the National Sample Survey Organisation, the Labour Bureau, the Annual Survey of Industries, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the recently-released Periodic Labour Force

TOP 10 STATE RANKING		
Rank	State/ UT's	Index
1	Andhra Pradesh	57.38
2	Maharashtra	57.20
3	Chhattisgarh	56.39
4	Tamil Nadu	52.74
5	Karnataka	52.65
6	Delhi	52.61
7	Uttarakhand	52.58
8	Himachal Pradesh	52.12
9	Jharkhand	44.39
10	West Bengal	44.32
All India		44.58

Survey (PLFS) by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation. According to the survey, "Andhra Pradesh's high scores for employment and gender equality, coupled with average scores in the three remaining dimensions, have helped it to the top rank." High unemployment rates among females in particular, made Goa (13.9) and Kerala (11.4), the worst performers in employment rates.

The survey revealed that despite economic growth, the pace of job creation has been slow and inconsistent.

In 2017-18, rural and urban unemployment rates of India were 5.3 per cent and 7.8 per cent respectively.

The World Bank has ranked India in the 120th place among 131 countries in female labour force participation rates. The PLFS data of 2017-18 shows that fewer than one in four women of 15 years and above (23.3 per cent) enter the labour market. Small states like

Himachal Pradesh (72.9 per cent) topped in gender equality, while Bihar (13.5 per cent) ranked at the bottom.

The reason for the high index values of states like AP and TS is better facilities to workers and safeguarding their rights by providing pension, insurance, higher expenditure on pension as part of gross state domestic product and a higher share of workers with pension/provident funds.

Experts said that such surveys can underpin policies of the central and state governments while formulating employment strategies.

Reacting to the survey, Dr Devendra Pant, an economist, said, "In the recent scenario, we cannot rely on the traditional way of computing a survey. We have to take the changes happening because of technology. There has been an enormous amount of labour generation and displacement such as cab drivers, food and ecommerce delivery agents which stay unaccounted in our surveys."



RAIN | STORE

Motorists try to wade through a waterlogged road near Necklace Road. Due to depression in the Bay of Bengal, Telangana state is going to get good rain from July 18 to 21, according to weather experts. Mahesh Palawat, weather expert, explained, "The rainfall in Southern India is going to revive. The depression in the Bay of Bengal is expected to bring good rain if not heavy." The extreme heat conditions are being noted in the morning and afternoon in the state, due to which the state is facing deficit rainfall. The next few days are also going to have only light showers, stated weather experts.

— P. SURENDRA

TISS students ready for legal battle for genuine, basic rights

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 15

Student body says it is ready for a legal battle with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences if required. A student said that "all our demands are genuine and these are our basic rights, which a social science institute must recognise. All we are asking is to revoke the upfront payment of the hostel fee. The institute is not even ready to talk with the private service provider (who manages the hostel), and instead they are trying to convince us."

Students allege that there is no contract between the institute and the private service provider who manages the hostels and the deal was finalised via a phone call.

Students say that they are prepared for a legal battle if necessary.

"We don't know why the management has taken such an extreme step as to close down the academic campus when we have been protesting peacefully all these days. We have never resorted to any kind of violence," said another student and added that "being a social science institute, they are not letting us do a peaceful protest for safeguarding our rights."

The students want a return to the old system of paying hostel bills in monthly instalments. They also don't want the increase in the hostel fees. Following the shut down, students are debating the future course of action and a series of meetings were held among student bodies to decide how to proceed.

TIME LINE

ACCORDING TO THE TISS MANAGEMENT

■ **JULY 8:** 35 students raise slogans against the institute and the administration. TISS says it was not given prior notice about the protest. TISS agrees to talks.

■ **JULY 9:** Students continue their protest near the entrance gate; no classes were allowed

■ **JULY 10:** The deadlock continue on the third day. The management wanted to meet the scholarship students, but no meeting took place. Management alleges that the student body prevented it.

■ **JULY 12 TO 13:** Protests continue. An emergency meeting held between convener of the

SC/ST cell and the students. The institute claims the scholarship students expressed their satisfaction with the interaction and it was decided to resume classes.

■ **TISS administration approves, as interim aid, financial support of ₹15,000 for each of the 26 post-matric scholarship students.**

■ **JULY 14:** Protest continue on sixth day, another emergency meeting held. The students are not satisfied, are told to call off the strike. They refuse.

■ **JULY 15:** TISS management shuts down academic campus on the plea that disturbances were possible.

'Right to protest denied'

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

The TISS on Monday suspended academic activities in the city and closed the institution indefinitely until further orders to avoid disturbances on the campus. This follows an unsuccessful attempt to end a students' strike over fee.

"This was the action taken by our admin for failing to respond to our demands. We have been denied our basic rights as students. The students' fight for inclusivity and diversity in the campus has been crushed by a social science

institute," said a student representative.

In a formal written communication to the students, the TISS management stated that "In spite of various efforts made by the institute, the students continued their illegal, unlawful, unjustified activities and disturbances in spite of the repeated appeals of the institute since July 8."

"The institute further apprehends that the situation may deteriorate and there are all possibilities of disturbances within the campus. In view of the continued illegal activities, disturbances, the institute has

come to the conscious conclusion that it is not safe practicable and not in the interest of all students, teaching and non-teaching staff to continue its normal academic activities within the campus (sic)."

"The institute is constrained to suspend the academic activities of TISS, Hyderabad campus sine die with immediate effect till further orders and all the students were asked to vacate the campus by 5 pm on Monday."

Students have been fighting against the upfront payment of the semester fee of ₹54,000 to avail hostel accommodation.

BEAUTIFICATION WORK



An earthmover demolishes the floor of the iconic Mozamjahi Market as part of renovation and beautification work of the monument in Hyderabad on Monday. GHMC's Khairatabad zonal commissioner Mohammed Musharraf Ali Faruqi said the floor was dug to lay granite flooring and stormwater drains as rainwater tends to stagnate there. He said using JCBs will not be harmful for the structure. The work will be completed within three months, he said.

— STYLE PHOTO SERVICE

PARENTS, STUDENTS PROTEST OVER LESS MARKS IN INTER

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 15

Parents and students staged a protest at Vidya Bhavan, Nampally, the Board of Intermediate Education office, on Monday following the release of the second year supplementary results.

They alleged that there were mistakes in the results as many students had scored less marks than they expected.

Board officials said the marks were given to the students based on their performance and assured that nothing had gone wrong. The board took their applications and said it would check the answersheets again.

Shacham Sharma, an Intermediate final year student who was at the protest, said, "I got seven marks in my mathematics paper in the board exams in March. I was given the same marks in the supplementary exams. I wonder whether they have corrected my supplementary paper or have just given me the marks from the March paper. The paper was very easy and attempted all questions and wrote well."

Shacham's mark list shows he scored above 60 per cent in all other subjects. In mathematics, he has gone seven both in the March exam and the supplementary in the Maths Paper II (A).

There were many students who alleged that there was no change in their marks in the main and the supplementary exams.

The board said the marks were given to the students solely based on their performance. It said it had appointed to three agencies to cross-check the result in parallel before publication. Despite this, officials said, they would check the answersheets of the complainants.

■ **THEY ALLEGED** that there were mistakes in the results as many students had scored less marks than they expected.

■ **BOARD OFFICIALS** said the marks were given to the students based on performance.

Tourism leaves tigers stressed

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 15

Physiological stress has been noted in tigers due to heavy movement of vehicles and disturbances due to human presence and tourism in the two major reserves in Madhya Pradesh according to a study conducted by the CCMB and published in the journal Conservation Physiology.

The study was carried out in Bandhavgarh (BTR) and Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR) in Madhya Pradesh which have a similar habitat of tropical moist deciduous forests. The landscape is a matrix of forest and human habitats. There were 341 fecal samples collected from both reserves during the tourism and non-tourism periods for the study.

It was found that there were chronically elevated glucocorticoid levels in tigers during the tourism period. This negatively impacts their growth, reproductive success, immunity and can also cause muscular atrophy. During the tourism period the elevated levels were due to higher number of vehicles, increased disturbance in tiger reserves and also intervention of humans in core areas. This led to high physiological stress in tigers.

CCMB researchers who have carried out previous studies in the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan have noted that the reproductive system of tigers fell due to the high stress caused by environmental disturbances. They recommended strict regulation of vehicular traffic, restricted entry of tourist vehicles, shifting of artificial water holes away from tourist roads. At the same time, there was a need to relocate villages which are in the forest area and protection granted to the core forest area from any kind of human intervention to protect and allow the growth of tigers.

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davp 23109/11/0007/1920

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL TECHNICAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (NTRO)
CORRIGENDUM

1. Refer NTRO Tender No. NTRO/CPC/IV(D)/12/21/2018-1752 dated 18 Jun 2019 for "Supply and Installation of Equipment for establishment of Knowledge Management Framework (KMF)".

2. The last date of submission/receipt of tender is extended till 1400 hrs on 30 Jul 2019. www.ncipc.gov.in or www.ntro.gov.in websites may be referred for replies to pre-bid queries and any other future notification(s).

Sd/
Head, CPC, NTRO
davp 57102/11/0002/1920

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION CO. LTD.
(A Govt. of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)
CIN:U40108CT2003SGC015821 Raipur Dtd. 12.07.2019

No. 03-03/Tn-S-496/1949 E-TENDER NOTICE NO. Tn-S-496/2019
Online bids are invited by the undersigned through CSPGCL e-bidding system (SAP-SRM) from Experienced & reputed contractors for the work as mentioned below:-

S.N.	Tender No./Rfx No.	Particulars	Last date & time of bid submission	Bid opening date (EMD, Techno-Commercial Bid)	E.M.D. (Rs.)	Tender Cost (Rs.)
1.	TS-722/8100014534 (with RLA)	Award of contract for deployment of man power to assist in work of Raw water pre-treatment plant, DM plant, CPU, ETP, AWRS and coal sampling Lab as per scope of work at 2X500 MW, ABVTPS, Marwa, Jangir-Champa for 02 years.	06.08.2019 Upto 15:00 Hrs.	06.08.2019 Upto 15:30 Hrs.	78,500/-	1180/- (1000/- + GST @ 18%)
2.	TS-723/8100014535 (with RLA)	Annual contract for assisting in daily operation of CHP round the clock including deployment of shift fitters in CHP, 2X250 MW, DSPM TPS, Korba East for 02 years.	06.08.2019 Upto 15:00 Hrs.	06.08.2019 Upto 15:30 Hrs.	1,21,500/-	1180/- (1000/- + GST @ 18%)
3.	TS-724/8100014536 (with RLA)	Supply, dosing of cooling water chemicals and monitoring of cooling water parameters at 2X500 MW, ABVTPS, Marwa, 2X250 MW, DSPM TPS, Korba East and 1X500 MW, HTPS Extension, Korba West for 02 years.	06.08.2019 Upto 15:00 Hrs.	06.08.2019 Upto 15:30 Hrs.	1,04,300/-	1180/- (1000/- + GST @ 18%)

For more details, please Visit our Website at: <http://www.cspgcl.co.in/espqcl/>
Any amendment/Corrigendum, if required, will be displayed on our website only.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR(S&P:Gen.)
CSPGCL RAIPUR

//Save Electricity//



All-party meet

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday suggested that all-party meetings under Prime minister be convened to tackle water crisis.



There is shortage of spares due to strained relations between Russia and Ukraine

— Shripad Naik, Minister of state for defence

No NEET exemption for TN, Puducherry

New Delhi: The Centre has turned down requests from Puducherry and Tamil Nadu governments to exempt students from appearing in National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate and postgraduate medical admissions, according to the HRD ministry. The information was shared by Union HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' in response to a written question in the Lok Sabha. "Section 10D of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 prescribes conducting of a uniform entrance examination, namely NEET for medical admissions. Hence, no relaxation was given to the states," Nishank said. —PTI

'Reduce age limit for civil exams'

New Delhi: BJP member K.J. Alphons on Monday sought reduction in upper age limit of candidates appearing in civil service examination to 26 years saying current entrants with "advanced age" were "untrainable". In a special mention in Rajya Sabha, Alphons, a former IAS officer who was minister of state for culture and tourism in the previous NDA government, said the upper age limit needs to be reduced while providing appropriate concessions to OBC and SC/ST candidates. "Civil service examinations are one of the toughest in the world." —PTI

4 new ministers allotted portfolios

Panaji: Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant Monday afternoon distributed portfolios to the four ministers inducted into the state cabinet last week. They include three MLAs who joined the ruling party from the Congress last week. According to a notification issued, deputy chief minister Chandrakant Kavlekar was allotted departments of Town and Country Planning, Agriculture, Archives and Archeology and Factories and Boilers. Jennifer Monserratte, the only woman minister in the cabinet, was given Revenue, Information and Technology and Labour and Employment departments. —PTI

DEMAND TO RAISE ROYALTY ON COAL IN RAJYA SABHA

New Delhi: Demands to raise royalty on coal, roll back of steep hike in airfares between Kerala and Gulf region and government intervention to help release fishermen captured by Pakistan were among issues raised during the Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha on Monday. Amar Patnaik (BJD) said the rate of royalty paid to state governments on coal produced in states was last changed in April 2012 and as per rule was due to be revised in April 2015 but was not done. The issue was placed before the GST Council but is yet to be approved, he said, adding instead a cess was imposed which goes to indivisible pool that is not devoted to states. He demanded that royalty on coal should be raised to 20 per cent. K.K. Ragesh (CPM) demanded roll back in steep hike in airfares in the Kerala-Gulf sector. While the Calicut-Dubai flight costs ₹6,000, a Dubai to Calicut flight costs ₹40,000, he said, adding airfares are jacked up during festive seasons when migrant workers seek to return to their hometown. Raising the issue of fishermen languishing in Pakistan jails, V Vijayasai Reddy (YSR-Congress) said 46 fishermen were captured by Pakistan maritime security agency in October-November last year after illegally entering Indian waters. —PTI

Karnataka D-day on Thursday

Numbers stacked against him, HDK's prospects of victory look bleak

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, JULY 15

In what could signal an end to the ongoing political crisis in the state after as many as 16 ruling Congress and JD(S) MLAs resigned from the Assembly, Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy will move a confidence motion on Thursday in an attempt to prove that his 13-month old government still enjoys a majority in the House despite the withdrawal of support by so many legislators.

If the coalition's efforts to get the rebel MLAs back on board fail in the next two days, the prospects of Mr Kumaraswamy winning the trust vote look pretty bleak as the numbers are stacked against him—the JD(S)-Congress combine will have the backing of only 100 MLAs (excluding the Speaker) as against the BJP's 107 which includes the support of two Independent MLAs. In the event of the CM failing to prove his majority, he will have to make his exit and the ball would be in the governor's court. Mr Vajubhai Vala will then have the option of inviting the opposition BJP to form the government, said sources.

Assembly Speaker K.R. Kumar announced on Monday that the confidence



Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy arrives to take part in the state Assembly session at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. — PTI

trust vote though the government wanted to conduct business as usual. With BJP members warning that they would boycott Assembly proceedings if any business was conducted before the confidence vote was taken up, it was decided to adjourn the Assembly till Thursday, Mr Kumar said. Though the government wanted to wait only till Tuesday, when the Supreme Court is slated to deliver its judgment on the disqualification and resignations of the rebel MLAs, the lunar eclipse on Wednesday which is considered inauspicious,

virtually forced a postponement of the confidence vote to Thursday. Keeping up pressure, the BJP sought to move a no-confidence motion against the government with its members J.C. Madhu Swamy, K.G. Bopaiah and C.M. Udasi submitting a notice, but they later agreed to the trust vote schedule. The opposition members also wanted the trust vote to be taken up on priority but the Speaker explained that the rules and precedents give him time up to 10 days to conduct a confidence vote after the notice is issued.

TOP COURT TO HEAR PLEA OF 5 REBELS TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 15

The Supreme Court agreed to hear a plea of five more rebel Congress MLAs along with the pending petition of 10 legislators seeking a direction to the Karnataka Assembly speaker to accept their resignations. A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi took note of the submission of senior advocate Mukul Rohtagi, appearing for the rebel MLAs, that they also be made parties to the pending petition, which is to be heard on Tuesday.

The five MLAs are Anand Singh, K Sudhakar, M.T.B. Nagaraj, Munirathna and Roshan Baig.

The BJP is playing it safe and has decided to keep its MLAs safely at the resort where they are at present staying, for the next two days.

Except for the MLAs from Bengaluru, the remaining BJP legislators are staying at Ramada resort situated near Yelahanka that is on the Hyderabad highway on the way to Bengaluru.



PARLIAMENT DIARY

BY GAUTAM LAHIRI

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS WOULD BE PASSED WITHOUT STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS



With no standing committees constituted so far, the demand for grants of various ministries would be passed without the report from these committees. Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha chairman Venkaiah Naidu on Monday permitted the Treasury bench to dispense with the established House rules. However, Opposition MPs were curious to know the inordinate delay in announcing the new committees. Various political parties have already made a list of probable names for the membership of these committees. Some of the MPs, whose names have figured in the various lists, were earlier informed that the government would decide on the formation of the committees after the conclusion of the Budget Session. Once the names are finalised for each of the standing committees, the speaker can make a formal announcement. It is not yet clear which of the standing committees would be allotted to the Opposition.

TEWARI QUOTES GUWAHATI HIGH COURT JUDGMENT ON CBI'S LEGAL STATUS

Congress MP Manish Tewari sprang a surprise while speaking in the Lok Sabha on Monday. While initiating the debate on the National Investigating Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019, the Congress MP Manish Tewari remarked that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is not a legally valid organisation. He quoted a Guwahati high court judgment in 2013, which termed the premier investigative agency as illegal and not constituted under any act of Parliament. Mr Tewari added that the Supreme Court stayed the judgment but the government failed to clear the air on the subject. Union home minister Amit Shah, who was listening to the debate carefully, immediately instructed officials to check the status of the case.

MPs DECRY INTRODUCTION OF NEW BILLS BEFORE PASSING OF FINANCE BILL



Several Opposition MPs on Monday questioned the introduction of Bills in the Lower House even before the Finance Bill could be passed. K. Premchandran of the RSP and Sougata Roy of the Trinamul Congress stated that introduction of ordinary Bills violates the tradition of the House. Generally, the Lok Sabha does not take up any other bill before the Finance Bill is passed since the latter's passing reinforces the majority of the government. The Opposition's apprehension was that the government is in a hurry to take up controversial NIA (Amendment) Bill.

Queries violating rules: Trinamul

Party says repeat questions on WB violence violate rules

SHEEPARNA CHAKRABARTY NEW DELHI, JULY 15

The Trinamul on Monday shot off letters to both Rajya Sabha Chairperson Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla claiming that repeated questions being allowed on political violence in West Bengal were violative of House rules and were a way to target the state government.

The letters were written by leaders of the TMC in both Houses namely Derek O'Brien in Rajya Sabha and Sudip Bandyopadhyay in the Lok Sabha. Copies of both the letters are with

this newspaper.

The Trinamul Congress government in West Bengal is locked in a bitter turf war with the BJP since the latter made a huge dent in the TMC citadel winning 18 seats in the state in Lok Sabha polls.

Incidents of political violence which peak during the Lok Sabha polls have subsided only but a little after the results.

Mr O'Brien wrote in the letter that repeated questions on the same subject in the Rajya Sabha were violative of Rule 47 (xiv) of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States which states that a ques-

Derek O'Brien wrote a letter to Rajya Sabha Chairperson Venkaiah Naidu, while Sudip Bandyopadhyay wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

tion shall not repeat in substance questions already answered.

However, he said that four questions have been allowed in Rajya Sabha regarding political violence in West Bengal during 2019 general elections. "The Parliament of India does not discuss any question repeatative-

ly. The same question is normally allowed to be raised on the floor of this august House again and again with minor variations. But the law and order in West Bengal has been raised multiple times in different forms during this session. Question numbers 1951, 1952, 1953, 1966 (starred and unstarred) have been raised in the House".

Ten advisories have gone to the state within a span of ten days, he said in the letter.

On similar lines, Mr Bandyopadhyay wrote that allowing repeated questions on same subject were violative of Rule 41 (xiii).

Members seek more funding for Ayush

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 15

The Rajya Sabha on Monday saw members, cutting across party lines, demanding more encouragement from the government for the traditional systems of medicine and stressing that it will benefit millions of people in the country.

The Upper House of Parliament also saw suggestions like introduction of a NET-like all-India entrance exam for tradition medical education, drug testing laboratories, encouragement for herb farming and convergence of tradition medical systems with modern science to promote the traditional systems of medicine, when it took up a discussion on Ministry of Ayush.

Many members demanded enhanced budget under Ayush. Replying to the debate, ayush minister Shripad Yesso Naik said the government has plans to set up 4,200 Ayush wellness centres in the country in FY 2019-20 in several states and 2,500 new centres are planned to be opened within the first four months of the present government.

Earlier, the House saw the introduction of the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which seeks to make India a hub of domestic and global arbitration for settling commercial disputes.

This bill aims to provide settlement of commercial disputes within six months and other measures.

Ukraine, Russia feud affecting IAF's fleet

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Defence ministry said on Monday that there is a shortage of certain spares (Russian origin) of Indian Air Force's military transport aircraft AN-32 due to strained relations between Russia and Ukraine.

AN-32, was recently in news when one of the aircraft crashed in Arunachal Pradesh in June killing all 13 personnel on board.

"More than half of Indian Air Force (IAF)'s AN-32 aircraft have been upgraded with structural upgrade as well as installation of advanced avionics such as radar, radio sets, navigation system among others. And the remaining are under upgrade in a phased manner," said minister of states (MoS) for defence Shripad Naik in a written reply in Rajya Sabha. He said that the serviceability of the fleet has been at par with other fleets.

"There is shortage of certain spares (Russian origin) due to strained relations between Russia and Ukraine," said Mr Naik. The minister said that at present, IAF has 98 AN-32 aircraft and none of the aircraft has outlived its operational life. "Every aircraft accident is analysed through a Court/Board of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly," he said.

MLA daughter, husband assaulted inside UP HC

Allahabad, July 15: BJP MLA Rajesh Mishra's daughter Sakshi and her husband Ajitesh Kumar, who allegedly feared for their lives for marrying out of their castes, were attacked inside the high court complex on Monday by some lawyers, minutes after they were ordered to be given protection by the court.

The couple, who were stepping out of the courtroom after the hearing and were pushed around, were rescued by other lawyers, the Cantonment police station SHO A.K. Gautam told PTI.

He said the couple was not willing to lodge any complaint on the incident and that media reports of their being



BJP MLA Rajesh Mishra's daughter Sakshi with her husband Ajitesh.

attacked was baseless. Justice Siddharth Verma granted protection to Sakshi and Ajitesh, who had asked for security contending that there is a threat to their life from Mishra, who is unhappy with the marriage as

Sakshi is a brahmin and Ajitesh a dalit by caste. According to a lawyer, the court order would come into force only after the requisite signature was procured.

The couple had prayed that neither the police nor Mishra should disturb them in their peaceful living as they were adults and had got married on their free will.

Meanwhile, another couple was allegedly abducted from outside the court premises, leading to a high drama in the area with people thinking that it was Sakshi and Ajitesh.

Later, senior superintendent of police of Allahabad, Atul Sharma said the couple has been rescued from Fatehpur.

₹5L for accident victims planned

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 15

A compensation of ₹5 lakh for death and ₹2.5 lakh for suffering grievous injury in a motor vehicle accident case have been proposed by the Centre, as it was introduced in the Lok Sabha the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2019 on Monday, aiming to make it more stringent. The proposed legislation will amend the Motor Vehicles Act, which also has a provision for higher penalties for violations and protection of good samaritans, among other key

characteristics.

Amid concerns raised by some members over certain provisions in the bill, road transport minister Nitin Gadkari said the government is not looking to take away the rights of states and urged the House to pass the legislation which would help in saving more lives.

The Bill was passed in the previous Lok Sabha but could not get approval from the Rajya Sabha, and therefore it was brought again in the lower house.

The motor vehicle owner or the insurer would pay ₹5 lakh compensation in case of death

and ₹2.5 lakh for grievous hurt, according to the bill. The compensation in case of death due to hit and run currently is ₹25,000. The Centre will also develop a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour.

The Bill defines golden hour as the time period of up to an hour following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.

The proposed legislation further seeks to increase penalties for violations, facilitate grant of online

learning licence, simplified provisions for insurance to provide expeditious help to accident victims and their families, and protection of good samaritans.

Trinamul member Saugata Roy opposed the Bill, saying certain provisions would take away powers of state governments and would also infringe on their rights. Another party member Mahua Moitra also opposed some provisions of the bill.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said he was opposing a few provisions of the Bill.

مولاانا آزاد نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی مولانا آزاد نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY
(A Central University)
Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500 032.

ENGAGEMENT OF GUEST FACULTY - WALK-IN-INTERVIEWS

The University desires to engage Guest Faculty on contractual basis (Purely on temporary basis) for Directorate of Distance Education, MANUU initially for a period of six months in different subjects.

The medium of instructions in MANUU is Urdu. Therefore, candidate should possess a valid Urdu qualification at appropriate level and should be able to teach through Urdu and evaluate assignments/papers.

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For number of posts, details of qualifications, experience, etc., please visit the University website. Interested eligible candidates may walk-in for interview along with copies of certificates with originals on following dates at Committee Room, University Guest House, MANUU Campus, Urdu University Road, Gachibowli, Hyderabad on their own expenses:

- On 22nd July, 2019 - English, Hindi, Arabic, Islamic Studies & Environmental Studies subjects;
- On 23rd July, 2019 - History, Economics, Sociology, Political Science & Public Administration subjects;
- On 24th July, 2019 - Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany & Zoology subjects.

The reporting time for walk-in is 9.00 a.m.

www.manuu.ac.in Registrar

No. 3/3/2019-RE
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Economic Affairs
Financial Markets Division
Regulatory Establishment Section

North Block, New Delhi 110001
3rd June 2019

Filling up the post of Technical Member in the Securities Appellate Tribunal, Mumbai, on contract basis

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up one post of Technical Member in Securities Appellate Tribunal, Mumbai in level 17 of Pay Matrix of Rs. 2,25,000/- (fixed), as admissible to a Secretary to the Government of India, on contract basis for a maximum period of five (5) years from the date on which she / he assumes office or upto 67 years of age, subject to outcome of W.P. (C) No. 279/2017 pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

- The particulars of the post and eligibility conditions are available on the Ministry's website www.finmin.nic.in/vacancies. Applications of eligible candidates in the prescribed proforma along with attested copies of Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) for the last five years, Vigilance Clearance and No Penalty and Integrity Certificate (in respect of serving Government servants and employees of PSUs, academic and research institutions / Universities, etc.) may be forwarded through proper channel to the undersigned within 45 days from the date of this advertisement, at the following address:
Deputy Secretary (RE)
Financial Markets Division
Department of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Finance
Room No. 42, North Block
New Delhi 110001
- Incomplete applications received 45 days after publication of this advertisement will not be considered.

Sd/- (Manish Kumar Jha)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
Phone: 011-23093510
davp 15201/11/0004/1920



No relief for Asaram

SC rejects Asaram Bapu's bail plea in rape case lodged in Gujarat



Wrong practice of forcing people to chant religious slogans has begun

— Mayawati, BSP chief

SC to UP: Find ways to extend tenure of judge

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

BABRI CASE

The Supreme Court on Monday asked Uttar Pradesh government to find mechanism to extend the services of the Special Judge of the CBI court, Lucknow, holding trial of L.K. Advani, Murlu Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti and others in Babri Masjid demolition conspiracy case till he concludes the trial and delivers judgment.

A top court bench, comprising Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman and Justice Surya Kant, asked the Uttar Pradesh government to apprise it about a mechanism by which the services of the Special Judge could be extended till he concludes the trial and pronounces judgment.

Observing that after day to day hearing spread over two years, the Special Judge is at the end of the trial and needs six months time to complete it, the court said, "We are of the view, it is important for the Special Judge to conclude the proceedings and pronounce the judgement in the case. Given the facts and circumstances, we call upon the state of Uttar Pradesh to assist us on this behalf."

List on Friday (July 19, 2019). "You find out the mechanism and refer to the rules. If possible, we can extend the tenure by exercising powers under Article 142 of the Constitution," the bench told senior counsel Aishwarya Bhati, asking her to find the way by which the services of judge could be extended till the conclusion and pronouncement of judgement.

The Special CBI court judge by his May 25, 2019, letter to top court had sought six more months time to conclude the trial had also informed that he was superannuating on September 30, 2019.

Besides L.K. Advani, Murlu Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti, others facing trial in conspiracy case include Vinay Katiar, Sadhvi Ritambara, and Vishnu Hari Dalmia. Kalyan Singh too is an accused in the case but since he is Rajasthan governor and enjoys immunity, the court had by its 2017 judgement had said that sessions court will "frame charges and move against him as soon as he ceases to be governor."

Top court seeks govt reply on petition over abortion

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

The Supreme Court on Monday sought Centre's response on a PIL seeking direction to decriminalise abortions coupled with recognising woman's right to termination of pregnancy and that her decision to terminate pregnancy of over 12 weeks but less than 20

weeks should not be dependent on the medical opinion. The SC bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Deepak Gupta issued notice to the Centre on a PIL seeking declaration that the Pregnancy Act, 1971 that requires the opinion by doctors that the continuation of pregnancy would pose risks to the woman being unconstitutional.

Priest thrashed in Rajasthan

Jaipur: A 60-year-old priest of a temple was allegedly beaten up by five to six men in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar district, the police said on Monday. The incident was filmed and its video was circulated on social media, they added. The police said the accused had questioned the presence of a woman on the temple premises in the odd hours Saturday night and then thrashed Sudama Brahmim. The video of the incident was circulated on social media on Monday following which the priest gave a complaint to the Sadar police station. "The priest has named three men in his complaint," the police added.

Toll-free number against lynching

New Delhi: On behalf of United Against Hate, a toll free number "1800-3133-60000" against mob lynching and other hate crimes was launched on Monday in the national capital.

Introducing the helpline service, Nadeem Khan of United Against Hate said that "We are launching a toll free helpline in view of rising cases of mob attacks and hate crimes in the country. We will try to help the victims of such assaults and help them get justice in the courts." The aim of the Helpline Center is to help in the speedy justice to the victims of mob lynching.

UP: 8 suspended over cattle deaths

Lucknow: The UP government has ordered suspension of eight officials and issued show-cause notices to three others, including district magistrates, following reports of cattle deaths from different parts of the state. The action comes after 16 bovines died after consuming poisonous fodder in Chheria Khurd village of Chitrakoot district on Saturday. According to an order issued late Sunday night, those suspended include block development officer of Milkipur (Ayodhya district), deputy chief veterinary officer of Ayodhya, village panchayat officer of Paliamafi and two veterinary doctors. — PTI

I WILL COME TO INDIA IN 24 HRS: IMA FOUNDER

Bengaluru: I Monetary Advisory (IMA) Jewels founder Mansoor Khan, who is accused of perpetrating financial fraud worth crores and fled to Dubai, released a video on Monday, contending that he would come back to India within 24-hour. "I am not keeping well. I need to get a cardiac operation immediately. There are three blockages that have to be operated upon. The major problem is that I cannot afford the medical expenditure here. With the blessings of Allah, I will come to India in another 24 hours on my own will. I have all trust in the Indian judiciary," said Khan in the video. He promised to pay back the client's money with the help of the judiciary. "I will give all the details and documents regarding the movable and non-movable assets and people who have taken the bribe. We can recover with the help of judiciary. If we liquidate the assets, we can repay the money to the clients," he said. He said that due to the pressure created by "anti-social elements and politicians" he had to flee the country. Khan had earlier released a video on the YouTube, urging the police to arrange his return to India so that he could join the probe. In Monday's video, Khan has asserted that he could not come to India because of his health.

TERROR COMBAT Central agency can now take up trans-national probes NIA streamlined with FBI in new Act

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 15

With the Lok Sabha passing the Bill to amend the NIA Act in the Lok Sabha on Monday, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the central agency to combat terror in the country, is on par with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the United States which has investigated extraterritorial terror activities including the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

To begin with, the NIA will have increased correspondence with not only FBI, but also the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), America's Intelligence agency, and Mossad, the Israel Intelligence agency, what with both the US and Israel sharing good ties with India which will enable more flow of information about terror organisations operating across the globe.

Importantly, NIA officials will be able to swiftly visit any country where Indians or Indian interests including embassies, are targeted, the most recent case being the death of eight Indian citizens in the deadly multiple bomb blasts in Sri Lanka.

The Lok Sabha passed the NIA Amendment Bill, 2019 after a heated debate between Union home minister Amit Shah and the Opposition. Minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy said the new law will allow NIA to probe cases of terrorism targeting Indians and Indian assets abroad and empower the agency to investigate cases of arms and human trafficking besides those linked to Cyber terrorism. The Act allows for the creation of special courts for the trial of scheduled offences. The Bill amends the NIA Act, 2008.

"Just like the FBI assisted Indian agencies in the aftermath of the 2008



Union home minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

Mumbai terror attacks (26/11), the NIA will henceforth be able to offer investigative assistance to the senior leadership of the host country and its law enforcement agencies. Over the last one decade, there have been quite a few instances wherein Indians or Indian interests have been targeted on foreign soil," an NIA official told Deccan Chronicle.

"Now, like the FBI investigated transnational crimes, NIA too will be able to probe incidents of terrorism targeting our citizens and assets abroad," he said.

In the aftermath of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks which killed six US citizens, the FBI, through their regional legal attaché in New Delhi, extended an offer of investigative assistance to the Indian agencies and the then UPA government had given its consent. Subsequently, FBI personnel were deployed in Mumbai and they even interviewed 60 individuals and witnesses who gave them first hand accounts of the attacks.

The FBI personnel also spoke to the security men who responded to the attacks. The Indian government gave unprecedented access to the evict and intelligence pertaining to the attack, available with the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and other agencies.

"As and when the NIA has to visit any foreign nation, it will be as per the host country's legal requirements and with full regard to the sovereign interests of that country. This will go a long way in combating transnational terror activities," the official said. According to him, working with their foreign counterparts will result in establishing multilateral working groups. "Best practices among them can be shared and the multiple agencies can find out ways to work together more closely in the investigation of extraterritorial terrorist acts. Intelligence sharing will be prompt and increase manifold," he said.

Former DGP of Jammu and Kashmir K. Rajendra, who was witness to heightened terrorist activities while in office, told this newspaper that the move by the Centre was long overdue to protect Indian citizens from being harmed on foreign soil. "With terrorism transcending borders, there is a need to have enabling legislation for the law enforcement agencies to fight and investigate all such cases not only in India but elsewhere with active cooperation of member countries with whom we have a close rapport and mutual agreements," he said, adding that the global war on terrorism now seems to be a long drawn battle with spreading rapidly through cyber space. "As of now, there is an informal channel of exchanging intelligence between the US and India, which started post 26/11. Even Israel is in touch with India but now that the NIA has been given more powers, the exchange of information, studying each other best practices etc, will get a boost," said another official.

OPPN SAYS NIA ACT IN COURTS, AGAINST CHANGES

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

The government on Monday assured that it would never abuse the NIA law to target anyone even as it asserted that it would ensure that terrorism is finished off in the country, irrespective of the "religion of the accused". Congress MP Manish Tewari claimed that an amendment should not be made when the constitutional validity of the original NIA Act was being challenged in various courts.

The Bill was subsequently passed by a division vote in which 278 MPs voted in favour and only 6 members voted against it.

During his intervention, Mr Shah also targeted the earlier UPA government for repealing the anti-terror act POTA, and insisted that it was not done because of its alleged misuse but to save its vote bank.

The division voting, which was asked for by Hyderabad MP and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, was not bereft of drama as the home minister said division must be allowed as it would be clear who all voted in favour of terrorism and who opposed it.

Soon Congress MPs were seen conferring among themselves and Congress leader of the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, and DMK leader T.R. Balu said there was no need for a division vote as it was a UPA Bill and they were not opposing.

However, Speaker Om Birla ruled that since he had already allowed it, division voting would take place.

CRPF members from Andhra save 14-year-old from drowning in J&K

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

A 14-year-old nomad Gujjar girl was rescued by the members of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) by risking their own lives after she was swept away by gushing waters of a mountain stream in Jammu and Kashmir's north-western Baramulla district on Monday.

The video of the incident has gone viral following which many people of the Valley and beyond took to social media platforms to express their appreciation for the "good gesture" and "act of bravery and kindness" by the CRPF jawans. Various political parties and social organizations too have in their statements thanked the CRPF jawans for it.

In the video, a CRPF jawan can be seen jumping in the stream and he is followed by a colleague as the girl is washed away by strong currents of Ferozpora stream near the township of Tangmarg, about 38-km northwest of Srinagar. A couple of more CRPF jawans too can be seen rushing towards the stream to help in the act. The girl was rescued by the CRPF jawans and, according to their seniors, she was subsequently taken to a nearby sub-district hospital for treatment.

The locals and police sources said that the girl identified as Nageena was along with her family staying in a tent erected on the banks of the stream in Tangmarg's Chanpora Kawarhama area. "She slipped into the stream while washing clothes on its banks. She was washed away by strong water currents but luckily a group of CRPF jawans standing nearby saw it and rushed to rescue her," said a witness.

The CRPF said that the jawans who rescued the



ABOVE: A screen grab of the video in which a CRPF jawan can be seen jumping in the stream and is followed by a colleague as the girl is washed away by the currents of Ferozpora stream near Srinagar on Monday. BELOW: CRPF constables M. G. Naidu and N. Upendra who first rushed to save the girl from drowning.

girl belong to its 176th battalion. They were part of a CRPF contingent performing road domination duty in the area who "on hearing the cries for help from nearby creek risked their lives to save the girl who was being swept by an undercurrent," the CRPF said adding "Others formed a human chain to rescue her".

The CRPF Director General R.R. Bhatnagar has announced that two of them identified as constables M. G. Naidu and N. Upendra who first rushed to save the girl from drowning would be award-

ed the DG commendation disc for their "selfless devotion to duty and exemplary act of saving the life of the girl."

In a separate incident, a 14-year-old boy Aaqib Ahmed Magray died due after he drowned in a power canal at Khanan in Kangan area of the Valley's central district of Ganderbal on Monday.

Meanwhile, a report from Muzaffarabad said that, at least, 23 people died and several others are missing after a cloudburst caused flash flood in the Neelum valley of the Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir (PoK) overnight. Among those swept away by the flash flood waters were fifteen members of a Tablighi Jamaat touring the area for proselytizing Islam. The reports said that they were staying in a mosque in Laswa area of the Valley which with several residential houses and other structures collapsed in flash floods. Also, dozens of people were swept away in the flooding caused by relentless rainfall after the cloudburst over night.

"The Laswa area of the valley was badly hit where many house were swept away. There were also reports of landsliding in some areas. A total of 23 people have been killed," Syed Al-Rehman Qureshi, Director of Operations, State Disaster Management Authority, said. He added that several people, including women and children, are still missing.

Landslides were also reported in the area and officials said many structures in the Laswa's main market, including two mosques, were completely destroyed.

Traffic flow in the area has been severely disrupted, while cell phone and internet services are also affected.

Teams including officials from the district administration, disaster management authority and local police are conducting rescue operations in the area.



Rescue and relief work underway after a building located on the Nahan-Kumarhatti road which housed a restaurant collapsed on Sunday evening after heavy rain in Solan district, Himachal Pradesh, on Monday. — PTI

Search ops underway to extract all bodies

13 soldiers among 14 dead in Solan collapse

Shimla, July 15: Six more bodies were retrieved on Monday from the debris of a building collapse in Himachal Pradesh' Solan district, taking the death toll to 14, officials said.

Twenty-eight people, including 17 Army personnel and 11 civilians, were injured after the four-storey building, which housed a restaurant, collapsed on the Nahan-Kumarhatti Road on Sunday evening following heavy rains, they said.

The bodies of 13 Army personnel and a civilian were extricated from the debris. "The operation is still underway to find out if any other person is still trapped under the rubble," Deputy Commissioner K.C. Chaman said.

Chief minister Jai Ram Thakur, who visited the spot on Monday morning, said that initial investigation has found that the structure was not built up to specifications. "A magisterial inquiry has already been ordered. Strict legal action will be taken against erring persons

personnel belonging to the 4 Assam Regiment of nearby Dagshai Cantonment went to the restaurant "to party as it was a Sunday but suddenly the building shook and collapsed in no minutes".

Another injured person said that about 50 people, including several Army personnel, restaurant staff and other customers were in the building when it collapsed. "We thought it was a quake and did not know how the building collapsed and we were trapped under the debris. I remained trapped for about 10-15 minutes after which some people rescued me," he added.

The Indian Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police initially carried out the rescue operation.

Subsequently, two National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams — one each from Haryana's Panchkula and Shimla's Sunni — reached the spot later in the night to carry out the rescue work, officials said. — PTI

When the building collapsed, there were 35 Army personnel inside it, of whom 30 were Junior Commissioned Officers.

after getting the report," he said. A first information report (FIR) was registered against the owner of the building, he added. "There are more such buildings in the state. Owners have constructed them without following building by-laws. Whatever is required to be done, will be done to check it," he said.

The chief minister said, "Necessary equipment was airlifted on Sunday evening itself through a helicopter from Shimla's Sunni to carry out the rescue work by the NDRF."

An injured soldier told reporters from the hospital that when the building collapsed, there were 35 Army personnel inside it, of whom 30 were Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs). He said that Army

DECCAN Chronicle

16 JULY 2019

WC: Both teams should have been joint winners

Could there have been more dramatic moments in sporting history, that too in the space of one day in two venues just miles away from each other? Two great sporting contests in London were decided by the cruellest of margins after spectacular battles through tiebreakers, at Lord's in the cricket World Cup and at Wimbledon in the men's singles. Unless one possesses the equanimity of Rudyard Kipling to treat success and failure as twin imposters, it would have been impossible to not suffer agony or enjoy the ecstasy on a sporting day that was a metaphor for life in which the difference between victory and defeat was wafer thin. Those celebrating like Team England and Novak Djokovic were genuinely commiserative of the vanquished in New Zealand and Roger Federer. It is, however, the manner of inflicting artificial tiebreakers that was to become the hot debating point.

A first ever Super Over in a final as well as the first ever tiebreaker at 12-all in the final set at Wimbledon were the artifices employed to declare the winners. While tennis did it to shorten marathon matches and avert exhausting the players, a Super Over to decide a World Cup final is itself too extreme. What was even more astounding was that the Super Over

Such a riveting spectacle, so full of drama and human emotions, should not have been spoiled by a winner being spotted from among the minutiae of a match spreading to 50 overs per side. The World Cup is no IPL.

produced a tie again. In such an outcome it was less than fair not to declare the teams as joint winners. Where is the compulsion in finding an ultimate winner, that too artificially, as in a boundary count? Such a riveting spectacle, so full of drama and human emotions, should not have been spoiled by a winner being spotted from among the minutiae of a match spreading to 50 overs per side. The World Cup is no IPL-like entertainment first cricket.

Team England were deserving winners, despite the unpredictable factors, including a fortuitous overthrow ricocheting off a batsman's willow and a question mark over whether that should have yielded six runs rather than five. They hit top gear at the

right time, beating India, New Zealand and Australia and tying with New Zealand in the final. Unlike the Indians, English batsmen didn't succumb to the pressures of chasing on pitches that did not last the entire duration of the match. The victory may have come on a questionable note, but what England demonstrated best was the power of planning a World Cup campaign four years ahead, choosing aggressive methods of play to suit the format and keeping faith with a chosen set of players. In South London, tennis fans may have been left wondering how Federer, who served more aces and hit more outright winners than his opponent Djokovic, could end up the loser in an all-time classic of a final. Too often, sport is a seductress bestowing its fortunes on whoever it pleases.

Isro: Better safe than sorry

Launching rockets into space is a high-stakes, unforgiving business with razor-thin margins between success and failure, and catastrophic consequences when things go wrong. Sometimes, the smallest problems can doom a satellite — and in the most tragic circumstances, an entire crew. With rockets, it's always better to be safe than sorry, and this is precisely the reason why Indian space scientists slammed the brakes with less than an hour to go for commencement of Chandrayaan-2's journey into space onboard the gigantic GSLV-Mk III rocket in the early hours of Monday.

First reports point to a snag in the cryogenic upper stage of the rocket. Cryogenic engines are sine qua non to hoist heavy satellites into space but involve complex and risky processes of using liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen as the fuel at freezing temperatures, to propel rockets deep into space along with satellites weighing three tonnes and more. These engines, also used on projects of sending man into space, will be employed by Isro to accomplish Gaganyaan, the mission that plans to send an Indian crew into space, onboard a Made-in-India rocket by 2021. A saga of three decades of R&D by Isro's scientists and engineers, marred by a couple of setbacks, illustrates the importance of cryogenic technology, which, incidentally, could not be acquired from Russia owing to pressure from the United States on grounds that it violated MTCR (missile technology control regime) laws. With their vast experience of cracking problems related to cryogenic engines as well as the technology, space scientists are confident of announcing a new date for Chandrayaan-2's voyage onboard GSLV Mk III within a week. The new date, however, will also depend on phases when the distance between Moon and earth shrink.

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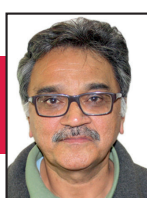
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Subhani



For economic progress, learn from the Chinese



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Is sovereignty overvalued? Our approach to sovereignty is parochial. The Union government wants it all, whilst sub-national entities like provinces and local governments have precious little in real terms. The fear of Balkanisation shores up the centralisation of sovereignty.

In the US, New Hampshire on the east coast and California on the west coast are islands of "liberty" from the "tyrannical" control and influence of Washington. But these are fringe regional emotions which kick-in at the margins. State governments pretty much follow the Central establishment. Possibly, almost a two-and-one-half century old record of governance makes for a special glue. More importantly, who wants to junk a machine which isn't broken. Global domination backed by military assets, a strong business orientation to diplomacy and a largely open economy is what America marches to.

State governments matter in India too and size is not everything. Smaller states and those located along the coast or the border have better cohesion and economic performance than large hinterland states. Sikkim, for instance, has taken the lead in going completely organic. Goa is a tourism hub with a strongly internationalised ecosystem. Punjab, riding on the back of government investment and the entrepreneurial Punjabi community, is a vibrant agricultural powerhouse. Haryana, known for its growth orientation, hosts Gurugram — which is the new New Delhi — a modern service sector and residential hub. To the east of the capital, Noida is a modern, integrated

export and service sector city, leagues apart from Lucknow — 500 km away from where it is tightly administered. And yet social and political change is slow to come by in India, unlike China.

The Chinese have taken to markets with Central control exercised via a single integrated party across all levels of government. Crony capitalism is the obvious risk with a Central government managing markets and people's lives rather intrusively via the deep state. And yet, China appears to be powering through its fourth decade of high growth — at least 3 per cent more, in real terms, than the rest of the world.

How sovereign is China? The Middle Kingdom has come a long way from its xenophobia of the Anglo-China wars of the 1800s. It unpeeled the onion of sovereignty strategically. In 1980, it joined the World Bank to access capital and know-how to catch up with the developed world. The first economic zone was started in Shenzhen in 1980. Fourteen more copycat zones were to follow on the coast with entire cities being similarly designated "open cities" in the late 1980s.

The objective was simple — use foreign capital, expertise and supply chains to grow business, create wealth and develop the economy. It was

Sovereignty, in our case, has become a handicap, not an asset. It has frozen us in a comfortable time warp. But the compact is coming apart at the seams, starting with the economy.

not till internal restructuring and reform was completed over the next two decades that it chose to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2001. Fourteen years later it promoted an international development bank, in cooperation with Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa. The New Development Bank is located in Shanghai — a multilateral bank to give the established World Bank — dominated by the US and the Asian Development Bank — dominated by Japan — a run for their money.

How do we compare? Structural reform came late to India in 1992 — decades after we had become experts at maintaining the status-quo under the garb of sovereignty, by taking the World Bank's money but dodging their conditionality for essential economic reform. We have hung onto a one-way open economy, which encourages the exit of brains, skills and capital but devises a hundred rules to stop these three commodities from coming into the economy from abroad.

We refuse to accept that our core governance and representative systems are broken. That poverty remains a curse in India. And that Byzantine battles are still raging, where entire communities are set at loggerheads and non-meritocratic elites rule the roost in politics, business and government.

Wealth creation and income generation are still second rung occupations, which are taxed heavily, even though a right-wing government — the BJP — is in power. We have a yen for adopting advanced economic practices, but only through a highly distorted, localisation prism.

Consider the Union government's sensible scheme for direct transfer of benefits to poor farmers using, as a proxy for easy identification, ownership of up to two hectares of land. What could possibly justify its extension to all farmers — including rich ones, in a year of

Deep social change is at the heart of economic progress. It is economic strength and equity which confer sovereignty and attract the loyalty of citizens, not gunships or border walls.

extreme fiscal stress, when there was no mirror scheme for transfer of benefits to the landless poor in rural areas?

We assert that our growth path, moderate though it may be versus China, is likely to be more politically and socially stable. The basis for this claim is belief in democracy as a safety valve for the losers to vent their steam, without toppling the entrenched elites. Like the US, we allow the unstoppable few, who push their way through the glass ceiling — like Prime Minister Narendra Modi — honorary elite status and hope to socialise them thereafter. But the crush at the gate is only going to increase as we liberalise further.

Sovereignty, in our case, has become a handicap, not an asset. It has frozen us in a comfortable time warp. But the compact is coming apart at the seams, starting with the economy.

We should shed our fear of losing sovereignty, because it deep-freezes entrenched inequalities. Agriculture and the government are the core economic areas which have resisted liberalisation. If we can pop these corks, the rush of meritocratic entrepreneurship is likely to overwhelm the core of India — the rural, industrial, political elite.

We should learn from China. Deep social change is at the heart of economic progress. It is economic strength and equity which confer sovereignty and attract the loyalty of citizens, not gunships or border walls. Fix social barriers to fix India.

The writer is adviser, Observer Research Foundation

LETTERS

DISTRACTIONS

Distractions cropping up in teenage minds and lack of timely guidance are major reasons for an increase in school dropouts (*Child labour behind school dropout surge, July 15*). The government should set up counselling centres for students in each educational institution to observe problems faced by the students and take measures to bring them back to school. Every child should get education until he or she is able to access a better life.

Rakshitha Gindam
Hyderabad

MOB ATTACKS

A man, who was caught burgling in a colony at Shamshabad, was beaten up by locals before handing over to people (*Burglar caught, beaten up, July 15*). Though this incident does evoke any reaction from most of us, people taking law into hands could subsequently lead to mob lynching. People acting on their own shows their mistrust in the law and order system.

Romana Maryem
Hyderabad

HISTORIC THRILLER

I haven't ever seen a match that was as thrilling as the 2019 Cricket World Cup Final (*It's finally home, July 15*). It was a truly nerve wrecking and mind boggling match, which created something that probably the world has never seen since the invention of the game. Two winners emerged after this match. England by winning the Cup and New Zealand by winning the hearts.

C.S.N. Murthy
Hyderabad

Both the teams displayed great talent and gritty performance. The two teams levelling each other in both the match and in the super-over made the final showdown all the more memorable, albeit with some heartbreak.

M. Somasekar Prasad
Hyderabad

This match vividly highlights the fact that there is a very thin margin between 'Championship' or 'Defeat' in most cases — including in our lives. Regardless of who got the title, both the teams equally deserve a huge applause for putting in their best efforts in spite of such an immense pressure.

Ramala Kinnera
Hyderabad

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Huma Yusuf

Need focus on increasing political bias of news leaks

The UK foreign office last week hosted a global conference on press freedom, which saw 60 ministers from around the world and hundreds of journalists gather to champion independent journalism and reiterate its criticality for democracy.

The conference caused a buzz in Pakistan because of videos on social media showing Shah Mehmood Qureshi addressing a large hall of empty chairs, perceived as an international critique of the State's crackdown on free media. It also made headlines in the UK for exposing the government's hypocrisy: On the same day that the conference kicked off, Britain was defending itself in a case brought by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism along with other human rights organisations over UK intelligence agencies' mass surveillance of citizens, including journalists' communications. These events unfolded alongside

the political storm stirred by the publication of the former UK ambassador to the US' leaked diplomatic correspondence. The ambassador, who described the Trump administration as "dysfunctional" and "inept", became the focal point of both growing UK-US tensions and toxic Brexit politics within the UK. And while participants in the foreign office conference defended media freedom, the metropolitan police threatened to prosecute journalists who publish leaked information.

Meanwhile, in Pakistan, political dynamics were thrown further asunder with a different kind of leak: that of videos allegedly showing accountability court judge Arshad Malik claiming he was pressured to convict Nawaz Sharif. While not a leak in the classic sense — there was no leak of classified government information — the videos raise the same questions as more typical news leaks, with similarly vital political implications.

Leaks lie in the murkiest space within the intersections of democracy, State sovereignty and press freedom. Nothing about leaks is clear-cut. Most countries have laws explaining when leaks are illegal, usually when the classified documents could undermine national security. But much legislation is vaguely worded; for example, the Official Secrets Act, under which the source of the leaked diplomatic correspondence could be prosecuted, talks of "damaging disclosure" that could "endanger the interests of the United Kingdom abroad". In many cases, however, the accountability argument trumps other considerations. The low prosecution rate of leaks in mature democracies such as the UK and the US points to the complexities around this kind of information flow. Sources are difficult to identify, prosecution would often entail the release of additional sensitive information and, more relevantly, governments prefer to remain

lenient on leaks because they are a tactic purposefully used by officials as a strategy to share information and test ideas with the opposition and wider public.

In a post-WikiLeaks, digital world, news leaks are an integral part of the information landscape. And they throw up serious challenges for journalists. Reporters who receive leaks have to weigh the legality of publishing information, its implications for national security, its reliability and verifiability, and its newsworthiness in light of the public interest.

But increasingly, journalists must weigh whether the leak is in service of an explicit political agenda. In the cases of both Kim Darroch, the UK ambassador to the US, and Malik the answer is yes. Darroch is known to be in favour of the UK remaining within the EU, and the journalist who published the leaked information is well connected with hard-line Brexiters. There is much speculation within

the UK media that the leaked diplomatic correspondence is a warning to pro-EU civil servants not to jeopardise Brexit. In Malik's case, the leaked videos' role in tussles between the PML-N and the PTI government as well as the establishment more broadly is obvious.

The increasing political bias of news leaks is a dimension that needs greater focus. Leaks increase when States and governments function poorly; when politicians and government officials are unable — owing to political dynamics, fear or expediency — to openly debate critical policies. Leaks become the recourse when other dynamics, such as political polarisation and creeping authoritarianism, begin to undermine the workings of democracy. It seems we should focus less on the leaks and the journalists who publish them, and more on the underlying political drivers for them.

By arrangement with Daun

A person who rejects or limits their interaction with technology

A democracy with absurd or inequitable characteristics or in which senseless or unjust events occur

In party defections, voters are being cheated



Shikha Mukerjee

The onus of ensuring credible elections — a free and fair contest between rival political parties — and, the consequence thereof — peaceful and orderly transition of power from one regime to a different one — in the BJP's rule book lies with the Opposition. This was the leitmotif of its campaign in the recently concluded Lok Sabha election and the recent Assembly elections in a handful of states.

In one tiny corner of India, in the Northeast, Tripura to be exact, the BJP is repeating its complaints against the Opposition that the rival parties failed to play by the rules. It has to live down its achievement, of setting a new record of how large a victory a party can

organise, because most of the seats were won unopposed. The BJP's indisputable supremacy — 85 per cent of the 6,646 panchayat seats in Tripura were won by it unopposed — is awkward, making the July 27 election into a travesty of sorts.

How will the home minister and BJP president Amit Shah explain why crores of people were not given an opportunity to exercise their votes? He could blame it on the Opposition, as the Tripura BJP is trying to do. Or, he could grudgingly acknowledge that he has taken a leaf out of the Trinamul Congress play book, even though it was a tactic he forcefully deplored, and turned it into a page from an elephant folio.

When 34 per cent of the panchayat seats in West Bengal went unopposed to the

Trinamul Congress, Mr Shah described the situation as "misrule". The Trinamul Congress' 2018 panchayat elections performance was used over and over again, in the run up to the Lok Sabha elections and during the campaign to engage with disgruntled voters and woo them over to the BJP, with the promise that misrule would end.

The BJP raised a very significant issue in the context of the panchayat elections in West Bengal — depriving voters of the opportunity and the right to make a choice on representation in a democracy where elections are regularly held is a violation, corrupting the implicit principle that peaceful transitions of power should be the normal. Now that in Tripura the BJP has won unopposed in 5,652 out of 6,646 seats, it must defend its advocacy of the principles of free and fair elections and the peaceful transition of power.

The need to defend both these principles is urgent. The 2019 elections have been tainted by the dubious conduct not only of the Election Commission, but also of the BJP, which willfully flouted not only the criteria in the model code of conduct, but

The free-for-all that has begun with defections being glorified as principled politics by the BJP and in West Bengal by the Trinamul Congress, dishonour and disgrace democracy. The voter is being cheated.

also various laws on hate speeches and fomenting communal discord.

The need to defend the principle of peaceful and orderly transition is even more urgent. It is imperative that the BJP explain why it has meddled in the internal matters of other political parties, by celebrating defections, by sheltering defectors, by negotiating with potential defectors and by justifying its actions as fair politics. In Karnataka, in Goa, Telangana and Maharashtra, the number of legislators who have quit the Congress to join the BJP is telling. In Andhra Pradesh, four Telegu Desam Party Rajya Sabha members of Parliament switched to the BJP.

As examples of orderly tran-

sition of power, without the benefit of elections, the Goa, Maharashtra, Telangana defections qualify. In Karnataka, the resignation of 16 legislators has neither been peaceful, nor has it been orderly. The Supreme Court has been petitioned; the state Assembly is in limbo and Karnataka is in turmoil. The destabilising effects in Karnataka of the BJP's acquisitive endeavours are all too evident. No government, freely and fairly elected, or even not fairly constituted, can do its work in the current state of chaos.

In West Bengal, the BJP leader who defected from the Trinamul Congress in 2017, Mukul Roy, has announced that 107 legislators would defect to the BJP soon. While most would be from the Trinamul Congress, Mr Roy claims that there would be legislators from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and other parties. Since the end of May, dozens of Trinamul Congress councillors and panchayat members have been shunted to New Delhi to be paraded proudly by the BJP as defectors.

The West Bengal situation is bizarre — councillors who

moved over to the BJP in June are now back with the Trinamul Congress in July. Municipalities that turned to the BJP in June have reverted back to the Trinamul Congress majorities in July.

These switches have unleashed unconfirmed reports of intimidation and fear, temptation and opportunity, converting the process into a mockery. This is a situation where Mr Shah as president of the BJP needs to defend his own actions in the light of what he said of the panchayat elections in West Bengal. Municipalities do not have crores of voters; but they do have lakhs of voters. When each voter made a choice in 2018, it was with certain expectations. One of these expectations was the certainty that the chosen representative was from a specific political party.

Voters do not make the effort to queue up to elect a representative from a specific party anticipating that the person will switch sides and nullify the choice made at the time of voting. There would be voters who would never vote BJP or Trinamul Congress or Congress or CPI(M) or TDP. These are people who have a

definite choice. Defections, engineered or voluntary, make nonsense of the process of choosing.

The free-for-all that has begun with defections being glorified as principled politics by the BJP and in West Bengal by the Trinamul Congress, dishonour and disgrace democracy. The voter is being cheated. Treated as a biddable button pusher, and not as sovereign and independent person exercising a choice — the voter has been marginalised in the current politics of defections. What is obvious is that once the elections are over, the voter and her/his choice is not her/his business any more. Voters have been pushed into the role of spectators, watching the ambitious, unscrupulous politicians and parties haggle to acquire power or remain in power. Elections have been emptied of meaning; individual choice has been stripped of its majesty. Political leaders have become traders and the deals they are making or have made are not credible.

The writer is a senior journalist in Kolkata

Govt can't drop its guard in J&K



Bhopinder Singh

The second report on Kashmir published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has expectedly and rightly been slammed by the Indian government as "a continuation of the earlier false and motivated narrative on the situation in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir." The Indian government's sharp reaction to the report alluded to a "prejudiced mindset" that tantamounts to one that "legitimises terrorism", and is in conformity to the reaction elicited when the first report was presented in May 2018. As compared to the first report, which was essentially targeting the Indian realm, this second report has an added dimension of capturing the situation in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (or "Pakistan-administered Kashmir", as noted in the report). While this report is equally harsh on the governments of both India and Pakistan on human rights issues, the reactions from Delhi and Islamabad were starkly different. Delhi is horrified at the contextual parity between "the world's largest and most vibrant democracy and a country that openly practices State-sponsored terrorism" — Islamabad, which is used to such strictures and opprobriums on a routine basis, welcomed the report as it internationalises the Kashmir issue and allows it the veneer of UN-linked concerns against India.

At the heart of Indian concern is the simplistic linearity in documenting the situa-

tion (often through unverified and biased sources), that is bereft of the accompanying context and environment that besets any region afflicted by terrorism and militancy propped by a foreign nation. The naivety of the report is implicit in the way it lazily documents reportage and concerns on Kashmir for the period between May 2018 and April 2019. It incredulously questions the deployment of "cordon and search operations" as a military tactic, as it notes "120 cases of destruction of civilian property during cordon and search operations in 2018". While instances of reckless destruction or gross human rights violations, if any, are certainly worth investigating, however, to question the tactic of "cordon and search operations" itself in an area of armed militancy is either puerile or motivated. Similarly, its concerns on "censorship and attack on press freedom" is not nuanced to the reality of the curbs getting enforceable only in sensitive times when such liberties/freedoms are abused for mob mobilisation, the escape of insurgents and for rousing of regressive passions for destruction.

Unlike Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, where such curbs are institutionalised and permanent, freedom of expression in J&K is applicable in the same quantum as in the rest of the country with various shades of dissent allowed even in state Assemblies. The concerns on the usage of pellet-firing shotguns in Kashmir are countenanced with an appeal to employ

We must integrate and heal the Valley emotionally, socio-economically and democratically, without dropping our guard. The Indian state is intrinsically a 'moral state' that ought to auto-correct its own conduct.

society and NGOs to question each other. This is in stark contrast to the enthusiastic neighbour, where it is said, "Countries have armies, but in Pakistan, the Army has a country!"

The most sinister element of this report is to recommend "the possible establishment of a commission of inquiry to conduct a comprehensive independent international investigation into allegations of human rights in Kashmir." This walks right into the hands of the Pakistanis who have tried desperately (although unsuccessfully), to move the barometer from bilateralism to that of an international issue. Towards its aim of internationalising the issue, the Pakistani state has resorted to violence (Pulwama), terrorism (supporting terror groups), overt religiosity (eg. in the Organisation of Islamic Countries), etc, and has so far met with a stoic push back from the "Free World" and democracies who recognise the functioning of Indian democracy, albeit, with the scope to evolve and improve.

While this report makes many extended interlinkages like the "targeting of Kashmiri Muslims outside Jammu and Kashmir" and of the Indian Army's Court of Inquiry for indicting an officer for allegedly "fraternising" with a local woman, it remains suspiciously

num on the more relevant, germane and transformational indictment of the Pakistani state by the sister multilateral organisation of OHCHR, the FATF (Financial Action Task Force). The Damocles Sword of "black listing" Pakistan for its incorrigible conduct on terrorism has invited the wrath of all its neighbours (India, Afghanistan and Iran), multilateral organisations (including the UN, which ultimately designated the Pakistan-protected Masood Azhar as an international terrorist) and powers like France, Germany, the UK and the US — who moved motions against Pakistan.

Terrorism in Kashmir is unequivocally attributable to Pakistan — but this does not absolve the Indian state to accept and correct its own governance imperatives and missteps in Kashmir. We must integrate and heal the Valley emotionally, socio-economically and democratically, without dropping our guard. The Indian state is intrinsically a "moral state" that ought to auto-correct its own conduct and governance, without the condescending, and seemingly motivated "reportage" of OHCHR.

The writer is a retired lieutenant-general and a former lieutenant-governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry

European fighters who battled Isis, but were abandoned by their govts

Kenneth R. Rosen

Foreign fighters are returning from the battlefield — not Islamists but the Americans, Europeans and South Americans who fought to rid the world of Isis. But for all their bravery, their homecoming is a tricky one because their home countries do not want them back.

I have now interviewed more than a dozen volunteers. Many of them share similar stories of arrests and detentions. They have been stripped of their ability to travel, have their movements monitored, their bank accounts closed. One of them, an American, has since committed suicide.

One fighter, who wishes to be known as Max, tells me in an email that he has left his home country of Denmark. He had returned for a short while after enlisting for a six-month tour in the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) of northeastern Syria where he fought to rout Isis from its de facto capital and caliphate.

During Max's time there, the Danish government issued a law that made his mere presence in Syria illegal. He hadn't heard about the change until he left Rojava, the northeastern semi-autonomous Kurdish region where the SDF is based, to return home. "Being back in Denmark... has been mentally tiring and challenging, mainly because of my fear of the police suddenly showing up on my doorstep," he says. "In Denmark, we get treated like criminals when all we wanted was to help the Kurdish people of Syria to defeat a terrorist organisation that had been murdering innocents all around the world."

He is not in hiding now, he tells me, but he has left Denmark. "It makes me sleep much better when I'm out of the country," he says. "I am much less stressed and, in general, more happy."

Max is not alone. Similar

restrictive and oppressive measures against former fighters have spread across Europe. Laws — in Britain, Spain, Italy, Denmark and France, among others — meant to deter Westerners from joining Isis or other radical terrorist networks such as al Qaeda have since dragged into their nets the volunteers who came to aid the Kurds in northeastern Syria in their desperate plight from all sides: Turkey, Isis and the Assad government in Damascus. The Syrian Democratic Forces volunteers who return safely from the defeat of Isis now find they've no real home anymore. Their home was and remains Rojava, their utopia in northeastern Syria.

From my recent visits to the frontline in Baghouz, to meetings with former People's Protection Units volunteers in Denmark and Britain, it was evident that these people — fighters, but also medics and cooks — have found a strained life. They no longer live in opposition to Isis but rather to their own governments. Counter-terrorism strategies meant to allay the fear about radical Islamists returning home have instead stripped the liberties of those who fought against those very fundamentalists. "When I first came back, after I spent about two weeks here... I was ready to go back (to Syria)," said Josh Walker, 28, a British former volunteer. "But obviously I couldn't because I didn't have my passport."

As many fighters transition back to daily lives outside a conflict zone, they continue to fear for themselves and their *hevals*, the Kurdish term for comrades. Some have committed suicide upon returning home or expressed the desire to do so; others have gone into dark depression. "Everybody is fearful," says Helali.

By arrangement with the Spectator

The soul is the fount of conscious awareness



Rajgopal Nidamboor

The soul in Western and Eastern philosophy has diverse connotations in terms of its relationship with our conscious mind, mind-body and body-mind intelligence. For the philosopher Socrates the précis of reason emerged from the soul. The soul, he believed, is more than a dynamic, ethereal field of the body, not just the psyche. Socrates also thought that the soul mirrored our true self, endowed as it is

with instinctual awareness to make certain distinctions, for example, between good and evil and vice versa. The purpose of life, therefore, as he asserted, was to shape our intangible, yet distinctive, soul through knowledge, understanding and self-knowledge, including receptiveness for and of oneself and others around.

For Plato, the physical, yet mindful body echoed our frontiers with the inhabitant soul. He believed that

the attainment of knowledge was conveyed to the psyche through the process of our perceptive, sentient soul. Plato suggested that it was the reasoning power of our soul that propelled us, including our essential understanding of our true purpose of life and the world as one integrated whole. Plato also argued that it's our body and our senses that provide us with our appearance. They are, however, not just mirror images of our "bespoke" or individualised persona, but also a part of our small, yet fully interconnected world. This translates to our soul being a distinct entity, bequeathed with inherent wisdom and not just knowledge — a nat-

ural endowment providing us with the key to unlock and recover anything through the power of reason.

The whole idea also underlines the fact that our soul is a distinct, yet not fully palpable, form of being, blessed with the natural ability to make our body move and act, or vice versa. You'd call the soul "the fount of conscious awareness" and understanding too — primarily because Plato believed our body intelligence drives our soul, while shaping our thoughts, beliefs and convictions through our sensory and nervous processes. In Indian philosophy, the soul is, in like manner, a discrete entity. It

is called "jiva" or "atma." It endures from life to life; in other words, through reincarnation. It is found in all living beings and governed by "karma", or the totality of a person's actions in this and previous states of existence. This is viewed as deciding their fate in future lives too. Yet, the interesting part is our old philosophies challenge us as to how our conscious mindful soul interacts with our brain. This bids fair to the essential principles of mind-body medicine that relate dexterously to our brain as a conscious system. It is this reality that establishes the prismatic role of our conscious awareness in the working of our mind, body and soul.

The writer is a wellness physician, independent researcher and author



'He's a bit over-emojinal.'

K.V. Lamb

82 dead, 88 hurt in rail mishap Goods train rams into passenger

BHUBANESWAR, July 15.

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

THE train disaster — the second in three weeks — at Jaipur-Keonjar road station last night has claimed a toll of 82 lives, 69 having died on the spot and the rest in hospitals.

At least 88 persons have been injured, most of them seriously. Besides, scores of others sustained minor cuts and bruises.

The accident occurred when a goods train rammed into the rear of the pilgrim-packed Asansol-Puri passenger standing near the outer signal.

The train according to passengers, had been brought to a halt by a gang of thieves who forced their way into a crowded compartment as it was pulling out of the platform and started robbing.

As passengers raised alarm, the thieves pulled the chain and escaped.

An unofficial source put the

toll at 88. But no confirmation of it could be had at the South Eastern Railway headquarters here.

Most of the passengers were on way to Puri to witness the "Navakalebar" festival beginning tomorrow. The dead included sadhus and about 20 women.

Most of the dead could not be identified till this evening.

According to the eye-witnesses, the goods train rammed with such force that the passenger train lunged forward for several yards. The doors and windows of the train were wrenched and flung metres away. Many passengers were thrown out.

Deloitte
misreading
law: Govt

Overleaf

Kona SUV to be
cheaper on GST cut



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,896.71	+0.41
Nifty 50	11,588.35	+0.31
S&P 500	3,010.21	-0.12
Dollar (₹)	68.54	-0.21
Pound Sterling (₹)	85.85	-0.38
Euro (₹)	77.17	-0.10
Gold (10gm) (₹)	35,470	-0.28
Brent crude (\$/bbl)	66.50	-0.33
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.437	-0.051
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	2.124	+0.018

* As of 10:30 pm IST

Biz sentiment falls to lowest level in 3 years

Business sentiment in India fell to its lowest level since June 2016, as companies were worried over a slowing economy, government policies and water shortage. According to the IHS Markit India Business Outlook, predictions of softer activity growth underpin the downward revisions of profit outlook, subdued hiring plans and relatively muted capital expenditure.

Birla Fashion snaps up Finesse for ₹60 crore



Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail has acquired A 51-per cent stake in ethnic wear brand Finesse International Design promoted by designers Shantanu and Nikhil for Rs 60 crore. Finesse is primarily engaged in bespoke occasion and ceremonial contemporary apparel for men and women and hawks them under the label of Shantanu & Nikhil.

Not backing out from Bhushan, JSW tells NCLT

JSW Steel told the NCLT that it is not backing out from the ongoing resolution process of Bhushan Power & Steel despite reports of alleged fraud by its former promoters. During the proceedings, counsel appearing for JSW Steel informed the tribunal that it was anxious about the alleged fraud reports and needs to know what is going inside Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd.

Zimbabwe inflation rate soars to 175%

Zimbabwe's annual inflation rate hit 175 per cent in June, stoking fears of a return of the hyperinflation that wiped out savings ten years ago when the economy collapsed. Official inflation is the highest since hyperinflation forced the government to abandon the Zimbabwe dollar in 2009. Supplies of essentials such as bread, medicine and petrol are regularly running short in the country.

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Bank-like structure with MD & CEO post mooted Govt mulls splitting top tier of general insurers

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

In a move to strengthen governance in the state-owned general insurance companies, the government is likely to recast the top deck structure in all public sector non-life insurers. The Ministry of Finance would soon be issuing new guidelines on appointing the heads of general insurance companies, it is learnt.

As per the current thinking, the post of Chairman and Managing Director will be bifurcated into Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) and the selection process will be handled by multiple agencies, with the Finance Ministry also having a say in the selection.

Against the current structure of general insurers having a CMD at the top followed by two directors, the new structure would have a Chairman, followed by MD & CEO and two Executive Directors. There would be no directors in the new structure.

"The top deck in all public sector non-life insurers will be restructured soon. The move is aimed at strengthening the overall

GOVERNANCE PUSH



- ▶ Finance Ministry would soon be issuing new guidelines on appointing the heads
- ▶ Selection process will be handled by multiple agencies, with the Finance Ministry also having a say in it

governance in the system. The selection process and other related guidelines will be issued shortly by the concerned department of the Finance Ministry," a top source told *Financial Chronicle*.

It is believed that the government would largely follow the appointment process of public sector banks (except State Bank of India) where the interview and selection process is conducted by the Banks Board Bureau (BBB), an autonomous body.

"The Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Finance

Ministry is also expected to take a call on all the appointments of these key posts in PSU general insurers on the recommendations of chiefs of BBB, IRDAI and GIPSA as well," the source said.

In the banking selection process, public sector banks now have a Chairman/Non-Executive Chairman at the helm, followed by an MD & CEO and two executive directors. In contrast, the state-run general insurers currently have a CMD at the helm, with two directors and below him/her and are generally appointed by

General Insurance Public Sector Association (GIPSA) on the basis of seniority.

But the source said, in the new setup, seniority-based promotion would give way to an interview-based selection made by the BBB. To a question if their tenure will also be similar to those of the banks, the source said, the government is working on this aspect.

"The Finance Ministry in consultation with all stakeholders may consider the appointee's tenure like in the banking sector, where the appointment of MD & CEO is for three years or till the date of superannuation, whichever is earlier," the source said.

It is pertinent that though Alice G Vaidyan, the current CMD of GIC Re, is retiring this month-end, the government has not yet announced her replacement, nor has it begun the process of finding a successor. Similar is the story for directors.

"The restructure move of the government could be the prime reason why it has not yet replaced the directors at the general insurance companies," an industry source said.

US firms may get nod to restart Huawei sales

ALEXANDRA ALPER &
KAREN FREIFELD
WASHINGTON, JULY 15

The US may approve licenses for companies to re-start new sales to Huawei in as little as two weeks, according to a senior US official, in a sign President Donald Trump's recent effort to ease restrictions on the Chinese company could move forward quickly.

Huawei, the world's largest telecommunications equipment maker, was added to a Commerce Department list in May that prohibits US companies from supplying it with new American-made goods and services unless they obtain licenses that will likely be denied.

But late last month, after meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, President Donald Trump announced American firms could sell products to Huawei. And in recent days, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said licenses would be issued where there is no threat to national security.

Trump's reversal, and rapid implementation by the Commerce Department, suggests chip industry lobbying, coupled with Chinese political pressure, may well reignite US technology sales to Huawei.

Two US chipmakers who



supply Huawei told Reuters in recent days they would apply for more licenses after Ross's comments. They asked to remain anonymous.

A customer response management company and a firm that simulates cross-sectional radar for Huawei are also likely to file applications in the coming days, according to Craig Ridgley, a Trade Compliance Consultant in Washington.

Out of \$70 billion that Huawei spent buying components in 2018, some \$11 billion went to US firms including Qualcomm, Intel and Micron Technology.

"Since there's no downside, companies are absolutely submitting applications, as required by the regulations," said Washington Lawyer Kevin Wolf, a former Commerce Department

official. A Huawei spokesman said, "the Entity list restrictions should be removed altogether, rather than have temporary licenses applied for US vendors. Huawei has been found guilty of no relevant wrongdoing and represents no cybersecurity risk to any country so the restrictions are unwarranted."

US companies can currently sell goods in order to maintain existing networks and provide software updates to existing Huawei handsets, but are prohibited from making new sales of American-made goods and services.

Furthermore, not all US sales to Huawei hinge on government approvals of license requests. Some US chipmakers sales to Huawei may not need licenses because their products could be beyond the scope of US export controls since many are manufactured abroad with few US components.

US officials have sought to clarify the new policy in recent weeks, saying they will allow sales of non-sensitive technology readily available abroad if national security is protected. But they have also reiterated that Huawei remains on the entity list, and relief would be temporary.

— Reuters

DHFL shares crash 28%

FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JULY 15

The troubled home finance company DHFL on Monday said it is working with stakeholders and creditors to ensure resolution of liquidity issues, without any hair cut to the lenders, even as its stock plunged 28.10 per cent at Rs 49.20 on the BSE.

"We are closely working with the stakeholders/creditors to ensure that there is a comprehensive resolution, without any hair cut to the lenders, as has been speculated by few sections of the media," DHFL said in a regulatory filing.

Further, DHFL said the sectorial stress is well-known for months, the company has withstood intense pressure and continues to remain strong and solvent.

DHFL on Saturday reported a loss of Rs 2,223 crore for the March quarter of 2018-19. It had a net profit of Rs 134 crore for the year-ago period.

The auditors have reportedly sought additional information on the company's financials under Section 143 of the Companies Act, 2013, which pertains to powers and duties of auditors and auditing standards. Deloitte Haskins and



Chaturvedi & Shah are the auditors of the company.

In the regulatory filing, DHFL said it has cleared significant amount of obligation to the tune of Rs 41,800 crore since September 2018.

"Since the last nine months, with single minded focus, we have met all our financial obligations and are looking to return to business normalcy at the earliest. Since September 2018, DHFL has managed to make repayments of over Rs 41,800 crore primarily through securitisation of assets and repayment collections," Kapil Wadhawan, Chairman and Managing Director, DHFL, said.

The company said due to a significant slowdown in disbursement and loan growth post September 2018, the financials of the firm have been strained for the quarter impacting the overall performance of the year.

GAIL pipeline biz may go to strategic investor

New Delhi, July 15: The government is considering splitting state-run gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd by hiving off its pipeline business into a separate entity and selling it off to strategic investors, sources privy to the development said.

GAIL is India's biggest natural gas marketing and trading firm and owns more than two-thirds of the country's 16,234-km pipeline network.

Gas companies have often complained about not getting access to GAIL's 11,551-km pipeline network to transport their own fuel.

The sources said that to resolve the conflict arising out of the same entity owning the two jobs, bifur-



cating GAIL is being considered.

While previously selling of the marketing business, possibly to another state-owned firm, was being considered, the government is now mulling about hiving off the pipelines into a separate entity and selling off a majority stake in it, they said.

GAIL has multiple long-term contracts to import

gas in its liquid form (LNG) from countries such as the US and no strategic buyer would like to take the responsibility of those, particularly when the fuel is available at a cheaper price in the spot or current market, the sources said.

They said it is now being considered that GAIL continues with the marketing business that would

include all the sale contracts as also city gas retailing.

The pipeline business can be spun off into a separate company, where the government may divest a majority stake to a strategic investor such as Canadian asset management company Brookfield that recently bought a 1,480-km pipeline owned by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries (RIIL).

The sources said the strategic partner will operate the pipelines and give access to a non-discriminatory basis to any entity wanting to transport gas either from a natural gas field or an LNG import terminal to consumers.

—PTI

Steel consumers resent safeguard duty

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, JULY 15

Leading steel consumers and various associations are up in arms against the Centre over the imposition of 25 per cent safeguard duty on imports of a wide range of steel items on the ground that safeguard duty would make imports costlier for users and lead to a few steel mills dominating, creating a monopolistic market in India. Besides, SMEs and MSMEs would be the worst sufferers from this, these bodies feel.

The organisations, which are virtually on a warpath against the government on the issue include CAMIT, TSSIA, FAI, COSIA, SWMAI, SUFI, Hooghly Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Steel Chamber of India, Federation of Industries of India, to name a few.

Interestingly, the India's total imports of steels are hardly 6 per cent of the total gross production in the country. As per WTO

rules, safeguard measures are defined as "Emergency" actions in response to large-scale increase in imports or a surge in imports. But the ground reality is that imports have considerably decreased in the last three years

as a result of a series of various protective measures, both tariff and non-tariff based that were announced for various steel items since

September 2015. The total imports were merely 4.68 per cent of total production as of May 2019.

With 12.5 per cent of basic customs duty on most flat products, like HRC, plus a surcharge of 10 per cent, imports from most countries like China, Europe and the CIS has become unviable and substantially declined. A significant portion of the imports comprises grades, sizes and quality that is not available sufficiently or timely in India or of finished goods for export purpose.

September 2015. The total imports were merely 4.68 per cent of total production as of May 2019.

With 12.5 per cent of basic customs duty on most flat products, like HRC, plus a surcharge of 10 per cent, imports from most countries like China, Europe and the CIS has become unviable and substantially declined. A significant portion of the imports comprises grades, sizes and quality that is not available sufficiently or timely in India or of finished goods for export purpose.

As per data, the wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation was at 2.45 per cent in May. It was 5.68 per cent in June 2018. Vegetable inflation softened to 24.76 per cent in June, down from 33.15 per cent in the previous month.

Similarly, inflation in potato was (-) 24.27 per cent against (-) 23.36 per cent in May. However, onion prices continued the rising trend with inflation at 16.63 per cent during the month, as against 15.89 per cent in May.

Meanwhile, with a view to counter the fall of exports, the Commerce Ministry is contemplating a production-based support scheme to boost Make-In-India.

"The new export promotion scheme may replace the existing Merchandise Export from India Scheme, following the US decision to challenge India's existing export subsidy schemes at the WTO," a government source said.

AI players could give Big Pharma a run for money

ROBERT LANGRETH
JULY 15

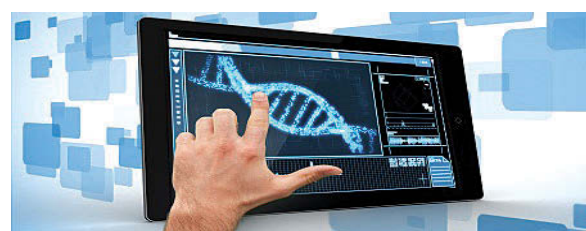
Machine-learning technology has beaten humans at games of chess and Go to worldwide fanfare. A demonstration of its eerily lifelike prowess in making phone calls to unsuspecting people went viral.

But a less-noticed win for DeepMind, the artificial-intelligence arm of Google's parent Alphabet Inc., at a biennial biology conference could open how drugmakers find and develop new medicines. It could also dial up pressure on the world's largest pharmaceutical companies to prepare for a technological

arms race. Already, a new breed of upstarts are jumping into the fray.

In December, at the CASP13 meeting in Riviera Maya, Mexico, DeepMind beat seasoned biologists at predicting the shapes of proteins, the basic building blocks of disease. The seemingly esoteric pursuit has serious implications: A tool that can accurately model protein structures could speed up the development of new drugs.

"Absolutely stunning," tweeted one scientist after the raw results were posted online. "It was a total surprise," said conference founder John Moult, a University of Maryland



computational biologist. "Compared to the history of what we had been able to do, it was pretty spectacular."

Sorting out the structure of proteins in order to find ways for medicines to attack disease is an enormously complex problem. Researchers still don't fully understand the rules for

how proteins are built. And then there's the math: There are more possible protein shapes than there are atoms in the universe, making prediction a herculean undertaking of computation. For a quarter century, computational biologists have laboured to devise software equal to the task.

Enter DeepMind. With limited experience in protein folding — the physical process by which a protein acquires its three-dimensional shape — but armed with the latest neural-network algorithms, DeepMind did more than what 50 top labs from around the world could accomplish.

Excitement rippled around the resort where the meeting was held. Two DeepMind presenters were peppered with questions from scientists about how they had done it. Within hours, the *The Guardian* said DeepMind's AI could "usher in new era of medical progress." In a blog post, the company bragged

that its protein models were "far more accurate than any that have come before," opening up "new potential within drug discovery."

DeepMind's simulation doesn't yet produce the kind of atomic-level resolution that is important for drug discovery. And though many companies are looking for ways to use computers to identify new medications, few machine-learning-based drugs have progressed to the point of being tested in humans. It will be years before anyone knows if such software can regularly spot promising therapies that researchers might miss. — Bloomberg

KIWIS OVERTHROWN!

■ On-field officials bungled, gave extra run to England in tense final

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC LONDON, JULY 15

One team's agony turned out to be another's ecstasy. After so many twists and turns involving two spectacular ties, the World Cup final between England and New Zealand was decided by the notorious rule book of the Marylebone Cricket Club that, interestingly, hosted the players in its storied pavilion on an eventful Sunday. England were declared the new world champions for having scored more number of boundaries than New Zealand after the Super Over, too, ended in a tie.

However, it has emerged that a blatant error from on-field umpires has robbed New Zealand of what would have been a well-deserved title.

The most poignant moment of the gripping final came in the fourth ball of the final over of regulation play. England needed nine runs off last three balls. In a desperate attempt to retain the strike, Ben Stokes sprinted back to wicketkeeper's end even as the fielder Martin Guptill released the ball from the midwicket. As Stokes divided to complete the run, the ball struck his bat and deflected towards the boundary. Stokes got six runs apart from the two collected and the equation was reduced to three off two balls.

Former international umpire Simon Taufel, who is now a part of the MCC's laws sub-committee that makes the rules governing cricket, has pointed out that Kumar Dharmasena made an "error of judgement" in applying the rule. According to Taufel, Dharmasena should



Ben Stokes and Adil Rashid set off for a second run as Martin Guptill throws from the boundary in the Cup final. — SKY SPORTS

have awarded England only five runs apart from keeping Stokes at the non-striker's end. As the batsmen had not crossed for their second run when Guptill threw the ball, one run should not have counted, the Australian argued.

Video replays uphold Taufel's view about the attempted second run at the instant Guptill threw — Adil Rashid and Stokes had not yet crossed for their second run when Guptill released the ball from the deep. "It's a clear mistake... it's an error of judgment. They (England) should have been awarded five runs, not six," Taufel, a five-time ICC Umpire of the Year, told foxsports.com.au.

Echoing Taufel's view was former Indian umpire K. Hariharan. "Kumar Dharmasena killed the World Cup for New Zealand. It should have been five runs not six," he said.

The ICC refused to make a comment with a spokesperson simply saying, "The umpires take decisions in the field of play with their interpretations of the rules and we don't comment on any decisions as a matter of policy."

Law 19.8 of the ICC rules, pertaining to 'Overthrow or wilful act of fielder', states: "If the boundary results from an overthrow or from the wilful act of a fielder, the runs scored shall be any runs for penalties awarded to either side, and the allowance for the boundary, and the runs completed by the batsmen, together with the run in progress if they had already crossed at the instant of the throw or act."

"... the umpires needed to check if at the point of throw the two bats-

What does the rule say?

RULE 19.8 OF MCC RULEBOOK: OVERTHROW OR WILFUL ACT OF FIELDER

If the boundary results from an overthrow or from the wilful act of a fielder, the runs scored shall be:

- any runs for penalties awarded to either side
- and the allowance for the boundary
- and the runs completed by the batsmen, together with the run in progress if they had already crossed at the instant of the throw or act.

It's a clear mistake... it's an error of judgment. They (England) should have been awarded five runs, not six.

— SIMON TAUFEL, five-time ICC Umpire of Year

That run can never be counted. It was duty of square leg umpire to consult the TV umpire and change the decision. Stokes shouldn't have been on strike next ball.

— K. HARIHARAN, former Indian Umpire



men had crossed each other or not. If we see that replay, when the throw came, the two batsmen had barely started the second run," Hariharan observed.

"That run can never be counted. It was duty of square leg umpire (Marius Erasmus) to consult the TV umpire and change the decision. Stokes shouldn't have been on strike next ball," he added.

However, on-field umpires Kumar Dharmasena and Marais Erasmus added six runs to England total following the incident — four runs for the ball reaching the boundary plus two for running between the wickets by the batsmen.

Taufel also defended the officials. "In the heat of what was going on, they thought there was a good chance the batsmen had crossed at the instant of the

throw," he said.

"Obviously TV replays showed otherwise. The difficulty you (umpires) have here is you've got to watch batsmen completing runs, then change focus and watch for the ball being picked up, and watch for the release (of the throw). You also have to watch where the batsmen are at that exact moment," Taufel added.

He acknowledged the call "influenced the game" but added, "It's unfair on England, New Zealand and the umpires involved to say it decided the outcome".

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson preferred not to add fuel to the controversy. "The rule has been there for a long time. I don't think anything like that's happened where you now question it. But look, it's — you can't sort of look at that and think that perhaps that

decided the match," he said.

"There were so many other bits and pieces to that game that were so important. When it comes down to a tie, you start looking at every single delivery, don't you? It was a pretty tough pill to swallow," Williamson added.

England captain Eoin Morgan wasn't sure what had happened. "He dived and there was dust everywhere and the ball deflected through and all the Black Caps standing around going 'What's going on?' So I was trying to figure out, did he hit it, did the keeper hit it? I was trying to stay in the moment. I wasn't celebrating. It is not something you celebrate or cheer," said Morgan.

Another notorious rule that put paid to the hopes of Kiwis was the tie-break-

er rule of counting back boundaries scored. Is that a fair way of deciding a World Cup final? "The rules are there I guess, aren't they, and certainly something you don't consider going into the match," said Williamson.

"While the emotions are raw it is pretty hard to swallow when two teams have worked really hard to get to this moment in time and when sort of two attempts to separate them with a winner and a loser it still doesn't perhaps sort of shine with one side coming through, you know," added Williamson.

Morgan said players have no control over the rules. "If you could give me an alternative, I'd be able to... like compare the both. But I can't think of an alternative at the moment. The rules are obviously set out a long time ago and we have no control over them."



England's Ben Stokes dives in to make his ground and get a 6 from overthrows during the final on Sunday. — AP

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY

■ Calls for change in hit-count rule after NZ heartbreak

New Delhi, July 15: Cricketers, current and former, shared New Zealand's pain on losing the World Cup title on boundary countback with tournament top-scorer Rohit Sharma asking for a "serious look" into the rule, which was slammed as "absurd" by several former players.

In a pulsating encounter on Sunday night at the Lord's, England were adjudged the winners of the world Cup on the basis of their superior boundary count — 22 fours and two sixes — to New Zealand's 17 after the epic final, and also the ensuing Super Over, ended in a tie.

"Some rules in cricket definitely needs (sic) a serious look in," tweeted Rohit on Monday. Rohit amassed 648 runs in the tournament, including five hundreds, before India were knocked out in the semifinal stage.

Former India opener Gautam Gambhir, who is now a parliamentarian, lambasted the ICC for the "ridiculous" rule. "Don't understand how the game of such proportions, the #CWC19Final, is finally decided on who scored the most boundaries. A ridiculous rule @ICC. Should have been a tie. I want to congratulate both @BLACKCAPS & @englandcricket on playing out a nail biting Final." Gambhir wrote on his twitter handle.

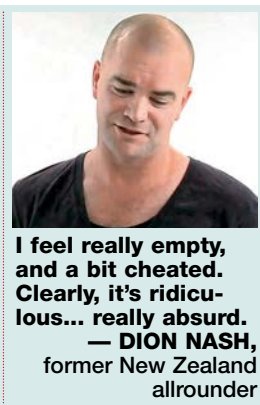
Gambhir's former teammate Yuvraj Singh also disagreed with the rule. "I don't agree with that rule! But rules are rules congratulations to England on finally winning the World Cup, my heart goes out for the kiwis they fought till the end. Great game an epic final!!!! #CWC19Final," he wrote.

Former New Zealand all-rounder Scott Styris called the ICC a joke. "Nice work @ICC ... you are a joke!!!" he wrote.

Indian spin legend Bishan Singh Bedi was also scathing in his criticism of the ICC rules. "Grossly unimaginative ICC rules help



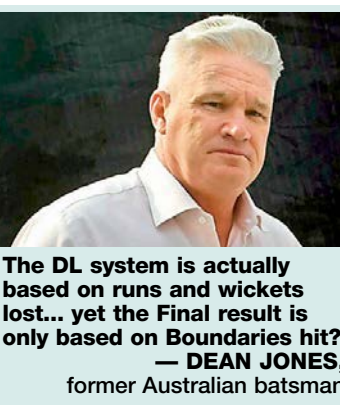
Some rules in cricket definitely needs (sic) a serious look in. — ROHIT SHARMA, Indian opener



I feel really empty, and a bit cheated. Clearly, it's ridiculous... really absurd. — DION NASH, former New Zealand allrounder



Nice work @ICC ... you are a joke!!! — SCOTT STYRIS, former New Zealand allrounder



The DL system is actually based on runs and wickets lost... yet the Final result is only based on Boundaries hit? — DEAN JONES, former Australian batsman



I've got to say that it's a horrible way to decide the winner. This rule has to change. — BRETT LEE, former Australian fast bowler

#England win World Cup. Ideally it would have been better if both Eng & NZ were declared joint winners... shared the Cup... as underdogs #NZ did more to create such an amazing result... while #Eng were expected to win hands down... Think ICC think!!" he tweeted.

"The DL system is actually based on runs and wickets lost... yet the Final result is only based on Boundaries hit? Not fair in my opinion. Must have been great to watch!" wrote former Australian batsman Dean Jones.

Opting to bat, New Zealand

had put up a modest 241 for 8. In reply, England ended at the same score leading to the one-over eliminator.

In the Super Over, England batted first and made 15. New Zealand also ended at the same score but for the loss of one wicket, paving the way for an English victory on boundary count.

Former Australian pacer Brett Lee called for a change in the rule. "I've got to say that it's a horrible way to decide the winner. This rule has to change," he tweeted.

Former New Zealand cricketers

were also left hugely disappointed by the ICC's rule, describing it as "absurd" and "unfortunate".

Former Black Caps all-rounder Dion Nash said he felt cheated after the finals. "I feel really empty, and a bit cheated," he was quoted as saying in stuff.co.nz. "Clearly, it's ridiculous... really absurd. It's about as random as tossing a coin."

Nash, however, said there was no point complaining as the rules were laid down much before the tournament. He added: "But

you also have to look at it from the (view of the) people setting the rules. I mean who thinks it's going to be a draw, and then you draw in the Super Over? What are the chances? You can't complain, it was done at the start of the tournament. But I think that's probably indicative of where the game's mindset's at. Why not credit the guys who took the most wickets? The real measure that was used for generations was least amount of wickets lost. So why have we changed that?" — PTI



England bowler Chris Woakes (right), New Zealand's Jimmy Neesham (second from right) and Ish Sodhi console a distraught Martin Guptill after the World Cup final at Lord's Cricket Ground on Sunday. — ICC

Don't take up sport, Neesham tells kids

London, July 15: "Don't take up sport." New Zealand's dejected all-rounder Jimmy Neesham advised kids as he hoped to find at least a day or two in the next decade when the nerve-wracking World Cup final loss to England won't rankle him.

It was the first ever World Cup final that went till the Super Over after the two teams finished tied in regulation 50 overs on Sunday. However, the trophy was decided by the number of boundaries scored as both England and New Zealand ended tied in the Super Over as well. England were chasing 242 in the epic clash and had more boundaries than New Zealand in the final count.

"Kids, don't take up sport. Take up baking or something. Die at 60 really fat and happy," a disappointed Neesham, known for his witty remarks on cricket and life, tweeted. "That hurts. Hopefully

● "Kids, don't take up sport. Take up baking or something. Die at 60 really fat and happy," a disappointed Neesham, known for his witty remarks on cricket and life, tweeted.

there's a day or two over the next decade where I don't think about that last half hour. Congratulations @ECB.cricket, well deserved," he added.

Neesham picked up three wickets in Sunday's game. The 28-year-old apologised to the fans for not delivering what would have been New Zealand's maiden World Cup triumph. "Thank you to all the supporters that came out today. We could hear you the whole way. Sorry we couldn't deliver what you so badly wanted," he said. — PTI



England captain Eoin Morgan lifts the World Cup trophy to the delight of his teammates at Lord's Cricket Ground in London on Sunday. — AFP

SHORT SINGLES

QUEEN SALUTES ENGLAND TEAM

London: The Queen sent her congratulations to England's World Cup winners after their incredible triumph against New Zealand.

Celebrating the victory, the Queen wrote: "Prince Philip and I send our warmest congratulations to the England Men's Cricket team after such a thrilling victory in today's World Cup final."

"I also extend my commiserations to the runners-up New Zealand, who competed so admirably in today's contest and throughout the tournament."

Britain's Royal Mail postal service announced it would mark both the World Cup win and England's victory at the 2017 Women's World Cup with a series of special stamps.

The Royal Mail will also decorate 15 post boxes in white with a stylised gold cricket bat, ball and bat to make the achievement of both England teams at the host grounds and in locations of importance to men's captain Eoin Morgan and 2017 women's skipper Heather Knight.

The paintwork will be in place for three months and will be complemented by permanent gold plaques. — AFP

FINAL WAS A BIT UNFAIR: PUJARA

New Delhi: India's Test specialist Cheteshwar Pujara on Monday said it was a "bit unfair" on New Zealand to finish second best after England were adjudged the World Cup winners on boundary count following an edge-of-the-seat final at Lord's.

"I felt there were no losers in the final. Both teams should have shared the trophy. But then it is up to ICC to decide, to come up with ideas. It has never ever happened in a World Cup final before, so I am not sure about the rules," Pujara said. "But it can be a bit unfair for New Zealand because they played so well but ultimately it was a great game of cricket and I'm sure this game will be remembered for the time to come."

India's number four position was a subject of constant debate during the World Cup and Pujara said though he would have loved to take that spot in the squad, he is now looking forward to future assignments. "It would have been nice to be a part of the Indian World Cup team but it is something in the past. I am looking forward to the future opportunities and hope to be part of West Indies and Test championship, the focus will be on that." — PTI



Jos Buttler

CHAMP BUTTLER IS FULL OF JOSH

London: Jos Buttler said nothing would faze him again after his key role in England's unforgettable World Cup triumph at Lord's.

Buttler was in the thick of things on Sunday as England's 44-year wait for the sport's biggest trophy ended in the most dramatic way imaginable against New Zealand.

He made a crucial 59 as the game was tied in a frantic finale and then renewed his partnership with man-of-the-match Ben Stokes during the Super Over shootout.

Wicketkeeper Buttler hit the last of Trent Boult's six balls for four as the hosts posted 15, then took up his place behind the stumps.

"I can't believe what has happened but it's nice to wake up and know it did," he said.

"I don't think anything will faze me again. I don't think I'll ever care about anything ever again. I don't really care what happens now in my career." England have risen to the top of the one-day international rankings since a dismal early exit at the 2015 World Cup and their triumph is the culmination of a four-year project.

"Four years and then it's one ball... can we get a run-out? It justifies everything we have done for four years to get to this point. It's an incredible journey." — AFP



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson in action against England in their World Cup final at Lord's in London on Sunday. — AP

GENTLEMAN KANE GRACIOUS IN TRAGIC LOSS

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC LONDON, JULY 15

"Just gutted," were his first words as Kane Williamson settled down to address the packed media hall. Minutes after winning the Player of the Tournament for his exemplary leadership, the New Zealand skipper gave a masterclass on how to cope a tragic defeat so graciously.

The smile was infectious when he spoke about the "uncontrollable." He laughed off suggestions that the Kiwis lost to the quirky rule book and not to England. In the end, a standing ovation and a round of applause from the world media was a fitting tribute to one of the finest gentlemen of the game.

"Laugh or cry, it's your choice, isn't it? It's not anger. There's a lot of disappointment, I suppose. We know in this game it can be fickle in its nature and there are parts that, as hard as you try, sometimes those cards don't fall your way. Today it ebbed and flowed," said Williamson.

The 28-year-old didn't want to take anything away from England's campaign. "Not just this match, but throughout, all the cricket they have played, they are deserving winners," he added.

Those who watched the Lord's thriller would remember the Black Caps for a couple of moments of outstanding sportsmanship. When Trent Boult stepped on the rope after completing the catch of Ben Stokes, Martin Guptill who was stationed at midwicket immediately signalled it was n't out. The Kiwis didn't make a hue and cry when Stokes' bat deflected a throw from the outfield for an overthrow boundary. "I suppose we have just finished the game, haven't we? So, whether people will talk about it in years to come we will have to find out. It is quite hard to look at it in a rational

FIFTIES SCORED IN A WORLD CUP					
YEAR	VENUE	M	I	BATSMEN	
2019	England/Wales	45	89	114	61
2007	West Indies	51	102	111	68
2015	Australia/New Zealand	48	96	111	84
2011	India/Sri Lanka/Bangladesh	49	97	103	67
2003	S.Africa/Zimbabwe/Kenya	52	103	89	65

TIED MATCHES IN WORLD CUP		
TEAMS	VENUE	DATE
Australia (213)-South Africa (213)	Birmingham	17-06-1999
Sri Lanka (268-9)-South Africa (229-6)	Durban	03-03-2003
Ireland (221-9)-Zimbabwe (221)	Kingston	15-03-2007
India (338)-England(338-8)	Bangalore	27-02-2011
New Zealand (241-8)- England (241)	Lord's	14-07-2019

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

way when we have just been through what we've been through," said Williamson.

Should all cricketers be a gentleman like him? "Everybody should be a little bit different. That is a good thing about the world. Just be yourself and try and enjoy what you do," Williamson walked away leaving an indelible mark on cricket's grandest stage despite not laying his hands on the silverware.



England's Chris Wakes kisses his wife Amie Louise after the World Cup win. — AP



England captain Eoin Morgan (right) and Adil Rashid with the World Cup trophy. — AFP

LAUGH OR CRY, IT'S YOUR CHOICE, ISN'T IT? IT'S NOT ANGER. THERE'S A LOT OF DISAPPOINTMENT, I SUPPOSE. WE KNOW IN THIS GAME IT CAN BE FICKLE IN ITS NATURE AND THERE ARE PARTS THAT, AS HARD AS YOU TRY, SOMETIMES THOSE CARDS DON'T FALL YOUR WAY. TODAY IT EBBED AND FLOWED.

— KANE WILLIAMSON, NEW ZEALAND CAPTAIN

Luck was on our side, says Eoin

DC CORRESPONDENT LONDON, JULY 15

Captain Eoin Morgan admitted that England had the rub of the green after prevailing over New Zealand in a thriller. "We had Allah with us, as well. I spoke to Adil Rashid, he said Allah was definitely with us. It actually epitomises our team. Quite diverse backgrounds and cultures and guys grow up in different countries and to actually find humour in the situation we were in at times was pretty cool," said Morgan, an Irishman. England are a multicultural team built in the image of the nation.

STOKES SUPERHUMAN

Three years after Carlos Brathwaite had launched Ben Stokes into the Kolkata night four times in as many balls to wrest the World Twenty20 from England's hands, Stokes did the same to New Zealand with the unbeaten 84 followed by eight of England's 15 in the Super Over.

All Morgan could do was admire him. "To come through it is extraordinary. (Ben) is almost superhuman. He really carried the team and our batting line-up. I know Jos (Buttler) and his partnership was extraordinary, but to bat with the lower order the way he did, I thought was incredible. The atmosphere, the emotion that was going through the whole game, he managed to deal with that in an extremely experienced manner. And obviously everybody watching at home will hopefully try and be the next Ben Stokes."

"I have said this a number of times about Ben. I think a lot of careers would have been ended after what happened in Calcutta.

"Ben on numerous occasions has stood up individually and in a unit for us. He leads the way in training, in any team meetings we have, and he's incredible. And we are thankful for that."

Morgan enters hallowed territory as an English World Cup-winning captain, joining the likes of Bobby Moore and Martin Johnson.

He was quick to play down those comparisons, insisting he will be happy to continue the quiet life, even after leading England to a victory whose repercussions for cricket in this country will continue long after his career has come to an end. "I'm not sure (my life has changed). I hope it hasn't changed that much. I enjoy my life. I lead quite a quiet one, so I hope it hasn't changed too much. I would love it to change for everybody else who wants it to change, but I enjoy my life."

'Big' Ben revels in redemption story

London, July 15: Ben Stokes started England's march to World Cup glory with a catch to remember and ended their historic campaign weeping tears of joy as victory against New Zealand completed a personal tale of redemption.

The all-rounder was voted man-of-the-match after hitting an unbeaten 84 in a thrilling England run chase that ended with the match tied after Eoin Morgan's team finished on 241 all out in reply to New Zealand's 241-8.

The incredible climax at Lord's gave England their first World Cup and ensured Stokes' lasting legacy will be his heroics in the final instead of the 2017 street brawl that threatened to ruin his career.

Not surprisingly, Stokes was overcome with emotion and he wept openly during the jubilant on-field celebrations. "I'm pretty lost for words. All that hard work for four years and now to be stood here as champions of the world, it's an amazing feeling," Stokes said.

"There was no chance I wasn't going to be there at the end. Moments like that you live for as a professional cricketer.

"It's incredible, I hope we have inspired people to want to do this in the future."

"Ben Stokes, he's a great player. He stepped up when his team needed



England's Ben Stokes signs autographs at the Oval in London on Monday, a day after they won the Cricket World Cup against New Zealand. — AP

him. That is the mark of greatness," former England captain Michael Vaughan said on BBC radio.

NIGHTCLUB INCIDENT

Stokes missed the 2017/18 Ashes series in Australia following a well-documented incident in Bristol — an ugly scene outside a nightclub which led to a charge of affray, over which he was found not guilty.

But he was welcomed back with warm, unconditional support from his

team-mates and has repaid that faith in spades during this unforgettable World Cup campaign.

"Without the lads in the ODI team and the Test team and the support from my family — that's all gone now," said Stokes, who made his England ODI debut in 2011.

"This is what we aspire to be. I don't think there will ever be a better game in cricket than that."

New Zealand-born Stokes and the World Cup have been a perfect match over the past six weeks.

From the moment he leapt backwards and thrust a hand over his head to take a stunning catch to dismiss Andile Phehlukwayo in England's tournament-opening win over South Africa, the tournament has provided Stokes with a chance to change his story. He scored 82 not out and 89 when all about him were losing their heads in group-stage defeats against Sri Lanka and Australia that threatened England's progress to the semi-finals. — AFP

JOFRA CREDITS MASTER-STOKES FOR HIS SUCCESS

London, July 15: England pacer Jofra Archer said reassuring words from teammate Ben Stokes helped him to keep his calm in the Super Over of the World Cup final against New Zealand at the iconic Lord's here.


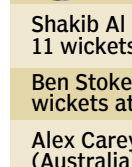





After posting 15 runs in the Super Over, the responsibility to defend the score fell on Archer and the pacer admitted that calming words from teammates, especially Stokes, made a big difference. "I actually went to Morgs (Eoin Morgan) first, I had an idea I was going to do it (bowl the Super Over) but I wanted to double check that he wanted me to do it.

"I think it was going fine until the six, and then (Ben) Stokes told me even before the over: Win or lose, today does not define you. Everyone believes in you," said Archer.

Jimmy Neesham belted a six off his third ball in the Super Over, but helped by his teammates Archer managed to keep his cool on the biggest stage of all to set up a famous win for England. — PTI

ROHIT, BUMRAH ONLY INDIANS IN ICC WORLD CUP XI

Tournament top-scorer Rohit Sharma and pacer Jasprit Bumrah were the only Indians named in the ICC's World Cup XI, captained by New Zealand's admirable skipper Kane Williamson and dominated by champions England. Player of the Tournament Williamson leads a team that includes six players from Sunday's dramatic final at the Lord's.

ICC'S TEAM OF THE WORLD CUP (IN BATTING ORDER)	
	Jason Roy (England) — 443 runs at 63.28
	Rohit Sharma (India) — 648 runs at 81.00
	Kane Williamson (c) (New Zealand) — 578 runs at 82.57
	Joe Root (England) — 556 runs at 61.77
	Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh) — 606 runs at 86.57, 11 wickets at 36.27
	Ben Stokes (England) — 465 runs at 66.42, seven wickets at 35.14
	Alex Carey (wk) (Australia) — 375 runs at 62.50, 20 dismissals
	Mitchell Starc (Australia) — 27 wickets at 18.59
	Jofra Archer (England) — 20 wickets at 23.05
	Lockie Ferguson (New Zealand) — 21 wickets at 19.47
	Jasprit Bumrah (India) — 18 wickets at 20.61

Rohit Sharma (right) and Jasprit Bumrah (inset).





New ground

French striker Antoine Griezmann trained with his new Barcelona teammates for the first time on Monday following his controversial move from Atletico Madrid last week

MAHI PUZZLE

Selectors set to pick squad for West Indies tour on Friday

New Delhi, July 15: The Indian team for next month's tour of West Indies will be announced on July 19 but there is no clarity over the future of Mahendra Singh Dhoni ahead of the limited-overs leg beginning August 3.

Dhoni's future has been widely speculated ever since India lost to New Zealand in the World Cup semifinal on July 9. The 38-year-old is expected to make an announcement on it in the coming few days.

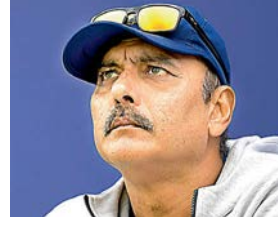
There is also no official word on the availability of opener Shikhar Dhawan who is recovering from a thumb injury that cut short his World Cup campaign. It was COA's first meeting since India's heartbreaking loss at Manchester but the Vinod Rai-led committee did not discuss the team's performance.



Dhoni's future has been widely speculated after India lost to New Zealand in the World Cup semifinal. — AP

Shastri will have to apply again

New Delhi, July 15: The BCCI will soon invite fresh applications for the Indian cricket team's support staff, including the head coach, and incumbent Ravi Shastri will need to reapply once his contract expires after next month's tour of the West Indies.



Ravi Shastri

The support staff comprising Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun, batting coach Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R Sridhar were given a 45-day extension following the World Cup, covering the West Indies tour from August 3 to September 3. All of them can reapply but the team is set to have a new trainer and physio after the departure of Shankar Basu and Patrick Farhart respectively following India's semifinal exit in the World Cup.

Former Tamil Nadu captain Sunil Subramanian was appointed team manager in 2017 on a year-contract but he got an extension. It was the first time that the BCCI had followed a transparent procedure for hiring the team manager, in accordance with the Lodha committee recommendations. — PTI

He will recover. He will redeem himself, if he feels he needs to, and he will be back stronger.

— Lewis Hamilton on struggling F1 driver Sebastian Vettel

SHORT TAKES

Youth boxers win four silver medals

New Delhi: The Indian youth boxers clinched four silver medals and a bronze at the 37th Golden Glove of Vojvodina International Tournament held in Serbia. Selay Soy (49kg), Biloton L Singh (56kg), Ajay Kumar (60kg) and Vijaydeep (69kg) fetched silver medals after going down in their respective final bouts held on Sunday. Soy lost 0-5 to Omer Ametovic, while Singh was beaten by Russian Boris Karibian, again a unanimous verdict. Kumar was also beaten 0-5 by Croat Diego Mamic. Vijaydeep, on the other hand, went down in a 2-3 decision to Kazakhstan's Azamat Bektas. Earlier in the semifinal, Harsh Gill (91kg) lost to Turkey's Topaloglu Abuzer to settle for a bronze medal. The tournament featured 22 countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, and Kazakhstan. — PTI

New Delhi to host ISSF World Cup

New Delhi: The capital will be hosting next year's International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Combined World Cup from March 15-26. The dates were finalised after the ISSF's approval Monday. The Combined World Cup involves events in rifle, pistol and shotgun. "It is to confirm that the ISSF Executive Committee approved the dates of the 2020 ISSF World Cup stages. We herewith confirm that the dates for the ISSF World Cup in Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun events to be held in New Delhi, India, are as following: 15 March - 26 March 2020," the sport's global body wrote in a letter to the National Rifle Association of India (NRA). It will be the season-opening World Cup for rifle and pistol shooters and the year's second for those in shotgun. Offering top-class competition, the event will provide the shooters with a good platform to prepare for Tokyo Olympics. India has been hosting a series of world class competition in recent times. — PTI

ELAVENIL BEATS MEHULI TO WIN GOLD

New Delhi: Elavenil Valarivan beat compatriot Mehuli Ghosh to win the individual gold in a one-two finish for India in women's 10m air rifle competition of the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany Monday. Elavenil won the 10m air rifle gold with a total score of 251.6 while Ghosh got the silver with 250.2 points. Oceanne Marianne Muller from France took home the silver. India created a junior world record on the way to the team gold in women's 10m air rifle competition. Besides the team gold, India bagged another yellow metal and a silver in individual competition, continuing their domination in the tournament. The efforts of Valarivan, Ghosh and Shreya Agrawal ensured India remained on top of the medals tally with six gold and as many silver, besides two bronze for a total of 14 medals so far. China was lying second with two gold and a total of six medals. The day belonged to Elavenil, a Junior World Championship silver medalist, who claimed a golden double by winning both the individual as well as the team competition, beating Mehuli in the final. Elavenil had qualified in eighth place for the eight-woman final with a score of 627.5 in qualifying. Mehuli topped the qualification round with 630.4. — PTI

MAHREZ STRIKE TAKES ALGERIA INTO ACN FINAL

Cairo, July 15: Riyad Mahrez rifled in a stoppage-time free-kick to earn Algeria a dramatic 2-1 victory over three-time champions Nigeria and set up a rematch with Senegal in the Africa Cup of Nations final.

Algeria led through a first-half own goal by William Troost-Ekong before Nigeria equalised with an Odion Ighalo penalty on 72 minutes awarded after a VAR review. However, as extra time looked necessary, Mahrez blasted in from 20 yards with the last kick of the match to send the Desert Foxes through to their first final since lifting the trophy for the only time in 1990. Algeria will take on Sadio Mane's Senegal for the title on July 19, in a repeat of a group stage clash they won 1-0.

"We are very happy to be in the final of the Africa Cup of Nations because it is something very special," said Mahrez. "It was our goal to do it for the people and for our families. We know they are behind us all the way. It's my most important goal for the national dream. Yes, it's my dream to win it and hopefully we will be able to."

Kohli, Bumrah retain top spots

London, July 15: India skipper Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah on Monday retained their number position in the ICC batsmen and bowlers' rankings, respectively, following the conclusion of the World Cup.

India had lost to New Zealand in the semifinals of the World Cup. Players from England and New Zealand, champions and runners-up, have moved up rankings after featuring in an exhilarating final at Lord's here on Sunday.

The latest rankings update, which takes into

● Top ranked ODI team England have increased lead over India to three points

● Shakib Al Hasan continues to lead the list of ODI allrounders.

account performances from the semifinals and the final, sees players from either side reach personal bests during the last two stages.

Player of the tournament Kane Williamson reached a career-high 799

points after the semifinal against India, in which he scored an important knock of 67. He ended the tournament at 796 points, gaining two points from his two matches, while his compatriot Ross Taylor has ended the tournament in fifth place, having reached a career-best 841 rating points earlier in the tournament.

England all-rounder Ben Stokes has ended the tournament at a career-best 694 points, gaining five places and moving into the top 20 and to within two places of his career best of 18th two years ago.

Jason Roy's 85 from 65 balls in the semi-final win over Australia has helped him into the top 10 for the first time. Another notable gainer in the rankings for batsmen is Ravindra Jadeja, whose valiant knock of 77 against New Zealand has lifted him 24 places to 108th position.

Among the bowlers, Chris Woakes' efforts of three for 20 in the semifinal and three for 37 in the final have lifted him to a career-best 676 points and seventh place, just behind the sixth place he reached in April 2017. — PTI

WIMBLEDON FINAL

Roger rues missed opportunity

London, July 15: Roger Federer said he could not believe he had let slip two match points which would have sealed his ninth Wimbledon title after losing to Novak Djokovic in the longest ever men's final at the championships.

The 37-year-old Swiss legend rued the "missed opportunity" when he held the match points on his serve in the 16th game of the decider but ended up losing 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 13-12 (7/3). Incredibly it was the second time he had been involved in the longest final at Wimbledon — and ended up the loser too — going down to Rafael Nadal in 2008.

Federer, who looked very emotional when he stared up at his wife and children in the players



Roger Federer wipes his face during the Wimbledon final against Novak Djokovic on Sunday. — AP

box after the defeat, said he could not say whether if he had lost in straight sets the taste of defeat would have been less bitter. "It's hard to tell," he

said. "I don't know if losing 2-2-2 feels better than this one."

"At the end it actually doesn't matter to some extent. "You might feel

more disappointed, sad, over-angry. I don't know what I feel right now. "I just feel like it's such an incredible opportunity missed, I can't believe it. It is what it is, you know."

Federer, who has lost his last five meetings with Djokovic in Grand Slams, last beating the Serbian at Wimbledon in 2012, said he had not felt the match had slipped from him when he failed to take the match points.

"I mean, really, look, I was still happy to be at 8-all, 9-all," he said trying to put a brave face on it although his demeanour was writ large with disappointment. "You try to see the positives, you try to take it as a good thing. I guess, that you're not down a break or that the match is not over yet," he said. — AFP

Fans chant Roger, I hear Novak, says Djokovic

London, July 15: Novak Djokovic has vowed to convince fans that he is not public enemy number one even if he surpasses people's champion Roger Federer as the greatest Grand Slam title winner of all time.

Djokovic is the first man in 71 years to win the title from match points down, saving two in the 16th game of the deciding set. His major title tally is now just two behind Rafael Nadal and four off the all-time men's Grand Slam record of 20 held by Federer.

After Sunday's epic triumph, Djokovic revealed he was able to turn the overwhelmingly pro-

Federer, 14,000-strong Centre Court crowd in his favour by training his mind.

"They chant Roger, I hear Novak"

"I like to transmute it in a way: When the crowd is chanting 'Roger' I hear 'Novak'," said the 32-year-old Djokovic. "It sounds silly, but it is like that." Djokovic has spent the best part of his career in pursuit of Nadal and Federer and attempting to seduce fans sceptical of his character.

"It's hard to not be aware of the crowd. You have that kind of electric atmosphere, that kind of noise," said Djokovic. "Of course, if you have the



Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the winner's trophy after beating Switzerland's Roger Federer. — AFP

majority of the crowd on your side, it helps. When you don't, then you have to find it within, I guess."

Djokovic insists he won't get distracted by the pursuit of Federer's record haul.



India 'A' take 2-0 lead against WI

Antigua, July 15: Openers Rituraj Gaikwad and Shubman Gill struck fine half-centuries before Navdeep Saini's fifer guided India 'A' to a 65-run win over West Indies 'A' in the second unofficial ODI of the five-match series here.



Prithvi Shaw

India 'A', thus, lead the five-match series 2-0 after the visitors won the opening ODI by an identical 65 runs margin.

The home team's decision to invite India 'A' to bat on Sunday night backfired, as Gaikwad (85 off 102 balls) and Gill (62 off 83) shared 151 runs for the opening wicket to set up a total of 255 for 8 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

While defending the target, pacer Saini (5/46) ran through West Indies 'A' with a five-wicket haul to bowl out the home team for 190 in 43.5 overs. Gaikwad and Gill batted for nearly 31 overs and struck nine boundaries and three sixes between them.

While Gaikwad hit five fours and two sixes, Gill found the fence four times and crossed it once. Manish Pandey (27), Hanuma Vihari (23) and Ishan Kishan (24) all got starts but Romario Shepherd (4/36) made a solid comeback in the death overs to contain India 'A' from posting a bigger total. Chasing 256 for win, West Indies 'A' lost John Campbell in the second over to Khaleel Ahmed. — PTI

HURT PRITHVI IS UNSURE ABOUT RECOVERY TIME

New Delhi, July 15: Young India opener Prithvi Shaw on Monday said he was not sure when he would recover from his hip injury, putting a question mark over his participation in the away Test series against the West Indies next month.

The 19-year-old was supposed to tour the Caribbean with the India 'A' team before being sidelined due a hip injury he suffered at the Mumbai T20 League last May. India will play two Tests against the West Indies beginning August 22. "I'm still not a 100 per cent fit and don't know exactly how much time it will take to recover. There is still time and I'm working with the physios. I can't put a time frame on it right now," Shaw said. — PTI

DAVIS CUP IN PAKISTAN

Bopanna has no security fears

New Delhi, July 15: Doubles specialist Rohan Bopanna on Monday said he has no security concerns about playing Davis Cup in Pakistan, where he has always enjoyed "great hospitality."

No Indian Davis Cup squad has travelled to Pakistan since March 1964 and Bopanna will be in the Indian team which will compete in Islamabad in September for the Asia/Oceania Group I tie.

Bopanna and Divij Sharan, country's best two doubles players on rankings, will be natural choice for the doubles rubber.

"I am looking forward to the Davis Cup tie in Pakistan. I have spoken to Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, he is a very good friend of mine and he said it will be fine and I have been there a few times, I always found great hospitality from Pakistan. So I have no concerns about it," Bopanna said on the sidelines of a Sports Conclave organised by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

The 39-year-old from Bengaluru had finished a

runner-up at the US Open with Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi in 2010. On Sunday night, Serbian Novak Djokovic edged out Swiss great Roger Federer 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 13-12 (3) in the first Wimbledon men's singles match decided by a final-set tiebreaker for his fifth crown.

Asked if Federer's age is affecting his movement, Bopanna said, "I don't think there was any loser in yesterday's final. He was literally one point away from winning his 21st Grand slam. He is 37 and he was still covering the court, the best way possible, so I don't think he lagged because of his age."

India has never won a singles Grand Slam title and Bopanna said the country is still a long way from achieving the feat. "We never had a singles winner in Grand Slam. We need right kind of facilities and support from the Federation and Corporates. That makes a difference. It is an individual sport and having more tournaments in India will help," he said. — PTI

WINNER CONSOLIDATES POSITION AT TOP RANK

Paris, July 15: Novak Djokovic's successful defence of his Wimbledon crown ensured that the Serb remained at world number one in the latest ATP rankings released on Monday.

He is now 4,500 points clear of second-ranked Rafa Nadal who is just 485 points ahead of 37-year-old Federer. The biggest climber is Roberto Bautista Agut whose ride to the semi-finals, where he lost in four sets to Djokovic, sees him rise nine places to 13, equalling his best ranking. David Goffin, who lost to Djokovic in the quarters, returns to the Top 20, rising five places to 18th.

Ashleigh Barty hung on to top place in the WTA rankings despite crashing out of Wimbledon in the last 16. The top three of Barty, Naomi Osaka and Karolina Pliskova remains unchanged. Simona Halep moves up three places to number four. — AFP

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