



NEARBY



Kejriwal inaugurates Rao Tula Ram flyover

NEW DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday inaugurated the 2.85-km-long signal-free Rao Tula Ram flyover. The elevated flyover is expected to help decongest the area as well as facilitate a more convenient commute for those travelling towards the IGIA from south Delhi and Noida.

CITY PAGE 2

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OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 15

Centre, Assam move SC for sample re-verification of NRC

Seek 20% recount in border districts, extension of July 31 deadline for final list

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Centre and the State of Assam on Tuesday made an urgent mention before the Chief Justice of India for an extension of the deadline for the final publication of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) from July 31, 2019, to a "future date".

In identical but separate applications, they urged the Supreme Court for more time to conduct a "sample re-verification process" of the names included in the draft NRC published on July 30, 2018.

They said a 20% sample re-verification of the names should be conducted in districts bordering Bangladesh and a 10% sample re-verifica-



More time sought: The Centre and the State said the exercise should be done by Class I officers. ■ REUTERS

tion in the remaining districts.

The Assam government, represented by advocate Shuvodeep Roy, said the

20% sample re-verification should target border districts where illegal migration from Bangladesh was higher and where population

1 lakh declared foreigners

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over one lakh people have been declared foreigners by tribunals in Assam till March, Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. "Up to March 31, 2019, 1,17,164 people have been declared foreigners," he told Congress member Abdul Khaleque.

growth had been reported higher than the State's average, as per census reports.

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Don't try to lay down the limits of our jurisdiction: SC

Court to rule on plea against Karnataka Speaker today

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday took a swipe at the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) combine in Karnataka for questioning its power to give directions to the Speaker after welcoming the court's intervention last year.

"When our order is in your favour, you do not complain... Remember, there is no rule on the extent of powers of this court. To try to trap the parameters of the Supreme Court within inflexible limits is totally abhorrent to the Constitution," Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi told senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar and Chief Minister



Turmoil in House: BJP members staging a protest in the Legislative Council in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

H.D. Kumaraswamy. The observation came when they questioned the court's power to give directions to Mr. Ramesh Kumar.

The court reserved for judgment pleas filed by rebel MLAs against the Speak-

er's "delay" in accepting their resignation. It announced that it would pronounce its order at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

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NIGHT OF WAIT PAGE 8

Relief for airlines as Pakistan opens its airspace after 6 months

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

In a massive relief for air travellers and airlines, Pakistan reopened its airspace for all flights early on Tuesday after a gap of six months since the IAF launched strikes in Balakot. Hours after the announcement, an Air India flight from San Francisco to Delhi became the first Indian aircraft to fly over the neighbouring country and reach the destination 90 minutes early.

The curb meant airlines

had to take a longer route to their destinations and burn more fuel, stop midway for refuelling and roster more pilots and cabin crew as their duty hours are regulated.

An increase in fuel expenses, which constitute 40% of an airline's operational costs, resulted in an increase in fares and, in some cases, cancellation of flights.

"Pakistan has cancelled the NOTAM [notice to air-men] for its airspace with ef-

fect from 0038 IST, the consequential NOTAMS by India also cancelled. Airlines likely to resume normal routes through Pakistan airspace," an official of the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

The move will benefit Indian carriers as well as the airlines that enter or exit Pakistan from its eastern border with India, such as South East Asian airlines, as Pakistan had lifted its curbs on most other airlines.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

ICJ to deliver verdict on Jadhav today

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

As the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague prepares to deliver its verdict in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case on Wednesday, the Indian government is pinning its hopes on two precedents, both in cases against the United States in 2001 and 2004, when the ICJ ruled for a review and revision of convictions.

LONG QUEST PAGE 13

Fighting against the odds



Lucky escape: Rescue personnel with a woman who was pulled out of the rubble after a four-storey building collapsed in the Dongri area of Mumbai on Tuesday. Ten persons were killed and over 40 are feared trapped. ■ VIVEK BENDRE (REPORT ON PAGE 9)

Centre annuls test to recruit postmen

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After protests by Rajya Sabha members from Tamil Nadu against the dropping of regional languages, especially Tamil, as a medium of the examination held by the Postal Department for recruitment of postmen, Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Tuesday said the test held on Sunday would stand cancelled.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Schools turn nutrition gardens in Mizoram district

Self-sufficiency in fruits, vegetables helps them nourish children when the villages remain cut off in monsoon

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

It takes a powerful SUV almost nine hours on non-rainy days to cover 296 km from Mizoram capital Aizawl southward to Lawngtlai, headquarters of the State's remotest district Lawngtlai bordering Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Loaded commercial vehicles take much longer, and those carrying perishables mainly from Assam's Silchar, 180 km north of Aizawl, take ages. By the time the pick-up or mini-trucks reach Lawngtlai, the fruits and

vegetables are usually not fit to be consumed and the best of the lot are too expensive for many to buy.

This was what Shashanka Ala noted when she was posted as the Deputy Commissioner of Lawngtlai, Mizoram's most backward and disaster-prone district where a fourth of some 170 villages remain cut off during the monsoon. It didn't take her long to relate the shortage of quality fruits and vegetables with the deficiencies in the district's children belonging mostly to the Chakma and Lai ethnic minorities.



New idea: The first phase of the programme to create edible gardens has been launched in 213 schools and anganwadis.

Lawngtlai has 35.3% stunted, 21.3% underweight and 5.9% severely wasted (low weight-for-height)

children under 5 – highest on all counts in Mizoram. Ms. Ala and her team designed a remedy: Kan

Sikul, Kan Huan. In the Mizo language, it means 'My School, My Farm'.

"Vegetables and fruits available in Lawngtlai town are costly. But the townspeople at least get them unlike the villages where transporting perishables is unthinkable. So we thought of involving school children, their parents and teachers to create a nutrition garden in each school," Ms. Ala told *The Hindu*.

The first phase of the programme covering 213 schools, Anganwadi centres and childcare institutes was

launched a few days ago. Another 188 would be added in the second phase while the third phase focussing on livestock and poultry farming would cover all 776 schools and centres to benefit 15,042 children.

"The aim is to make every school, Anganwadi, child care institution and hostel in Lawngtlai self-sufficient in the local variety of fruits and vegetables by March 2020. This is to reduce malnutrition and stuntedness among children," Ms. Ala said.

Rajasthan to bring law against mob lynching

Bill likely to be tabled in ongoing session

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The Congress government in Rajasthan has decided to bring a law to curb mob lynching and honour killing. A Bill on the subject is likely to be introduced in the ongoing budget session of the State Assembly.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot made the announcement while replying to the debate on the State budget on Tuesday. He expressed concern over the rising incidents of mobs targeting individuals on suspicion of crime and killing them.

The latest incident oc-

curred in Rajsamand district on July 13, when a police head constable investigating a land dispute case in Padmela village was allegedly beaten to death by a mob.

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh Law Commission framed a draft legislation to combat mob lynching. The Congress-led Madhya Pradesh government is also planning a similar law.

In July last year, the Supreme Court had urged Parliament to consider enacting a new law to tackle incidents of lynching.

(With PTI inputs)

DELHI Timings

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17		
RISE	05:34	SET 19:21
MOON	RISE 19:50	SET 05:42
THURSDAY, JULY 18		
RISE	05:35	SET 19:20
MOON	RISE 20:32	SET 06:36
FRIDAY, JULY 19		
RISE	05:35	SET 19:20
MOON	RISE 21:11	SET 07:30

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	33	24
Safdarjang	33	24
Palam	33	22

Delhi Palam Today
34°C Slight hazy and comfortable morning turns warm and humid day with cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C A hazy and comfortable morning. Spell of light rain/thundershower will occur. Improvement in pollution level likely.

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THE HINDU

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Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	88	Gurugram	93
Ghaziabad	90	Faridabad	47
Noida	86	Greater Noida	84

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

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

Swift travel to IGI possible now as RTR flyover opens

More projects to come up before end of govt.'s term: CM

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday inaugurated the 2.85-km-long signal-free Rao Tula Ram (RTR) flyover.

He claimed that there were more such projects which would come up in the Capital before the end of his government's tenure.

Missed deadlines

The newly built flyover branches out of Munirka flyover and ends before the Army Research and Referral Hospital near Subroto Park, close to National Highway-8.

While the flyover, whose construction began in November 2014, was expected to be completed by November 2016, missed several consecutive deadlines.

"In 15 years, the Sheila Dikshit government built 70 flyovers. In the last four-and-a-half years, our [AAP] government has built 23 flyovers. We do our work, but we don't advertise much. Now, it is for the people to spread word about the work we have done in the last four-and-a-half years," the CM said after inaugurating the project.

The elevated RTR flyover, built at a cost of ₹205 crore on the Outer Ring Road, is expected to help decongest



The newly inaugurated Rao Tula Ram flyover near Munirka in New Delhi on Tuesday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

the area as well as facilitate a more convenient commute for those travelling towards the Indira Gandhi International Airport from south Delhi and Noida.

According to the Delhi government, the elevated corridor will save five minutes of travel time for both to and fro traffic from IIT to airport.

Slams Opposition

Hitting out at his political opponents without naming them, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener alleged, citing the inauguration of the Signature Bridge, an attempt by Delhi BJP chief and North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari seeking to take credit for the project.

"We believe in doing our work and not indulging in

dirty politics. The Delhi government has worked a lot in education, health and other sectors, and our work will speak," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal also said that the AAP government had not only worked on mega-infrastructure projects but also built roads, sewage lines and provided other facilities in unauthorised colonies to reach out to ordinary citizens.

Asked if more projects were in the offing before the end of his government's tenure, Mr. Kejriwal claimed, "Yes, a few more such projects will come up soon."

The Chief Minister further said that the RTR flyover was the 23rd flyover to be built by his government in the last four-and-a-half years.

4 gangsters killed in separate U.P. encounters

One of them had escaped from police custody in Muzaffarnagar on July 2

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

In a coordinated action conducted by the Uttar Pradesh police, four gangsters, including Rohit Saandhu who had escaped from police custody on July 2, were killed in two separate encounters in Muzaffarnagar and Meerut on Tuesday.

Rohit and his accomplice Rakesh Yadav were eliminated in the Nai Mandi area of Muzaffarnagar after an exchange of fire with the police personnel. With over 40 cases against Rohit, the U.P. police had declared a bounty of

₹1 lakh on his arrest.

SP (City) Muzaffarnagar Satpal Antil told *The Hindu* that the police had information that Rohit and his accomplices were in the area.

Looted to mislead

"We were waiting for them since Monday night. At 4.30 a.m., we noticed four men on two motorbikes. As it was raining, two slipped away from the cordon while the other two opened fire on us. We retaliated and in the process Rohit and Rakesh got bullet injuries. They were taken to a district hospital

where they were declared dead."

The two who slipped away were Ravinder Kalia and Amit alias Sheru. According to Mr. Antil, Ravinder and Amit looted occupants of an SUV on the way in order to confuse the police.

"But we had already passed the information to Meerut Police and the SUV owner had lodged a complaint of theft. They were cornered in Daurala area of the district." Ravinder was also a notorious criminal and had a bounty of ₹50,000 on his head.

On July 2, Rohit, languishing in Mirzapur jail, was brought to Muzaffarnagar in connection with a case where he managed to flee with the help of a history-sheeter Bhubendra Bafar and his men. Sub-inspector Durg Vijay Singh was injured in the incident.

On Monday, the police arrested Bafar and his accomplices in Meerut after which Rohit was tracked down. "Bafar wanted to use Rohit to eliminate another criminal Sushil Moonch, who is lodged in Meerut jail," he said.

Court allows bail to Kejriwal in two defamation cases

Pleas filed by BJP leaders; Deputy CM also gets relief in one case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday granted bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in two criminal defamation complaints filed by the BJP and its leader Vijender Gupta.

Additional CMM Samar Vishal granted relief to him on a personal bond of ₹10,000 and one surety of like amount in both the cases, after the AAP leader appeared before the court.

In the first case, the BJP, through its leader Rajeev Babbar, had sought proceedings against Mr. Kejriwal for harming the reputation of the party by blaming it for deletion of names of voters from electoral rolls in Delhi.

In the second case, Mr. Gupta had accused Mr. Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia of "maligning" his image by accusing him of attempting to kill the Delhi CM. Mr. Sisodia was also granted bail by the court.

(With PTI inputs)

'CM, Sisodia have no right to continue in their posts'

AAP has been relying on lies: BJP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Opposition BJP on Tuesday demanded that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Deputy Manish Sisodia had no moral right to continue in their respective posts, after they were granted bail in a defamation case filed by the BJP.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders, including party's convener Mr. Kejriwal, were sustaining their political journey through "lies", Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari alleged. Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Sisodia were granted bail by a city court in a criminal defamation case filed by Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta who accused them of "maligning" his image by al-



Manoj Tiwari

leging that he was involved in an alleged conspiracy to kill the Chief Minister.

The Delhi Chief Minister is also on bail in another defamation case, filed by him against the BJP in retaliation to the charge that the BJP got 30 lakh names deleted from the voters' list ahead of the Lok Sabha poll.

JeM militant arrested from Srinagar

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 50-year-old man identified as Bashir Ahmed Ponu, an alleged Jaish-e-Mohammed militant, has been arrested from Srinagar by the Special Cell, the police said on Tuesday. A reward of ₹2 lakh was announced on his arrest.

DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said that Bashir was arrested by the unit along with three other alleged JeM operatives Shahid Gafoor, Fayaz Ahmed Lone, and Abdul Majid Baba in 2007 after a shootout.

The police claim to have had recovered detonators, hand grenades, arms and ammunition from their possession at the time and a case under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act was registered.

"On Monday, Bashir's location was traced to Srinagar's Kothibagh from where he was nabbed. His transit remand was sought and he was brought to Delhi," Mr. Yadav said.

DISTRICT HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY, BHIWANI

CORRIGENDUM

An advertisement has been published on 26th June 2019 in Daily Newspaper-Dainik Jagran, for recruitment of various contractual staff under NHM Programme, Bhiwani. Due to administrative reasons the written test/Interview for the post of "Pharmacist, Nutrition Councillor, Coordinator-RBSK, Audiologist & Speech Therapist, District Programme Coordinator, Clinical Psychologist, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer and Senior DOTS Plus TB-HIV Supervisor," which were scheduled to be conducted on 16.07.19, 18.07.19 and 23.07.19 have been postponed, till further orders.

Civil Surgeon cum Chairman (E)

PRDH-77557

DH&FWS, Bhiwani.

NGT refuses to review order on Gurugram builders

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Tuesday refused to review its order that had imposed an interim penalty of ₹10 crore on three builders in Gurugram for alleged violation of environ-

mental norms. A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A.K. Goel observed that there was "no merit" in the review plea moved by Ansal Buildwell Ltd, Adarshila Towers Private Ltd and Rigoss Estate Networks Private Ltd.

Complete demand survey for housing scheme, DUSIB told

Centre asks State govt. to submit status report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With the city government yet to send any proposals for construction of houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has asked the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) to complete its survey to identify eligible slum residents.

According to a Ministry statement on Tuesday, Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra held a meeting with the Delhi government, Delhi Development Authority (DDA), DUSIB and Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) officials to discuss the issue of people lining up outside the Ministry to apply for PMAY (U).

The Secretary asked the DUSIB to complete its demand survey of eligible beneficiaries in slums, and asked the State government to submit a sta-

tus report on the already constructed 17,660 houses and 16,000 under-construction houses.

Online forms

"It was also decided that the DUSIB and the DDA shall call for application forms online through their websites so that beneficiaries may be benefited under all verticals of PMAY-U. These forms will be submitted through Common Service Centres also. The DUSIB shall undertake rehabilitation of slum dwellers whereas the DDA shall undertake housing demand for other urban poor," the statement read. Mr. Mishra also told the DDA to organise camps to sell the 40,000 houses constructed by it, along with financial institutions so that the buyers can avail of the credit-linked subsidy scheme of PMAY (U). Last week, the Ministry lodged a complaint with the police regarding fake PMAY forms being sold in Delhi outside its offices.

AAP urges Shah to hold meeting over rising crime

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three AAP Rajya Sabha MPs on Tuesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on "increasing" crimes in the Capital and urged him to hold a meeting on the issue with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik.

The MPs – Sanjay Singh, N.D. Gupta and Sushil Gupta – submitted a memorandum to the Home Minister over increasing crime in Delhi and urged him to look into the situation and take effective steps to improve law and order, the AAP said. The MPs said that there has been an increase in the number of murders and snatchings in the city in 2019.

Nuh schools, colleges to get napkin vending machines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NUH

Over 400 sanitary napkin vending machines will be installed at schools, colleges, Industrial Training Institutes and hospitals across Nuh to promote menstrual hygiene under the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Nuh) Rahul Hooda told *The Hindu* that installation of the machines will begin in a few days and be completed within 7-10 days. "The machines will become operational as soon as they are installed," he said, adding that the district administration may rope in women self-help groups to procure the napkins.

Mr. Hooda held a meeting on Tuesday where he directed health and education department officials to provide details on the number of machines required. Nuh is among the hundred most-backwards districts of India faring poor on health and education fronts.

North Eastern Railway

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Open e-tender on two packet system through E-Tender notice No. MCW/IZN/OT/79/LKU of 2018-19 are invited by Sr. Divisional Mech. Engineer (C&W), N.E. Railway, Izzatnagar for and on behalf of President of India for the following work:-

Description of works : Mechanized cleaning of Rakes on washing pit, Provision of Toiletries, Mechanized cleaning of washing pit itself, Mechanized Cleaning & Watering of trains at the platforms, cleaning of depot premises, OBHS Work in trains and Buffing of steel Parts in the coaches based at B.G. Coaching depot Lalkuan for a period of 04 years. **Estimated Value of Work (Rs.) :** 3,68,400/-, **Cost of Tender Forms (Rs.) :** 10,000/-, **Period of Work :** Four years from the date of commencement of work. • **Date and time for closing of E-tender :** 07.08.2019 at 15.00 Hrs. • Tenderer may submit their E-tenders online up to 15.00 hrs. on date 07.08.2019 • Please go to the Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in to see the complete details and upload/submit the E-tender.

Sr. DME (C&W), N.E. Railway, Izzatnagar
CPR0/Mech.-77

Do not smoke Bid/Cigarette in Train

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Discussion around the new book "Mahatma Gandhi: Tryst with Satyagrah" written by Mandira Ghosh. Discussants: Ambassador Amarendra Khatua, author and former Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations; and Sagari Chhabra, columnist, award winning author and filmmaker. Chair: Dr. Balmiki Prasad Singh, former Governor of Sikkim at Conference Room - I, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Talk: Seminar on "Indian Perspective on Space Security". Keynote Address by Prof. Ricky Lee, University of Notre Dame, Australia and Partner at Globalex. Chair: Dr. Sanat Kaul, Chairman, International Foundation for Aviation Aerospace and Drones at Seminar Rooms I-III, Kamaladevi Complex, IIC, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Talk: Lecture on "Emerging Nuclear Disorder and Asia" by Prof. R. Rajaraman, Emeritus Professor of Physics at JNU. Chair: Cmde. C. Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society for Policy Studies at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: A solo painting show by Joydeb Bala, at Convention Centre Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "The Food Diplomacy Mekan Ngga Mekan Asal Kumpul", a group art show by curated by M. Haryo Hutomo at Exhibition Gallery, Korean Cultural Center, A-25, Lajpat Nagar IV, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at citydelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Youth beaten up by three men ‘for talking in English’

Two accused arrested; victims say perpetrators were drunk

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old man suffered severe injuries and his friends, including two women, were allegedly thrashed by three men in Kotla Mubarakpur. Two of the accused have been arrested while one is still absconding, said the police.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Vijay Kumar said that Pranay Pradhan, who works as a chef in a Khan Market restaurant, was allegedly assaulted by three men: Vishal, Yogesh alias Judi (19) and Saurav alias Nalla (23), on Saturday. Yogesh and Saurav have been arrested. The incident happened

around 2 a.m. when Mr. Pradhan and his friends Ganesh, Laxmi, Leena and Nitesh Shankar, were walking to their residence in Rishi Nagar after attending a friend's birthday party.

“When we reached Subhash Gali, three men were sitting there and they appeared to be drunk. We were talking among ourselves and they asked ‘Why are you talking in English?’ and started quarreling. They thought we had said something about them,” said Ganesh, who is from Darjeeling and works as a cashier in a Khan Market restaurant.

The group told them that they live nearby and were

not talking about the accused, but the men did not listen and allegedly started attacking the group.

“They hit Leena and Laxmi and abused them. Then they picked up a wooden plank and asked us to leave. When Pranay tried to talk to them, two of the men caught hold of Pranay and one attacked him with the wooden plank,” said Mr. Shankar.

Mr. Pradhan, who was bleeding from the head, was rushed to Safdarjung Hospital by his friends. He is said to be in a critical state.

“We come here [Delhi] to work. We do not feel safe in Kotla Mubarakpur... or this city,” added Mr. Shankar.

‘No separate police station to deal with power thefts’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday declined to give any direction for setting up a separate police station to deal with power theft cases.

“Establishment of a separate police station cannot reduce theft of electricity or change the mindset of people indulging in it,” said a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar, adding: “What is required is separate police staff to investigate the cases of power theft.”

The Delhi government had submitted that a separate staff could be created within the District Investigation Unit of the police.

3 held after encounter

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three persons have been arrested after a brief encounter with the police near Munirka metro station. The men were wanted for allegedly cheating people by swapping their ATM cards.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Rajesh Deo said that the accused Abid, Sakib and Adil are all residents of Haryana.

“Information was received on Monday that the accused would be near Munirka metro station. When they arrived, the men were signalled to stop, but they tried to flee after firing at the police. They were chased down and arrested on Nelson Mandela Marg near Coolie Camp signal,” Mr Deo said, adding that police did not fire in retaliation.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly revealed that they operate across India and targeted the elderly. A total of 95 ATM cards, ₹20,000 in cash, a pistol, two live cartridge and a car were recovered from the accused.

Drug peddler arrested

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly supplying imported drugs at high-profile parties in the Capital.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Ram Gopal Naik said that the accused, Karan Khanna, a resident of Mehrauli, supplied drugs to organisers of farmhouses parties in south Delhi. “The accused was arrested on a tip-off. During a search, 1200 grams of charas, one THC Shatter (500 mg of cannabis oil) and one gram of imported weed was recovered from his possession. The drugs cost a total of around ₹25 lakh,” said the officer.

During interrogation, Karan allegedly told the police that he and his brother studied in a reputed school in south Delhi and fell in bad company after which they started doing drugs.

Delhi govt. names AAP leaders for DMRC board

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has nominated four representatives, including AAP leaders Raghav Chadha and Atishi, to be appointed to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's board of directors, sources said.

This is the first time that non-bureaucrats have been nominated by the government.

Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission vice-chairman Jasmine Shah and AAP MP N.D. Gupta's son Naveen Gupta are the two others nominated by Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot as the government's representatives, a top official said.

The board comprises 17 members, including five each from the Centre and the Delhi government. “Currently, DMRC MD Mangu Singh, and former finance secretary Ramesh Chandra are serving as Delhi government nominees,” a source said.

Mr. Gahlot did not respond to messages and phone calls. In his July 13 communication to the DMRC, the Minister did not specify why it nominated four persons when only three posts of directors are vacant. “It is not clear whether they wish to remove Mr. Singh or Mr. Chandra,” the source said.

The move comes at a time when the AAP government's scheme for providing free ride to women in public buses and metro trains is taking shape.

The issue of free ride to women in metro trains is yet to be resolved as the DMRC has sought eight months to implement it while the AAP government wants it to be implemented before the Assembly polls scheduled early next year.

What if hospitals hike charges like airlines, HC asks DGCA

Criticises practice of carriers levying exorbitant airfares in adverse situations

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

Which institutions other than airlines encash on the difficulties of the public, the Delhi High Court asked the Directorate General of Civil Aviation on Tuesday, referring to the practice of airlines hiking price of tickets when road and rail services are affected.

The court's sharp comment came while hearing a couple of public interest petitions highlighting the arbitrary and exorbitant price of air tickets during emergent situations.

"Name any other institution, it may be hospitals,

schools anything, which behaves like airlines. Are there any other institutions which are encashing on the difficulties of the public at large. Who are encashing on the negative situation," asked a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and C. Hari Shankar.

Final hearing in Nov.

"Think about it and answer," the Bench told the counsel for DGCA before posting the case for final hearing in November.

The Bench further reminded the counsel, "What will happen if hospitals start charging extra during

the time of seasonal diseases? What will happen if medicines are being sold at an increased rate?"

The Bench's remarks came after the DGCA counsel said that airfares fixation does not fall within the regulator's ambit.

"We cannot interfere in pricing of airfares. We are only regulating the safety and security of the airlines," the DGCA's counsel submitted.

One of the petitions, filed by advocate Amit Sahni, urged the court to direct the authorities to frame "guidelines so as to put a cap on airfares and prevent

private airlines from charging arbitrarily, irrationally and exorbitantly for flights".

Mr. Sahni's petition cited the 2016 Jat agitation in Haryana, during which private airlines allegedly charged exorbitant airfares from passengers.

The other petition was filed by activist Bejon Kumar Misra seeking direction to the Civil Aviation Ministry and the DGCA to ensure refunds or provide alternative travel mode to passengers who had booked tickets with the Jet Airways before it shut all domestic and international flights.

Denied admission, schoolgirl moves HC

Govt. schools cited overage as reason

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 14-year-old girl from Nagaland, who recently shifted to Delhi, has moved the High Court here as she has not been able to secure admission in any local government school since she has become overage for Class VI by two months during the transfer period.

The academic season in Nagaland starts and ends between January and December, while in Delhi it starts in April and ends in March.

Mary Karki was earlier living with her maternal grandparents in Nagaland, while her parents have been living and working in Delhi for the last eight years. She studied in a local school in Jalukie Town, Peren in Nagaland till Class V. After completing Class V in December 2018, she started living with her parents in Delhi.

Academic season

Advocate Ashok Aggarwal, representing the girl, said that though she completed her Class V in December

2018, for admission in Delhi government school she had to wait till April 2019 when the academic session starts.

Mr. Aggarwal said her parents have been regularly approaching their neighbourhood school, Government Co-ed Middle School, Vasant Vihar. He said the school has denied admission to the girl saying she has crossed 14 years of age on May 31, 2019 and hence she is not entitled to admission in any class in any government school in Delhi.

Mr. Aggarwal argued that right to education is a fundamental right at all levels and not only confined to up to Class VIII or the age of 14.

"The respondents [Delhi government] are under constitutional as well as statutory obligations arising out of Articles 21 and 21-A of the Constitution, Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 and Delhi School Education Act 1973, to grant admission to the petitioner in Class VI," the petition said which could come up for hearing later this week.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Dharmender, S/o** Gkja Prasad, **R/o** Jh. No. 743, Basant Wala Patil Bhalaswa Dairy, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 429/15 u/s 323/325/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. K.N.K Marg, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Dharmender** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Dharmender** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Dharmender** accused of **FIR No. 429/15 u/s 323/325/34 IPC, P.S. K.N.K Marg, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before **21.09.2019**.

By Order

**Ms. Richa Sharma, Metropolitan Magistrate (8)
Room No. 306,
DP/3034/RD/19-(Court Matter)**

Rohini Courts, Delhi

HC seeks govt. reply on plea to link property to Aadhaar

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought response from the Centre and the AAP government on a plea seeking to link movable and immovable property documents of citizens with their Aadhaar number to curb corruption, black money generation and 'benami' transactions.

Petitioner advocate and BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay said it is the duty of the State to take steps to curb corruption and seize 'benami' properties made by illegal means to give a strong message that the government is determined to fight against corruption and black money generation.

"If government links property with Aadhaar, it will lead to an increment of 2% in annual growth. It will clean our electoral process, which is dominated by black money and benami transaction and thrives on a cycle of large black investments, capture of power through foul means, use of political strength to amass private wealth, all with disdain of the citizen," the plea said.

The HC Bench has posted the case for further hearing on October 15.

In a separate plea filed by Mr. Upadhyay, the HC directed the Election Commission to decide within eight weeks the representation for taking steps to link voter ID with Aadhaar to curtail bogus and duplicate voting in polls.

HC verdict in decade-old rape, murder case today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

The High Court of Bombay at Goa will on Wednesday pronounce its verdict in the death and rape case of a British teenager a decade ago. The incident had made headlines worldwide.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has charged two men, Samsung D'Souza and Placido Carvalho, with death and rape of the girl, who was then 15-year-old, when she was holidaying in Goa along with her family.

Her bruised semi-nude body was found at the Anjuna beach on February 18, 2008. Advocate Vikram Varma, representing the victim's mother, on Tuesday confirmed that the verdict is scheduled to be pronounced on Wednesday.

The matter was heard by a Division Bench comprising Justices R.D. Dhanuka and Prithviraj Chavan.

Eye on elections, BJP gets new heads for State, Mumbai

Chandrakant Patil is Maharashtra unit president, Lodha to take charge of city

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made major changes to its organisational structure on Tuesday by appointing Revenue Minister Chandrakant Patil as head of the State unit of the party.

It also appointed Malabar Hill MLA and founder of the real estate Lodha Group, Mangal Prabhat Lodha, as the Mumbai unit chief in place of Ashish Shelar, who has been inducted into the government as a Cabinet Minister.

Mr. Patil replaces Raosaheb Danve, who has been inducted into the Union Cabinet in the second term of the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre. Announcing the appointment of the two leaders, party national secretary Arun Singh said the changes have been approved by party president



New role: Chandrakant Patil (left) and Mangal Prabhat Lodha.



Amit Shah. "The appointments are from immediate effect," Mr. Singh said on Tuesday.

Senior leaders said as per party rules, one can not hold the same term for two years. It was with this in mind that Mr. Danve met the Prime Minister in New Delhi and requested for a change of guard earlier this month. Mr. Danve is believed to have told Mr. Modi it would be dif-

ficult for him to juggle the responsibilities of State chief along with that of the Union minister in the run-up to the elections in Maharashtra. "We have some very capable leaders in our party and they can perhaps come forward to take this responsibility," he said.

Mr. Danve was appointed State party chief in 2015 and has been instrumental in the BJP expanding its base

across the rural hinterland. "The BJP has since captured 25,000 gram sabhas, 23 Members of Parliament (MPs) and 18 corporations across rural Maharashtra. We have only managed to do so under the able leadership and guidance of the PM and Mr. Shah," he said.

Mr. Patil has been Cabinet Minister since July 2016, handling the Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation and Public Works department (PWD). A prominent member of the BJP, he is also the Guardian Minister of Kolhapur and Pune districts.

Speaking on his appointment Mr. Lodha said, "The party has entrusted me with a major responsibility and I plan to fulfil it diligently. I would do that keeping in mind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas*."

Cong., NCP begin talks on seat sharing

Only criteria is capability to win: Thorat

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Tuesday held their first meeting to discuss a seat sharing arrangement for the upcoming Assembly polls in the State.

"We held a primary meeting today. The issue of seat sharing isn't of concern to us as we are concentrating on winning the election and ensuring that our front's Chief Minister comes to power. We are not to judge each other's strength and demand seats based on that. On the contrary we will be working as a united front to win the election," said newly-appointed Maharashtra Congress committee president Balasaheb Thorat.

"The only criteria is the candidate's capability to win the election. We are concerned only about that," he said.

In the 2009 Assembly polls, Congress contested 174 seats while NCP fought on 114. In 2014, both parties

contested independently. A group within the NCP is demanding an equal seat share based on the changed political equations as Congress has only one MP from Maharashtra compared to four from the NCP.

In reply to a question on sharing of seats with allies, Mr. Thorat said no such discussion was held, and added, "This is a continuous process. The decision on how many seats will be shared with whom will be taken in next meetings."

Both the parties however, are far from reaching a consensus on the division of 288 Assembly seats as they may have to incorporate several other players such as the Raju Shetti-led Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghтана (SSS), left parties, Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA), factions of Republican Party and possibly, the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS).

Mr. Thorat also said that no discussion on MNS took place in the meeting.

Banks disburse just 30% loans this kharif season

Delay in sowing season, crop loan waiver could be the reasons

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Sowing for this year's kharif season is already in progress, but banks in Maharashtra have achieved only 30% of the target of kharif crop loan disbursement.

Despite repeated warnings from Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, nationalised and commercial banks have failed to speed up crop loan disbursement as they have achieved only 17% and 18% of the target respectively. District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) have till date achieved 58% of loan disbursement.

According to data available with *The Hindu*, the target of ₹43,844 crore set by the State Level Bankers' Committee seems far from being achieved as banks have managed to disburse just ₹12,972 crore. Nationalised banks were given a target of ₹30,778 crore, of which they have managed to disburse only ₹5,331 crore. The target given to commercial banks was ₹27,918 crore, out of which only ₹4,899 crore has been disbursed.

Last year, loan disbursement was 54%, even though demand for crop loans diminished due to drought. DCCBs had disbursed 60% of loans while the remaining banks achieved 50% of the target.

Following the kharif re-



Cause for concern: The delayed monsoon has pushed back sowing in several parts of Maharashtra. • FILE PHOTO

view meeting in June, Mr. Fadnavis had said, "The demand for crop loans was less last year owing to drought. This year, the demand is likely to increase, but banks are likely to face action if they are found not providing crop loans to farmers."

According to sources in the Agriculture Department, the delayed monsoon has pushed back sowing in some parts of the State. "The CM himself had asked farmers to delay the sowing process. We expect loan disbursement to speed up once the monsoon spreads through the State," said the officer.

Another possible factor for the poor disbursement of loans is the delay in waiving crop loans. "Following loan waivers, farmers' accounts

were charged with interest, even though banks had accepted that they would not do so. As a result, crop loans cannot be disbursed to those accounts," he said.

Agriculture Minister Anil Bonde on Tuesday said the government will conduct cloud seeding experiments in three districts and is waiting for instructions from the India Meteorological Department. "Many parts of the State have yet not received rains and this experiment is being done to overcome the problem," he said.

Meanwhile, ruling coalition partner Shiv Sena will hold a protest rally in Bandra Kurla Complex against insurance companies, demanding they disburse the amount that farmers claim.

Two children get trapped in car, die of suffocation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BULDHANA

Two children died of suffocation after getting stuck in a car in Buldhana, the police said on Tuesday.

Another child was pulled out alive from the car but is in a serious condition, an official at Buldhana city police station said.

The three children, residing in the Gawalipura area, went to play outside on Monday evening. But, after some time when their parents could not find them, they lodged a police complaint.

The police launched a

search and around 2 a.m. on Tuesday, and found the three children lying unconscious in a car parked in the same area, the official said.

The children were rushed to a nearby government hospital where two of them - Azim Shaikh (3) and Adil Sheikh Jamil (5) - were declared dead, he said.

The third one, a five-year-old girl, was found alive and is admitted to the same hospital where her condition was reported to be serious, he said. The police suspect the children saw the car with its doors open and climbed in.

100 kg meat seized, suspected to be beef

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AKOLA

Police on Tuesday seized 100-kg red meat, suspected to be beef, from a 30-year-old man in Akola, an official said.

Police raided a place on Lohara village road on a tip-off and seized the meat from one Shaikh Imran Shaikh Malang, a local official said. Malang has been booked under Maharashtra Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act, 2015, which prohibits slaughter of cows, bulls and bullocks, said Ural police station inspector Satish Patil.



And then there were five: Four former Goa chief ministers Digambar Kamat, Luizinho Faleiro, Pratapsingh Rane, and Ravi Naik along with Curtorim MLA Reginald Lourenco (third from right) on the second day of the ongoing Assembly session at Porvorim on Tuesday. They are the only remaining Congress legislators in Goa after 10 MLAs joined the BJP recently, including the Leader of Opposition Chandrakant Kavlekar. • ATISH POMBURFEKAR

Congress high command to decide on LoP in Goa Assembly, says Kamat

From being the single-largest party, Congress now has 5 MLAs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

The Congress high command will take a decision on appointing the new leader of opposition in the Goa Assembly, party MLA Digambar Kamat said on Tuesday.

The Congress has suffered a major setback last week when 10 of its MLAs, including the then Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Chandrakant Kavlekar, joined the BJP.

The Congress, which emerged as the single-largest party after the 2017 Assembly polls, is now reduced to five legislators.

The monsoon session of the Assembly began on Monday with the chair of LoP remaining vacant.

Mr. Kamat told reporters outside the Assembly complex on Tuesday that party's Goa in-charge A. Chellakumar has met the five legislators and gone to New Delhi.

"The new Leader of Opposition will be announced from New Delhi," the former chief minister said.

Of the 10 Congress MLAs who joined BJP, four were inducted into the Pramod Sawant-led State cabinet.

Mr. Kavlekar was designated as Deputy Chief Minister and given charge of the town and country planning, agriculture, archives and archaeology, and factories and boilers departments.

Raja Dhale, a Panther no more

Founded Dalit Panther in 1972 for Dalits to raise their voice

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Raja Dhale, one of the founders of the radical outfit Dalit Panther, passed away at his residence in Vikhroli on Tuesday morning. He was 78.

Family sources said Dhale fell after he got up this morning. He was taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead. The last rites will be performed at Chaityabhoomi in Dadar area on Wednesday.

Hailing from Sangli district, Dhale along with Sahitya Akademi award winner late Namdeo Dhasal, J.V. Pawar and others, in 1972 founded Dalit Panther, a youth-based organisation inspired by the Black Panther outfit of African Americans in the U.S., with an aim to raise the voice of Dalits more aggressively in the State.

Dhale's aggressive writing, audacious nature to question those in authority, and connect with the masses created a stir across the State and soon Dalit Panther began to be considered as a major force to reckon with in



1941-2019

the struggle for equal rights to Dalits, women and oppressed sections of the society.

His article 'Black Independence Day,' in Marathi magazine *Sadhana* on August 15, 1972, where he questioned whether the atrocities on a Dalit woman are of lesser concern than the insult of the national flag, raised a storm in Maharashtra. Apart from his writings on atrocities against Dalits, he wrote poems for children, articles on literature, analytical pieces and books on Buddhism.

He parted ways with Dhasal over ideological differ-

ences claiming that the manifesto of Dalit Panther was communist in nature.

"Dhale was a principled and well-studied individual in the Ambedkarite movement. Dalit Panther was a platform to society's oppressed and depressed sections and it remains one of the most important chapters of country's political history," said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and RPI(A) chief Ramdas Athawale expressed grief over his demise. "Dhale brought me into this organisation (Dalit Panther) and mentored me. His death is a personal loss for me," Mr Athawale said.

The Maharashtra Congress working president Nitin Raut said Dhale's contribution to the Ambedkarite movement can never be forgotten. "He worked to raise an Ambedkarite organisation which could take the difficulties head on. The workers he created in his lifetime are there even today across different fields," said Mr. Raut.

IN BRIEF



Sabarimala temple opened for rituals

PATHANAMTHITTA
The Sabarimala Ayyappa temple was opened on Tuesday afternoon for the monthly rituals in the Malayalam month of Karkidakom that begins on Wednesday. The Melsanthi V.N. Vasudevan Nambodiri, opened the sanctum sanctorum at 5 p.m. The rituals will begin with the Tantri Kandararu Rajeevararu, performing the Ashtadravya Maha Ganapati homam on Wednesday.

NRI suicide case: family seeks CBI investigation

KOZHIKODE
The widow of Sajan Parayil has sought a CBI probe into the death of the NRI businessman who ended his life after he failed to secure an ownership certificate for his convention centre project at Bakal in Anchoor municipality in Kannur district. In a letter to the Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, E.P. Beena said she suspected that efforts were being made to sabotage the investigation by vested interests who falsely attributed his death to family discord.

Kerala nun rape case posted to July 23

KOTTAYAM
The judicial first class magistrate court in Pala on Tuesday posted the hearing in the nun rape case against Bishop Franco Mulakkal to July 23. The case was posted to another date following a submission by the accused's counsel that a couple of documents handed over by the prosecution were not legible. The court then asked the prosecution to hand over fresh copies of the documents by July 23.



In control: Karnataka BJP president B.S. Yeddyurappa playing cricket with party MLAs at a resort in Yelahanka on Tuesday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

One more night of wait for Karnataka MLAs in resorts

H.D. Kumaraswamy to move confidence motion tomorrow

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU**

It is one more night of uncertain wait for all the political parties in Karnataka, with the Supreme Court reserving for Wednesday morning its order on the plea of 15 Congress and JD(S) MLAs who have sought that their resignations from the Assembly be accepted.

The ruling coalition partners as well as the Opposition BJP have stationed their MLAs in different resorts on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Rebel MLAs who have resigned and are awaiting their acceptance, meanwhile, continue to stay in a Mumbai hotel.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday heard the case of the lawmakers whose resignations, if accepted, will leave the government in a minority. Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy is set to

move a confidence motion on Thursday.

Hope against odds

Against all odds, Janata Dal (Secular) leaders remained hopeful of the survival of the government, said sources in the party. A senior leader said the party was hoping one of the three rebels would return to the party fold and also some from the Congress.

The party is expecting a "positive development" from the Supreme Court and at the Speaker's office too.

Fearing poaching of more party MLAs, currently lodged in a city hotel, the Congress on Tuesday moved its law-makers to a private resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru. A total of 76 legislators, including MLAs, are provided accommodation in the resort, sources told *The Hindu*.

"We are keenly awaiting the ruling of the Supreme Court. Our next plan of action will be only after the order on Wednesday," said a Congress leader.

The Opposition BJP leaders, according to sources, are not worried as the party thinks that it is in an advantageous position in terms of numbers, irrespective of the stand to be taken by the Supreme Court.

The BJP leaders are reportedly in touch with a slew of legal experts and most of them are said to have been of the view that the party's prospects may not be affected.

Meanwhile, party State president B.S. Yeddyurappa spent the day with party legislators at a resort in Yelahanka. He even played cricket with them and engaged them in informal conversation.

Governor asks Kerala VC for explanation on answer sheets

Sheaves of papers, seal were seized from SFI leader's house, college union

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Governor P. Sathasivam on Tuesday ordered the Vice-Chancellor, Kerala University (KU), to urgently file a report on the seizure of answer sheets from the house of a Students' Federation of India (SFI) leader on Sunday.

The Cantonment police here had stumbled upon the answer sheets, purportedly validated by the KU, when they searched the house of Sivarenjith.

The police had named the undergraduate as the prime suspect in the near-fatal stabbing of a college-mate and SFI activist Akhil during class hours at University College here last Friday.

Investigators had also found a seal of the Director of Physical Education of Kerala University, at Sivarenjith's room.

The seizure of 83 answer sheet bundles from the SFI leader's house at Attukal closely followed by the discovery of more sheaves of answer sheets from the Un-



Loud and clear: Members of the Kerala Students Union staging a protest on Tuesday at the Kerala University demanding the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor. ■S. MAHISHA

iversity College union room, which is controlled by the SFI campus unit, raised serious questions about the credibility of examinations held at the institution.

Principals complained

The Governor's move follows public statements by former college principals

who claimed that they had reported widespread examination malpractices in University College by SFI leaders to the KU repeatedly, but to no avail.

They cited partisan teachers, lack of a robust Parent-Teacher Association, absence of rival student outfits and a delinquent subculture

that demanded total deference from students to the SFI, as reasons that had rendered faculty members and investigators helpless.

The police said the illegal diversion of answer sheets to politically influential leaders of the SFI pointed to active connivance on the part of college insiders.

Pandemonium in Andhra Pradesh Assembly

YSRCP Minister's remarks against TDP MLA kick up a row during question hour

**STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA**

Pandemonium prevailed in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly over unparliamentary words allegedly used by Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Minister Perni Venkatramaiah (Nani) against TDP MLA K. Atchannaidu.

The House was in disorder for quite some time as the treasury and Opposition benches blamed each other

during question hour on Tuesday.

Speaker Tammineni Sitaram's repeated pleas for order went unheeded with YSRCP and TDP members sticking to their guns.

At one point, the Speaker said it would be difficult to run the House if the pandemonium continued.

Intervening, Mr. Venkatramaiah clarified that he merely said that the Tekkali constituency electorate would feel guilty

for electing Mr. Atchannaidu. But the TDP members alleged that the Minister used abusive language while addressing Mr. Atchannaidu. Responding to it, the Minister urged the Speaker to verify the records, and said he was ready to apologise if he committed a mistake.

Mr. Sitaram said that the records would be verified and unparliamentary words, if any, would be expunged. The Speaker took objec-

tion to Mr. Atchannaidu's remark that he would read out whatever the Chair says.

Stating that he was behaving in a dignified manner in the House, the TDP member said he was being targeted as he belonged to the Backward Classes.

Intervening, Finance and Legislative Affairs Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy pointed out that Mr. Atchannaidu had used offensive language in the previous Assembly.

A.P. for probe into Sadavarthi land issue

Faults TDP govt. on move to auction it

**STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA**

The Andhra Pradesh government will order a vigilance inquiry into the controversial sale of the Sadavarthi Satram (choultry) land in Chennai, which had rocked the State during the TDP government.

"The government is contemplating an inquiry into the issue by a senior officer. The inquiry report will be placed on the table of the House in three months. Action will be taken against the guilty officials, if any," according to Endowments Minister Vellampalli Srinivasa Rao.

He was replying to a question raised by Mangalagiri MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy during the question hour on Tuesday.

The MLA said the land, originally over 471 acres, had been donated by the

descendants of the last ruler of Amaravati, Raja Vasireddy Venkatadri Naidu, to the Sadavarti Trust for providing facilities such as education for the poor in 1881. With no proper care, much of it had been encroached upon, leaving 83.11 acres, the Minister said.

'Tenders not invited'

The previous government had decided to hand over the land for a pittance to an individual though the market value was very high, the Minister alleged. The upset price was fixed at ₹50 lakh per acre while the market value was ₹6 crore.

Also, the government did not follow due procedures and e-tenders were not invited. An Endowments Department official was transferred for pointing out the market value, the Minister said.

Blue-eyed



Awaiting the tag: A view of the Kappad Beach in Kozhikode, Kerala, which the Union Environment Ministry has selected, along with 11 others, to be recommended for the Blue Flag tag. It is a quality recognition conferred on beaches that meet certain criteria of cleanliness by the Foundation for Environmental Education, an international NGO. ■S. RAMESH KURUP

Baig moves HC against 'illegal detention' by SIT

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU**

Shivajinagar MLA R. Roshan Baig on Tuesday moved the Karnataka High Court stating that he was taken into "illegal captivity" by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Monday to allegedly serve the "purpose of the ruling party to coerce him to support the government during the coming floor test even though he had submitted his resignation on July 11 itself."

Hearing adjourned

Justice Alok Aradhe, before whom the petition came up for hearing around 5.15 p.m., ordered issue of notices to the State and the SIT after Mr. Baig's counsel, who had in the afternoon sought urgency to hear the petition, said that there was no urgency as the SIT had released the MLA after the petition was filed.

Further hearing was ad-



R. Roshan Baig

journing till July 30.

Mr. Baig was detained by the SIT from Kempegowda International Airport on Monday when he was on his way to board a flight to Pune. It has been claimed in the petition that the officers of the SIT "suddenly attacked" him in a high-handed manner at the airport and took him into "illegal captivity" stating that he is required for an inquiry into the IMA scam case, though the SIT itself had given him time till July 19 to appear "as a witness" in the case.

23 foreigners staying illegally in Hyderabad identified

They will be given the option to regularise their overstay

**STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD**

In an operation early on Tuesday, 23 foreigners had been identified as overstaying or staying without valid documents in Hyderabad. The joint operation was taken up by the Hyderabad police and the Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO).

Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar said some of the 23 persons, including children, were from Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

Visa, passport and other relevant documents of foreigners were checked during this operation which was conducted at Banjara Hills,

Golconda, Asifnagar, Osmania University, Amberpet, Chikadpally, Chandrayangutta and other locations. A total of around 74 people were questioned.

Mr. Kumar told the media that they would be given an option to regularise the overstay by paying penalty as per rules. He said they could leave after producing papers and taking exit visa, failing which they would be detained and deported.

"The joint verification process was conducted by around 21 teams from the Hyderabad police, Special Branch, Task Force and FRRO. Intelligence department officials also participat-

ed. For the police and the FRRO, those who are overstaying without any documents are important," Mr. Kumar said.

This exercise was taken up a week after the police had collected biometrics from around 65 foreigners as part of the drive.

The Police Commissioner clarified that nobody was targeted and as per rules, it was the duty of the police to check foreigners, their documents and their validity. "Hyderabad is a metropolitan city. It always welcomes people from other countries for business, tourism and studies, but as per rules and procedure," he said.

BDL going strong with missile orders for ₹8,000 crore

We plan to make third-generation missiles soon, says CMD Siddharth Mishra

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD**

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), celebrating its golden jubilee this year, has orders worth ₹8,000 crore for making various missiles for the Armed Forces to be delivered within the next five years.

Orders are expected to increase to ₹25,000 crore in the next four-five years, even as BDL ramps up the production of next-generation missiles.

Pact with IIT

Working under the Ministry of Defence, BDL has also entered into a pact with International Institute of Information Technology-Hyderabad for making use of artificial intelligence in the development of systems and pro-



Ready for action: Akash, a surface-to-air missile, manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited to meet the requirement of the Armed Forces. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ducts. Further, it would be tying up with T-Hub for developing an ecosystem for start-ups to solve problems through hackathons, said Chairman and Managing Director Commodore (Retired) Siddharth Mishra on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference on the institute's pre-

mises at Kanchanbagh, Mr. Mishra said BDL has also commenced exports, and has just completed an order for the first consignment of missiles to a "friendly country", with more orders in the pipeline.

BDL is game for more exports depending on the demand, and permissions ob-

tained from the government of India.

Established this day in 1970 as a manufacturing base of guided missiles and allied defence equipment to meet the Indian Armed Forces' requirements, BDL began work with the Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) SSIBI under technical collaboration with

Aerospatiale of France. BDL now works in partnership with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Armed Forces in making the latest missile systems.

The company currently makes ATGMs, Akash surface-to-air missiles, torpedoes, seeker-based multi-role air defence missile or the MRSAM (medium-range surface-to-air missile) being jointly developed by the DRDO, IAI (Israel) and others. It has also been in the process of collaborating with various original equipment manufacturers for technology transfers for next-generation missiles.

A listed firm, BDL had a turnover of ₹4,586 crore in 2017-18, up from ₹3,069 crore the previous year.

IN BRIEF



Delhi High Court grants parole to O.P. Chautala

NEW DELHI
The Delhi HC granted a seven-day parole to INLD Chief O.P. Chautala, serving 10-year jail term in teachers' recruitment scam, to attend the engagement ceremony of his grandson. Justice I.S. Mehta directed the 85-year-old not to contact, threaten or coerce any of the family members of the victims during this period nor indulge in any illegal activity.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratnas announced

NEW DELHI
The Sangeet Natak Akademi named Zakir Hussain, Jatin Goswami, Sonal Mansingh and K. Kalyanasundaram Pillai as Akademi Fellows or Akademi Ratnas and announced awards for 2018, the Union Culture Ministry said on Tuesday. The Akademi selected 44 artists from music, dance, theatre, puppetry and overall contribution to performing arts for the Awards for 2018.

Bihar transgenders to get ₹1.5 lakh for surgery

PATNA
Transgender members in Bihar who opt for sex change operation will get ₹1.5 lakh and those who refuse to give them house on rent, show disparity in providing them health-related facilities and violate their rights will get jail term from six months to two years, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi has said.

Pilots suspended for 'unstable' landing

NEW DELHI
The DGCA suspended two SpiceJet pilots after a flight they operated was involved in an unauthorised landing at the Kolkata airport. The aircraft veered to the edge of the runway and damaged runway lights on July 2. An investigation found that the aircraft touched down approximately 1,300 feet from the runway threshold point and towards the right of the runway centre line.

Heavy rain in Nepal causes floods in Bihar, over 25 lakh hit

Kosi, Bagmati and Mahananda rivers in spate, says CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PATNA

Unusually torrential rainfall in catchment areas in Nepal and subsequent massive discharge of water in rivers led to flash floods in Bihar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar told the State Assembly on Tuesday. A total of 25.72 lakh people have been affected by the natural calamity so far, he said.

In a statement, Mr. Kumar said floods normally struck north Bihar in August or sometimes, in September, but this time they came a month earlier primarily because of unusually heavy rainfall in the Terai region of the neighbouring country.

As a result, several rivers in Bihar like Kosi, Bagmati and Mahananda have been in spate, the Chief Minister said in the House.

Twelve districts have been affected by the floods, the Chief Minister added.



Seeking shelter: A group of rhinoceroses moving to an elevated area following the floods. • PTI

Assam flood toll rises to 19; 2 rhinos drown in Kaziranga

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Four people lost their lives and two one-horned rhinos drowned in Kaziranga National Park (KNP) on Tuesday as Assam continued to reel under floods and rain-induced landslides.

The day also saw Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inspecting some of the worst-hit areas and the Centre releasing ₹251.52 crore as part-pay-

ment for relief and rescue operations in the State.

Assam State Disaster Management Authority officials said the floods have affected 44.96 lakh people across 4,620 villages. More than 1.01 lakh people have taken refuge in 226 relief camps. "Four people drowned today [Tuesday], taking the human toll to 19. Landslides in two districts killed two of them," an ASDMA official said.

45 cows seized from smugglers die in Tripura

'Were kept in the open due to lack of space'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AGARTALA

At least 45 cows, seized by the Border Security Force while being smuggled to neighbouring Bangladesh, died due to alleged neglect at a cow shelter run by an NGO in Tripura.

The in-charge of the cow shelter at Devipur in Sipahijala district, said the cows died of "hyperthermia" as they were kept in open due to paucity of space and there were incessant rains over the last six days.

The deaths took place during last three days starting from Sunday, officials

said.

At present, 700 cattle are lodged in the 'gaushala', cow shelter in-charge Joshine Antony said on Tuesday.

The cow shelter was constructed by a Delhi-based NGO on May 14 last following an agreement with the Tripura government.

She said 45 cows died in last three days as they were under open sky and drenched in rainwater.

"There were incessant rains for the last six days and the 45 cows were under an open sky, drenched in rains and died due to hyperthermia," she said.

Defence Ministry suspends dealings with Swiss company

Ties with the firm severed following charges of corruption

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry has suspended business dealings with Pilatus of Switzerland for a year, over allegations of corruption in the supply of Basic Trainer Aircraft (BTA) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

"Business dealings with the firm will remain suspended for a period of one year for violation of article 6.6 of the Pre Contract Integrity Pact (PCIP) and ongoing investigation by the CBI, Delhi Police, Enforcement

10 dead, several feared trapped as Mumbai building collapses

Nine pulled out alive from debris of the decrepit structure in a crowded area

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

Ten persons were killed and nine injured when a portion of a decrepit, four-storey building collapsed in south Mumbai's congested Dongri locality on Tuesday morning.

Police suspect around 10 persons are still trapped under the rubble as rescue operations continued late into the evening.

Large portions of top two floors of the several decades-old Kesarbai building in Dongri's Tandel Street, Nishanpada, collapsed around 11.30 a.m. Close to 20 families were said to be living in the building, which is owned by a private Trust.

Several people trapped in the rubble were rescued by local people as fire and rescue personnel struggled to reach the site amid crowded, narrow streets. Later traffic police created a green corridor for fire tenders and ambulances to reach the spot.



Reduced to rubble: NDRF personnel and rescue workers searching through the debris of the building that collapsed in Dongri, south Mumbai, on Tuesday. • VIVEK BENDRE

Search and rescue operations were undertaken jointly by fire services and the NDRF with eight fire engines deployed.

Nine persons were rescued from the debris, including a young girl who was trapped under a heavy iron beam. She was rescued after close to two hours.

"This was one of the most difficult rescue operations successfully carried out," said Prabhat Rahangdale, chief fire officer.

"We are afraid around 10 more people are trapped. The debris will be removed completely by tonight, only after which picture will be clear," said Sandeep Bhagdi-

kar, senior police inspector, Dongri police station.

Initially in 2017, BMC had declared this particular building as extremely dilapidated. It later found out that the building is a cessed structure and therefore, directed MHADA through a letter in 2017 to look into the matter.

Inclement weather delays landing of aircraft

Remains in air for two extra hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Poor weather forced a Vista flight to turn from one airport to another requesting permission to land, before it declared a fuel emergency and arrived at Lucknow after two extra hours of being in air.

Passengers, meanwhile, had an anxious time waiting for their ordeal to end.

As heavy rain lashed the national capital on Monday and led to traffic congestion at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport, Vistara's UK 944 flight from Mumbai to Delhi was forced to hover over the airport for nearly an hour. It was then diverted to Lucknow, but poor visibility in the U.P. capital forced it to head to Prayagraj, and then again re-route

to Lucknow, where it landed after the pilot gave a call for a fuel May Day.

The plane landed at Lucknow at 6.49 p.m., nearly two hours after its scheduled time of arrival at Delhi.

When the aircraft landed it had 300 kg of aviation turbine fuel, enough for 10 minutes of flight.

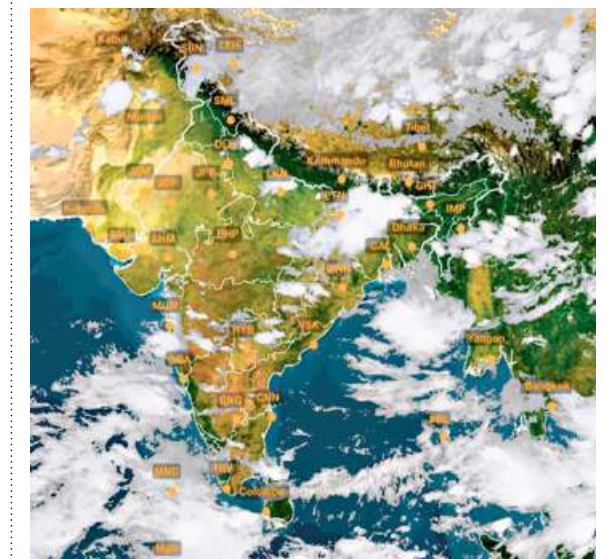
Vistara said in a statement that it had complied with regulatory norms requiring it to carry sufficient fuel for the nearest alternative airport in case of emergencies.

Meanwhile, the DGCA and the airline have grounded the pilot for investigation.

A flight from Lucknow to Delhi finally left at 12.15 a.m. to ferry the passengers to their destination.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Kerala, Mahe, coastal Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Goa, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, western Uttar Pradesh and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	35.8	24.0	9.0	Kozhikode	29.8	25.1	25.7
Ahmedabad	39.1	28.1	0.1	Kurnool	36.1	25.7	25.7
Aizawl	7.0	25.7	20.7	Lucknow	26.6	33.6	22.7
Allahabad	37.5	26.6	11.4	Madurai	37.5	25.0	22.6
Bengaluru	2.8	30.4	21.0	Mangaluru	18.0	28.2	22.6
Bhopal	34.6	26.2	3.1	Mumbai	31.4	26.2	21.2
Bhubaneswar	35.8	26.0	31.0	Mysuru	31.0	21.2	21.2
Chandigarh	19.8	30.0	24.0	New Delhi	29.2	33.4	24.0
Chennai	37.3	36.2	23.8	Patna	36.8	27.8	27.8
Coimbatore	32.4	23.4	0.8	Port Blair	31.2	26.6	26.6
Dehradun	15.8	26.0	22.2	Puducherry	35.8	26.2	26.2
Gangtok	8.6	20.2	17.2	Pune	30.3	22.7	22.7
Goa	53.6	30.7	24.2	Raipur	37.3	27.2	27.2
Guwahati	5.2	27.4	24.4	Ranchi	5.6	32.8	24.5
Hubballi	27.0	22.0	9.5	Shillong	17.0	17.0	17.0
Hyderabad	10.4	34.2	23.2	Shimla	11.9	18.7	15.6
Imphal	1.2	25.4	20.5	Srinagar	30.6	15.7	15.7
Jaipur	34.6	28.9	0.6	Thiruvananthapuram	31.1	24.6	24.6
Kochi	6.8	30.8	25.2	Tiruchi	2.1	38.6	26.8
Kohima	5.0	24.5	1.8	Vijayawada	36.9	25.7	25.7
Kolkata	37.2	29.1	34.4	Visakhapatnam	34.4	27.5	27.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	132	54	72	—	—	—
Bengaluru	4	12	75	26	33	—
Chennai	6	34	53	74	—	—
Delhi	14	42	19	154	—	—
Hyderabad	42	29	12	58	96	—
Kolkata	9	58	17	122	123	—
Lucknow	4	30	49	73	—	—
Mumbai	—	18	102	19	58	—
Pune	68	9	67	65	64	—
Visakhapatnam	—	—	43	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jodhpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 307 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Eloor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Monitor biomedical waste management: NGT

Asks States to set up common treatment and disposal facilities, if not done yet

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed all States and Union Territories to furnish a report on the amount of biomedical waste generated and asked them to set up common treatment and disposal facilities, if not done yet.

A Bench headed by NGT

Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the District Magistrates across States to monitor compliance with the biomedical waste management rules twice a month.

Stating that a District Environment Plan needs to be in place across the country, the green panel said the plan can be operated by district com-

mittees comprising representatives from the respective panchayats, local bodies, regional officers and State pollution control boards.

"We place on record our disapproval of the inaction of States in furnishing the inventory studies as well as for incomplete inventories. The States which have not yet

constituted advisory committee may also do so within two months. The action plans and their execution must be carried out having regard to the key performance indicators," the Bench said.

It warned States that environmental compensation will be imposed if the orders are not complied with.

Farmers' group wants drought norms revised

Scrap drought rules of 2016, says AIKS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) on Tuesday demanded that the Centre scrap the Manual for Drought Management, 2016, which had changed the way that droughts are declared and the circumstances under which Central help can be sought by affected States.

Latest data from the India Meteorological Department show over half the country's land area still faces rainfall deficits of more than 20% this monsoon season. Saurashtra and Kutch are the worst affected region, with a 60% deficit as of June 16, followed by Gangetic West Bengal, parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Kerala. Across the Deccan peninsula – in Marathwada, Vidarbha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu – the deficits hover in the 30-35% range.

"At the All India Kisan Council meeting over this weekend, our leaders from many parts of the country all spoke of how drought is affecting farmers in their areas," said Vijay Krishnan, AIKS joint secretary. "Rain-

fall is low, but even in areas where the deficit may not be high now, the rain has come late, affecting the sowing and growing of crops," he added.

Mr. Krishnan asserted that before 2016, it was considered a drought year in a particular area if there was deficient rainfall and the crop yield was less than 50% of the average of the previous 10 years.

However, the Manual for Drought Management, issued in 2016, brought in stringent new parameters. States are required to assess conditions using five indicators: rainfall, agriculture, soil moisture, hydrology and crop health. The Manual allows States to request for support from the National Disaster Response Fund if a drought is declared as "severe". This can only happen if three impact indicators (apart from rainfall) fall into the "severe" category, he explained.

"These conditions are so stringent that an area may not be officially declared as facing a severe drought even while its farmers are suffering," said Mr. Krishnan.



Chinese check

China's famed model of growth is under pressure due to fall in exports and investment

The Chinese economy is seeing the first signs of trouble after long years of sustained growth that rode on cheap labour and high volumes of exports. Data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Monday revealed that the economy grew by 6.2% in the second quarter, its slowest pace in 27 years. This is in contrast to the growth rates of 6.4% and 6.6% reported for the first quarter and the full year of 2018, respectively. The faltering growth rate was due to a slump in exports in June amidst China's ongoing trade war with the United States and the downturn witnessed by sectors such as housing construction, where investor sentiments play a major role. Many economists believe that the worst may not yet be over for China and that economic growth could further worsen in the coming quarters. But just as growth seems to be faltering, the latest growth figures also showed that the retail sales and industrial output components of the growth numbers witnessed steady growth, suggesting that domestic demand may be compensating for the dropping appetite for Chinese exports weighed down by high tariffs. Trade with China still heavily reliant on exports and its trade war with the U.S. showing no signs of coming to an end, the pressure on growth is likely to remain for some more time. So the Chinese government, which has tried to boost the economy through measures such as tax cuts, increased public spending and a relaxation in bank reserve requirements to encourage banks to increase lending, will hope that domestic demand for its goods will hold up the economy.

China's quarterly GDP numbers, while useful in many ways, don't reveal very much about the underlying challenges facing the country. One is the need to improve the credibility of data released by the Chinese government. An even larger challenge is the urgent need to restructure the Chinese economy from one that is driven heavily by state-led investment and exports to one that is driven primarily by market forces. The high-growth years of the Chinese economy were made possible by the huge amount of liquidity provided by the Chinese state and the large and affordable workforce that helped build China into an export powerhouse. But now, with China's tried and tested growth model facing the threat of getting derailed as the export and investment boom comes to an end, the Chinese will have to build a more sustainable model, or forfeit hopes of double-digit economic growth in the future. As of now, there are no signs to suggest that the Chinese authorities are looking at implementing deep-seated structural reforms reminiscent of its early decades of liberalisation that can help fundamentally restructure the economy. There might not be a need for radical macroeconomic changes, but China's economic troubles will not go away unless the government boosts domestic consumption and reduces the reliance on exports.

One for the ages

Alongside Federer and Nadal, Djokovic is ensuring tennis is at its competitive best

No player in the last decade has so thrillingly disrupted the Roger Federer-Rafael Nadal binary quite like World No.1 Novak Djokovic. Back in 2008, when Federer and Nadal met at Wimbledon in that iconic final, the contest had a definitive feel to it – to crown that era's best. The two met again this year, eleven summers since, just to earn the right to challenge Djokovic. Such has been the Serb's excellence that in the time between the two Federer-Nadal meetings, he increased his Grand Slam count from one to 15. Sunday's pulsating five-set victory over Federer brought him his fifth Wimbledon to put him just two shy of Nadal (18) and four behind Federer (20) in the all-time list. At times, his on-court demeanour and his grinding style of tennis have detracted from the perception of his success. To not celebrate his greatness, however, would be a severe disservice. Nadal and Federer are still ranked two and three in the world and are playing at near-peak levels. But even at their best, Djokovic has left them short of breath. In fact, starting from the 2011 Australian Open – his second Major – Djokovic has triumphed at nearly every second slam he has entered (15 of 34). Federer in the same period has accumulated four and Nadal nine, of which seven have come at the French Open. Remarkably, Djokovic has vanquished either Federer or Nadal in 12 of the 16 slams he has won. Eight of those victories have come in finals.

That Federer, just three weeks shy of turning 38, came within one stroke of upstaging Djokovic is credit to the Swiss's genius. Even in a career as storied as his, it would have been more than just a normal data point if he had clinched his ninth Wimbledon by beating Nadal and Djokovic – two of his greatest rivals – back-to-back. It is a testament to Djokovic's supreme mental strength that he did not flinch, even under extreme pressure, and despite not being the better player on the day. When he started out, Djokovic was among the most emotionally fragile. Questions abounded as recently as last July when he slipped outside the top-20. But by securing four of the past five Majors, he has truly rediscovered the mind of a champion. Among women, it was the turn of Simona Halep to display similar powers, by adding Wimbledon to her 2018 French Open win. There was a feeling that following her breakthrough in Paris she had suffered a meltdown, as she had not progressed beyond the quarter-finals at any Major since then. However, the way she mowed down one formidable opponent after another at SW19, including the legendary Serena Williams in the final for the loss of just four games, was enough proof of her strong mental make-up.

Making sense of Karnataka's politics

Castes and communities are the key players, where gain to one's community becomes an overriding consideration



VALERIAN RODRIGUES

A distinct genre of political theatrics in which elected representatives play 'hide and seek' in plish resorts to escape poaching by their very own and rival party leaders is currently playing out in Karnataka. While the dramatis personae, the layout of the plot, the resources deployed, and the message conveyed are distinct this round, this mode of doing politics is not new to the State.

In fact, following the State elections last year, leaders of the ruling coalition enacted a similar play almost 14 months ago by shepherding the elected representatives of their respective parties to safe havens; this was done ostensibly to stop them from being poached by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which laid claim to power as the largest party in the House and needed a few more legislators to secure a majority.

The bare sketch

Such mimetic displays have not been rare in the past either. They make room for extended invention of sub-plots and even erasure of a few, often delving deep into the rich folklore Karnataka is known for. Analogical practices are there in other States too, although Karnataka can claim a certain expertise in this regard by now. While such theatrics may have tactical political purpose at times, the question to be asked is the purpose for which such a political tactic is employed; the bearing it has on electoral representation, and the affront such political means offer to nurture a democratic culture.

In Karnataka, there is a coal-

ition government of the Indian National Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular), or JD(S). The Chief Minister, H.D. Kumaraswamy, is from the JD(S) that has 37 members, while its majority partner, the Congress, has 78 members in the 224-member House. While there are two independents, the BJP, which is in the opposition, has 105 members. From the beginning, the relationship between the coalition partners has been very uneasy, with the media constantly abuzz with rumours of a breakdown. On its part, the BJP has made umpteen attempts to wean away a few members from the coalition, widely termed 'Operation Kamala (lotus)'. After the Lok Sabha election, and the BJP's resounding victory where it got 25 Lok Sabha seats out of 28, the rumblings within the coalition have become louder; moving to the greener side, i.e. the BJP, has become more tempting for the fence-sitters.

A few days ago, there was drama when 16 members of the Assembly, three from the JD(S) and 13 of the Congress, most of them sheltered in a luxury hotel in Mumbai, announced that they had resigned from the Assembly. Two independents, who were made ministers earlier in order to retain them within the coalition fold, resigned from the cabinet and extended support to the BJP. The Speaker of the House, however, faulted the procedure adopted by 10 legislators to tender their resignations, dragging in the Supreme Court to decide its rectitude. While receiving these resignations afresh, following the court's directive, the Speaker stood his ground on ascertaining their constitutional and legal validity.

In Parliament, the Opposition accused the ruling BJP of employing unfair means to bring down an elected government. With the Karnataka government having decided to convene the Budget session, the coalition partners issued a whip to its members to attend,



K. MURALI KUMAR

holding out the threat of disqualification for non-compliance. The Supreme Court was made to step in in order to decide the relative status of resignation and disqualification of elected members and their precedence, given their widely different political implications. On the floor of the Assembly, the Chief Minister announced that he would move a trust motion on his government, which has made the issue of status and precedence crucial to the ambitions and designs of the rebels, and also placing them in a quandary. The unfolding of these events has been laced with several subplots: lavish living, private jet-hops, invocation of divine help, political "attempts" to cajole the rebels to return to the party fold, and a roughing up of party colleagues, and each party moving its Assembly members to well-secured and lavish resorts.

Disaffection within coalition

While the coalition government and the parties supporting them have targeted the BJP for attempting to pull down the government, the first group is primarily responsible for allowing disaffection within its fold to spread for three reasons.

First, for reasons known to itself, the Congress did not include the most important leaders from Northern Karnataka in the ministry for months; a small coterie of Vokkaliga leaders in the coalition from the erstwhile Mysore region have attempted to direct the course of political developments. The Lingayat-dominated northern region, already smarting under

years of neglect and drought, has consolidated itself as a bloc to resist the encroaching dominance of its traditional rival, and has gravitated wholesale towards the BJP which has been nursing it for years. Second, the JD(S) with the Chief Minister at the helm and with the support of a section of the State Congress leadership, has systematically attempted to undercut the lucrative wheeler-dealer network that the Siddaramaiah government of the Congress (2013-18) had built – it involves mining, land, construction and transport – and which directed those resources to its henchmen. It led to interference in departments and transfers of employees which the ministers concerned regarded as their fiefdoms. It made Mr. Siddaramaiah, the pre-eminent leader of the Congress in the State, to blow hot and cold occasionally against the coalition.

Third, the Congress and JD(S) are traditional political rivals in the southern region of the State and over the years, a significant section of the Vokkaligas, the pronounced social base of the JD(S), have been attracted to the Hindutva agenda. The inability of the coalition to forge an overlapping voting base is what has led to its overwhelming defeat in the very region of its strength.

The data is telling. In the Assembly elections of April 2018, the BJP, the Congress and the JD(S) secured 36.34%, 38.14% and 18.3% of the voteshare respectively, while in the Lok Sabha elections, it was 51.4%, 31.88% and 9.67%, respectively. The disaffection has led a large number of Congressmen to question the utility of the coalition on grounds of sectarian loyalties, personal interests, and future electoral prospects; some of them with large interests at stake have decided to jump ship. The hand of the BJP has always been there with the bait and offering promises.

The disaffection mentioned above has little to do with repre-

sentational logic, i.e., upholding the interests of one's constituency, striving to further the interests of the political community of the State, or even the objectives of one's own party. Due to a number of historical reasons, castes and communities are key players on the political scene in Karnataka. Hindutva has been attempting to fill this vacuum in recent years but has a very tentative hold still.

Personal gain, sectarianism

Even today, the elected representatives primarily consider themselves as members of castes and communities, and in the distribution of public resources, the gain to one's community becomes an overriding consideration. Therefore, elected representatives form a clique with a powerful leader with access to public resources, and strive to tilt the scales in their favour. Being elected as a member of the Legislature is often perceived as an entry point to seek other goodies such as a ministerial berth through which the member can channelise public resources for personal gain and to extend patronage. In the context of the weakening party leadership of coalition partners, since a representative may have to largely fend for himself or herself, the temptation to accumulate as much as possible during one's stint is seen as a mark of political common sense.

It is time Karnataka politics discovers not merely its egalitarian and pluralistic traditions and sets out to reconstruct its political architecture to reflect them. A public culture imbued by such a perspective may not eliminate all differences but there would be some yardsticks to hold elected representatives to accountability. But for the time being, it seems a mirage.

Valerian Rodrigues taught Political Science at Mangalore University and Jawaharlal Nehru University

The wheels to a low-carbon transport system

It rests on accessing public service, choosing rapid transit over car driving and supporting electric vehicle transition



SOHAIL AHMAD & FELIX CREUTZIG

Congested streets and polluted air are common experiences in India's metropolises, although the average Indian contributes only minuscule amounts of transport-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to global climate change. Patterns of road transport, however, diverge wildly between cities and districts. Delhi tops the charts and emissions are more than twice as high as other Indian megacities, such as Mumbai, Bengaluru or Ahmedabad.

Studies show that India's road transport emissions are small in global comparison but increasing exponentially. In fact, the Global Carbon Project reports that India's carbon emissions are rising more than two times as fast as the global rise in 2018. Globally, the transport sector accounts for a quarter of total emissions, out of which three quarters are from road transport. Reducing CO₂ emissions of road transport leverages multiple co-benefits, for example, improving air quality and increasing physical activity, which are critical for well-being, particularly in urban areas.

Climate action also requires an understanding of how emissions vary with spatial context. In India, we find in our new study (published in *Environmental Research Letters*), that income and urbanisation are the key determinants of travel distance and travel mode choice and, therefore, commuting emissions. The way cities are built and the design of public transit are critical for low-carbon mobility systems. The study is based on the most recent results of the Indian Census in 2011.

Average commuting emissions in high-emitting districts (Delhi) are 16 times higher than low-emitting districts (most districts in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh). Average per capita commuting emissions are highest for the most affluent districts, which are predominantly urban, and that heavily use four-wheelers for commuting. This is a surprising result, as in other parts of the world such as the United States, commuting emissions are low in urban areas but high in suburban or ex-urban settings. In contrast, average per capita commuting emissions are lowest for Indian districts that are poor, and commuting distances are short and rarely use three-wheelers.

Focus on well-being

Two policy implications follow. First, mayors and town planners should organise cities around public transport and cycling, thereby improving mobility for many, while limiting car use. Uptake of



GETTY IMAGES

non-motorised transport emerges as a sweet spot of sustainable development, resulting in both lower emissions and better public health in cities. According to the recent National Family Health Survey (2015-16), nearly 30% of all men are overweight or obese in South-west Delhi, but only 25% in Thiruvananthapuram and 13% in Allahabad. These data correlate with high reliance of car use in Delhi and low demand for walking.

Another of our studies that investigates data from the India Human Development Survey shows that a 10% increase in cycling could lower chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases for 0.3 million people, while also abating emissions. Car use, in contrast, correlates with higher rates of diabetes. Therefore, fuel price increases, congestion charges or parking management could be a strategy that improves the well-being of individuals living in urban areas. In contrast, fuel price increases would be detrimental in poorer rural areas, impairing mo-

bility where there is a lack of alternatives.

Technology transition

Second, India should double down in its strategy to transition to electric two and three-wheelers. India is the third-largest market for automobiles; about 25 million internal combustion engines were sold in 2017, including about 20 million two-wheelers. A recent study reports that India has 1.5 million battery-powered three-wheeler rickshaw (over 300,000 e-rickshaws sold in 2018). In the coming years, experts judge that the electric three-wheeler market is expected to grow by at least 10% per year. In 2019, nearly 10,000 electric two-wheelers were also sold, and the annual growth rate may be above 40% per year.

The current statistics even suggest that electric three-wheelers and electric two-wheelers, rather than electric cars, will drive the electric vehicle market in India. Electric car sales are minuscule and even falling (dropping from 2,000 in 2017 to 1,200 in 2018). Consumers realise the practical advantages of lighter in weight two- and three-wheelers that require much smaller and less powerful batteries and are easily plugged in at home.

India is one of the world's largest producers and consumers in two- and three-wheelers and Indian companies can take a leading role in switching to electric vehicles. This will also help in trans-

forming India's vision of 'Make in India'.

Compact cities improve accessibility and reduce emissions from transport and even the building sector. Most Indian cities are already very dense, with few benefits expected by further high-rise. City managers should ensure that existing urban areas provide short routes and fast access to schools, hospitals and jobs, otherwise, residents would be required to travel long distances. To achieve this aim, mayors and decision-makers need to rethink how to deliver basic services such as education and health. Building schools and hospitals matters especially for informal settlements and are critical in achieving low carbon development as well as improving the quality of life.

Providing access to public service, choosing rapid transit over car driving in cities and supporting the rise of electric two and three-wheelers will help drive India to a modern and low-carbon transport system fit for the 21st century.

Sohail Ahmad is a Research Fellow at the GCRF Centre for Sustainable, Healthy and Learning Cities and Neighbourhoods (SHLC), University of Glasgow. Prof. Dr. Felix Creutzig is the head of the working group Land Use, Infrastructures and Transport at the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change, and Chair of Sustainability Economics at Technische Universität Berlin

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

103rd amendment

In *M.R. Balaji* (AIR 1963 SC 649), the Supreme Court made a significant observation by saying, "social backwardness is, in the ultimate analysis, the result of poverty". For the writer (Editorial page, "A test of law and justice", July 16) "to say that there cannot be reservation for the economically weaker sections of society unless they are socially backward" may not be wholly right. To say that reservation for the economically weaker sections goes against the basic structure of the Constitution is to ignore/dilute the significance of Article 14. The very purpose of reservation is to achieve

equality as envisaged under Article 14. However, if the process of reservation gets over-heated so as to deprive the economically weaker sections a more proportionate share in the administration and access to opportunities, then it would be a violation of their fundamental rights. One has to see how reservation has worked to the detriment of economically weaker sections so that they don't become socially backward also.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
K.K. RAM SIDDHARTHA,
Chennai

In court

The resolution moved by the Rajasthan High Court

advising advocates to refrain from addressing its judges as "My Lord" and "Your Lordship" must be encouraged across the judiciary. There were directions over a decade ago, to settle for "Your Honour", "Honourable Court" and "Sir", but it does not seem to have caught on. In fact, a little more is required to be done to maintain gender equality especially when female judges hold court as a single bench. Besides this, it would also be more appropriate if the use of archaic and colonial terms in law suits is also amended. For instance any petition filed in courts or judicial tribunals often

resorts to the use of phrases such as "the petitioner/applicant most humbly sheweth that..."

S.K. KHOSLA,
Chandigarh

Final outcome

New Zealand's Kane Williamson was all grace while fielding questions from the media. As the underdogs, the Kiwis deserve accolades and empathy for the way they handled the post-match situation, despite losing the final match to England and the unconvincing runs. It is heart-breaking to lose due to some extraneous reasons. The composure shown by Ben Stokes after reaching his 50 was in quiet

contrast to the sword celebration by Ravindra Jadeja in the semi-finals. Players should realise that wild gestures sometimes take away the focus from the main target of winning a game. Finally, one hopes that with its victory, England is able to rejuvenate the game.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

True fans of cricket will never accept the result of the ICC World Cup. Apart from

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

A Sports page report headlined "DPR Korea downs Tajikistan" (some editions, July 16, 2019) erroneously said both Tajikistan and DPR Korea had six points from two wins and a draw. Actually it should be two wins and a loss for each team.

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The many hurdles in proving citizenship

The brunt of the systemic problems of the National Register of Citizens is being borne by the poorest



KALPANA SHARMA

Apart from the floods in Assam, an annual event affecting thousands of families, another humanitarian crisis awaits the State this year. The date is already set for it. It is July 31.

On that day, the final list of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) will be released, the culmination of a fraught process conducted since 2015 at the urging of the Supreme Court, and monitored by it.

While reports of the many anomalies that dog the process of determining citizenship, including the constantly changing list of documents that are (or are not) accepted, are known, the sheer enormity of the crisis facing the State is yet to register in the rest of India.

Numbers alone do not indicate this. What is known today is that of the 32.9 million who have applied to be listed as "genuine" Indian citizens in the NRC, roughly 29 million have been accepted. The future of the four million excluded so far, a number that might reduce when the final list is published on July 31, provides the foundation for the impending human crisis awaiting Assam. Even if half of this number is excluded, we are looking at the future of two million stateless people.

What will happen to me and my family after July 31? That is the question that haunts hundreds of men and women as they wait hours in inclement weather, clutching plastic bags full of documents, to meet anyone willing to answer this question. This was the scene that confronted us as we travelled to three districts in Assam at the end of June.

The majority left out of the NRC so far are abjectly poor; many are unlettered. They cannot understand the legal complications of the process, nor do they have the money to hire legal help. As a result, thousands stand in danger of being declared "foreigners" even though they could be "genuine" Indian citizens.

Three categories

The people affected by this process of verification of citizenship fall into



"The citizenship issue in Assam is layered and complex." Officials check documents at an NRC office in Dhubri, Assam in May. •AFP

three different categories. Those labelled as 'D voters', or doubtful voters, were categorised as such when the electoral rolls were revised in 1997 and thereafter. Their names are excluded from the NRC unless they can establish their credentials before a Foreigner's Tribunal. There are currently just under 100 such tribunals in Assam. The opacity that surrounds the way decisions are made in these quasi-judicial courtrooms is a part of this larger crisis.

In the second category are people who have been picked up by the police on suspicion of being illegal immigrants. The border police, present in every police station, picks up people, often poor workers in cities, fingerprints them, and then informs them in writing that they must appear before a Foreigner's Tribunal.

In the third category are those who have registered with the NRC, but have been excluded because there was a discrepancy in the documents they submitted. Two lists have been published so far: one with 4 million names last year and another with just over 0.1 million on June 26 this year. Their fate will be known on July 31.

In addition, there are people who have already been declared "foreigners" by the tribunals. In February 2019, the government informed the Supreme Court that of the 938 people in six detention centres, 823 had been declared foreigners. How long will they be held? Can they be deported? To which country? These questions remain unanswered. In

this haze of numbers and judicial processes, the real and tragic stories of individuals often go unheard.

Left out

Take Anjali Das, 50, in Bijni, Chirang district. Dressed in a rust saree, Anjali cannot hide her anxiety. Her maternal home is in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, where her father and brother still live. Anjali came to Assam in 1982 when she married. She has no birth certificate, like many in India. She has a school certificate that confirms she was a student up to Class 5 and gives her date of birth as June 1, 1969. She also has a certificate from the Panchayat and her father's Aadhaar card as proof that she is Indian. But this will not suffice. Anjali's name has been excluded from the NRC, the only one in her marital home.

Anjali is only one of thousands of married women who have been left out of the NRC for similar reasons. Although disaggregated data is not yet available, it is estimated that more than half of those excluded from the NRC are women like her.

Then there are women who are struggling to understand why only some members of their families have been excluded. In Hanchara village in Morigaon district, Jamina Khatun pulls out a photocopy of the June 26 list of names excluded from the NRC. It has the names of her husband, her two sons, and her 11-year-old granddaughter. But not hers, or that of her daughter-in-law. Jamina's son, Nur Jamal Ali, was referred to the Foreigner's Tribunal based on a complaint

by his landlord in Jorhat, where he worked as a construction labourer. As a result, Nur Jamal was fingerprinted by the border police, sent a notice to appear before a Foreigner's Tribunal, and then declared a foreigner. His only daughter has also been excluded from the NRC.

After July 31, the focus will shift to the Foreigner's Tribunals. The State government plans to set up 200 by the end of this month and eventually 1,000, as all those excluded from the NRC will have to present themselves before these tribunals.

Expensive and time-consuming

Only the litigants and their lawyers know what happens within the four walls of these tribunals as neither the public nor the media are permitted there. I tried to get a peek into one in Guwahati. Foreigner's Tribunal Court Room 3, Kamrup Metro district, Guwahati, is located in a residential colony on the ground floor of a building. The small room is arranged like a courtroom. A white railing separates the podium on which the tribunal member sits from the litigants. The railing becomes a small witness stand at one end. The tribunal member has the help of an assistant who sits on the side. According to him, cases are heard simultaneously, stretching out to five days. But a lawyer tells a different story. The case he has come for began in March. It is still being heard in July.

This then is the other problem. Poor people travel long distances to appear before these tribunals. Their cases stretch out over months. They have to spend on travel and lawyers' fees, unaffordable for most. If they give up, or cannot afford to make the journey, their cases will be judged "ex parte". In a statement in the Lok Sabha on July 2, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, G. Kishan Reddy, said that from 1985 to February 2019, 63,959 people had been declared foreigners in ex parte rulings.

The citizenship issue in Assam is layered and complex. It is not easy for people outside the State to understand the multiple threads. What is clear though is that the brunt of the systemic problems of establishing citizenship in this manner, and in such haste, is being borne disproportionately by the poorest.

Kalpana Sharma is an independent journalist

Rethinking KUSUM

If designed better and implemented effectively, the scheme could radically transform the irrigation economy



TAUSEEF SHAHIDI & ABHISHEK JAIN

Earlier this year, the Cabinet approved the Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhayan (KUSUM). With a Budget allocation of ₹34,000 crore, and a similar contribution expected from the States, KUSUM aims to provide energy sufficiency and sustainable irrigation access to farmers. At present, despite burgeoning farm power subsidies, nearly 30 million farmers, especially marginal landholders, use expensive diesel for their irrigation needs as they have no access to electricity. More than half of India's net sown area remains unirrigated. KUSUM could radically transform the irrigation economy if the government chooses an approach of equity by design and prudence over populism.

Equity by design

First, KUSUM should aim to reduce the existing disparity among States with regard to solar pumps deployment and irrigation access. Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan together account for about half of the two lakh solar pumps currently deployed in the country. This is surprising given the low irrigation demand in the former and poor groundwater situation in the latter. On the other hand, States such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, where penetration of diesel pumps is among the highest, have not managed to deploy any significant number of solar pumps. This disparity highlights poor State budget allocation towards solar pumps and the lack of initiative by State nodal agencies. To encourage more equitable deployment of 17.5 lakh off-grid pumps by 2022, the Centre should incentivise States through targeted financial assistance, and create avenues for peer learning.

Second, KUSUM must also address inequity within a State. For instance, 90% of Bihar's farmers are small and marginal. Yet, they have received only 50% of government subsidies on solar pumps. On the other hand, in Chhattisgarh, about 95% of beneficiaries are from socially disadvantaged groups due to the mandate of the State. Learning from these contrasting examples, a share of central financial assistance under KUSUM should be appropriated for farmers with small landholdings and belonging to socially disadvantaged groups.

Third, instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, KUSUM should provide greater financial assistance to smaller farmers. KU-

SUM proposes a 60% subsidy for the pumps, borne equally by the Centre and the States, and the remaining 40% will be the farmer's contribution - 10% as down payment and 30% through loans. This unilateral financing approach will exacerbate the inter-farmer disparity given the inequity in access to credit and repayment capacity between small and large farmers. A higher capital subsidy support to small and marginal farmers and long-term loans with interest subsidies for large and medium farmers would be a more economical and equitable alternative.

Prudence over populism

Fourth, solarising existing grid-connected pumps, as proposed under the scheme, needs a complete rethink. Existing grid-connected farmers, who have enjoyed power subsidies for decades, would receive the same financial support as that received by an off-grid farmer. In addition, they would earn regular income from the DISCOM on feeding surplus electricity, furthering the inequitable distribution of taxpayers' resources. Instead, the scheme should only provide Central government subsidy of up to 30% for solarisation, and use the proposed State support to incentivise DISCOMs to procure energy from the farmers.

Also, solarising grid-connected pumps must include replacement of the pump. Poor efficiency levels of the existing pumps would mean unnecessary oversizing of the solar panels and lesser available energy to feed into the grid. Moreover, instead of feeding surplus energy to the grid, solar pump capacity could be used to power post-harvesting processes, which complement the seasonal irrigation load and can enhance farm incomes through local value addition. Further, the injection of solar power by farmers would require the entire agriculture electricity line (feeder) to be energised throughout the daytime, including for those not having solarised pumps. This would aggravate DISCOMs' losses on such feeders. Instead, an effective alternative is to solarise the entire feeder through a reverse-bidding approach, and provide water-conservation-linked incentives to farmers as direct benefit transfer.

KUSUM should not woo a certain section of farmers with short-sighted objectives. If designed better and implemented effectively, it holds the potential to catapult the Indian irrigation economy from an era mired in perpetual subsidy, unreliable supply, and inequitable distribution of resources to a regime of affordable, reliable, and equitable access to energy and water.

Tauseef Shahidi was a Research Analyst and Abhishek Jain is a Senior Programme Lead at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water

Tapping the potential of communities to end AIDS

Success is achieved where policies and programmes focus on people, not diseases

GUNILLA CARLSSON

The UN Sustainable Development Goals include ensuring good health and well-being for all by 2030. This includes the commitment to end the AIDS epidemic. In many countries, continued access to HIV treatment and prevention options are reducing AIDS-related deaths and new HIV infections. But there are still too many countries where AIDS-related deaths and new infections are not decreasing fast. In fact, they are rising in some cases, though we know how to stop the virus. Why are some countries doing much better than others?

The road to success

Success is being achieved where policies and programmes focus on people, not diseases, and where communities are fully engaged from the outset in designing, shaping and implementing health policies. This is how real and lasting change is achieved and this is what will reduce the devastating impact of AIDS. Adopting the latest scientific research and medical



knowledge, strong political leadership, and proactively fighting and reducing stigma and discrimination are all crucial. But without sustained investment in community responses led by people living with HIV and those most affected, countries will not gain the traction necessary to reach the most vulnerable. And only by doing that can we end the AIDS epidemic. Community services play varying roles depending on the context. They often support fragile public health systems by filling critical gaps. They come from - and connect effectively with - key populations such as gay men, sex workers, people who use drugs, and transgender. They provide services that bolster clinic-based care and they extend the reach of health services to the community at large. They also hold deci-

sion-makers to account.

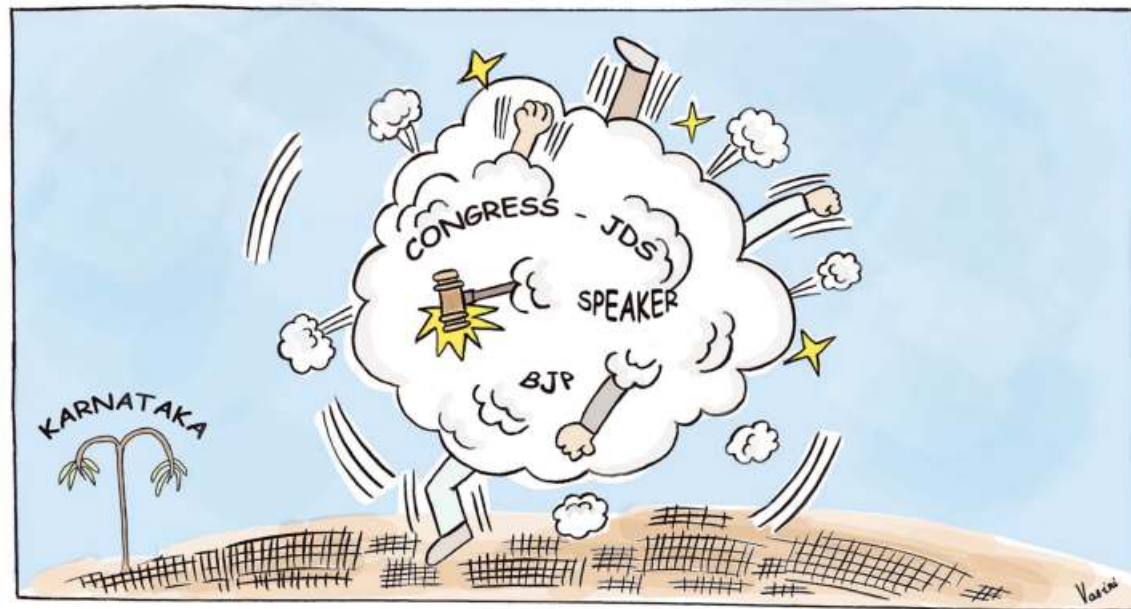
By signing the 2016 UN Political Declaration on Ending AIDS, countries affirmed the critical role that communities play in advocacy, coordination of AIDS responses and service delivery. Moreover, they recognised that community responses to HIV must be scaled up. They committed to at least 30% of services being community-led by 2030. However, most countries are nowhere near reaching that commitment. And where investment in communities is most lacking, there is often weaker progress being made against HIV and other health threats.

Reliable partners

All over the world, communities are demonstrating time and again that they can, and do, deliver results. Since the beginning of the epidemic in India until now, communities have been the most trusted and reliable partners for the National AIDS Control Organization and the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. They are fully engaged in many aspects of the National AIDS Response, including prevention, care, support and treatment programmes. There are over 1,500 community-based organisations reaching out to key populations. In India, there are around 300 district-level networks of people living with HIV which are supporting treatment programmes through psychosocial support, treatment literacy and adherence counselling.

Our communities present us with a lot of untapped potential. Unleashing this is the key to gaining the momentum we need to make faster progress towards reaching UNAIDS Fast-Track targets. The more we invest in communities, the closer we get to ending the AIDS epidemic.

Gunilla Carlsson is Executive Director, a.i. of UNAIDS



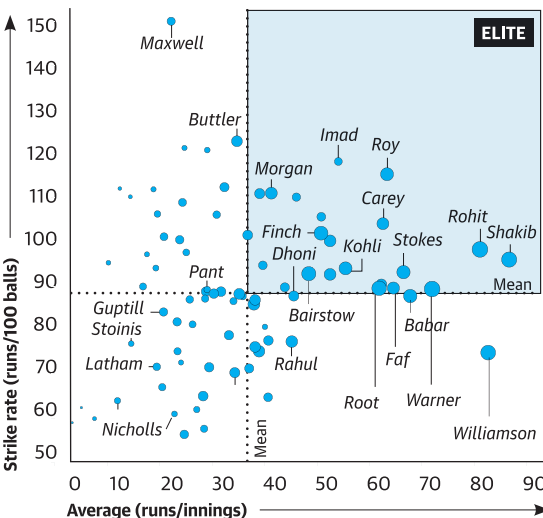
DATA POINT

The elite club

England's mighty batting was instrumental in their winning campaign while pace bowlers commanded New Zealand to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 final. For India, Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and Virat Kohli were the star performers. Sumant Sen analyses individual player performances in the World Cup

English juggernaut

The chart plots a batsman's (●) average against his strike rate. The players in the elite section had the best average-strike rate. The size of the circle corresponds to the player's tournament runs. Five Englishmen feature among the elite



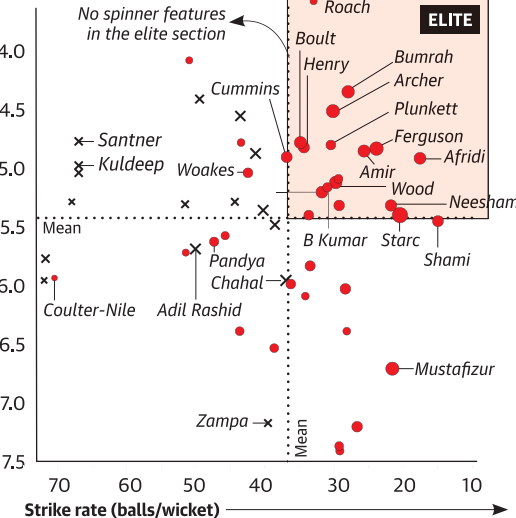
Through the roof

The tables show player's rankings as of Tuesday and the top five gains (▲) since May 28, 2019. Among batsmen, Australian Alex Carey and among bowlers, West Indies' Sheldon Cottrell moved the farthest ahead in the rankings

Batsmen	Rankings as of July 16, 2019
32	Alex Carey ▲
31	Van Dussen ▲
54	Hardik Pandya ▲
36	Haris Sohail ▲
74	Grandhomme ▲

Pacer paradise

The chart plots a bowler's strike rate against his economy rate (Econ.). The players in the elite section had the best strike rate-Econ. x denotes spinners, (●) denotes pacers. The size of the circle/x corresponds to the player's wickets



Bowlers	Rankings as of July 16, 2019
40	Cottrell ▲
23	Shaheen Afridi ▲
13	Mohd. Amir ▲
64	Ben Stokes ▲
47	Kemar Roach ▲

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 17, 1969

Morarji Desai resigns

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, resigned in protest from the Central Cabinet to-day (July 16, New Delhi), when the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, relieved him of the Finance portfolio and herself took it over in a surprise political move to hit back at the party bosses and reassert her supremacy in the wake of her latest set-back in the Congress Parliamentary Board over presidential candidature. This precipitate action by the Prime Minister has confronted the country with the most serious political crisis since Independence - with the Congress leadership at the Centre now so irrevocably divided and the ruling party clearly heading towards an internal trial of strength before Parliament meets on Monday (July 21). Though Mrs. Gandhi has requested him to continue as Deputy Prime Minister with any portfolio other than Finance, Mr. Desai felt that his self-respect demanded that he should resign immediately to vindicate his position - and presumably fight it out in the Congress Parliamentary Party. But she was not accepting his resignation in haste.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 17, 1919.

Indian States and Reform.

On the occasion of laying the foundation stone of a Council Hall at Jamnagar by the Maharaja of Alwar, a ceremonious durbar was held at which sardars, officers and local gentry were present. In requesting the Maharaja of Alwar to lay the foundation stone of the Hall, Jamsaheb Ranjit Singhji said that he had according to the time-honoured culture of his Aryan ancestors instituted an advisory council composed of his subjects, whose advice and opinion he proposed to invite regularly on matters connected with social, industrial and economic progress of his subjects. In indicating the constitution of the advisory council His Highness said that they (Indian Princes) did not belong to a school that idolized democracy for democracy's sake and left but a thin line between anarchy and all-men-rule. They were advocates of popular rule in the sense that weighty, stable and reasoned public opinion should be at the back of strong, beneficent paternal Government. It was not difficult to work out a constitution that aims at securing the representation and advice of such interests as were stable, sound and trustworthy intellectually, commercially and otherwise.

FROM PAGE ONE

SC moved for sample re-verification of NRC

Both the Centre and the State said the re-verification exercise should be conducted by Class 1 officers of the State government from other districts who have knowledge and experience of handling the process of enquiry/investigation. The applications further sought an order that the sample re-verification should be undertaken at a place different from where the NRC exercise happened. The Assam government agreed that this would cut out the possibility of local influences, bias/threat, etc.

"But why should we grant an extension?" asked the CJI even as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta pressed for an early hearing.

"We will have it on August 1 then," the CJI said. To this, Mr. Mehta said the last date of publication of NRC was July 31. "We will see," the CJI finally said.

The applications may be listed soon for hearing before a Special Bench of the CJI and Justice Rohinton Nariman.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in its

application, tried to impress upon the court the "unprecedented large scale of complexities" involved in the NRC process.

'Impact social harmony'
The Ministry informed the court that the NRC exercise had created apprehensions in the minds of the citizens and could very well impact social harmony, and law and order in the State.

"It is pertinent that the exercise of sample re-verification must necessarily follow before the publication of the final list," the application said.

The draft NRC list, published on July 30, 2018, had included 2,89,83,677 persons as Indian citizens but found 40,70,707 persons ineligible. The Centre said re-verification should be done for both inclusions and exclusions.

In its separate application to the court, Assam said that an "additional exclusion list" was issued on June 26, 2019. This list contained 1,02,463 names which had been earlier included in the draft NRC list.

Don't lay down limits of our jurisdiction: SC

Mr. Dhavan told the Chief Justice that this should not be viewed as a crossing of swords between the Supreme Court and the Karnataka Speaker.

"My Lord, this is not the Speaker versus the Court. This is Chief Minister versus somebody (Yeddyurappa) who wants to be Chief Minister by bringing down the present government. You should not have entertained this petition... your order (of July 11) asking the Speaker to decide on the resignations forthwith exceeded your jurisdiction," Mr. Dhavan submitted.

Mr. Singhvi countered that the current turmoil cannot be compared with the events leading to the formation of the Kumaraswamy government in 2018.

"At the time of the midnight hearing in May 2018,

there was no Speaker, no government and no Assembly in Karnataka. The Supreme Court had ordered pro tem Speaker K.G. Bopppiah to conduct a floor test because otherwise no government would have been formed in the State," Mr. Singhvi submitted. Mr. Dhavan said the Supreme Court should not come in the way of a proposed vote of confidence motion scheduled in the Assembly for July 18.

Mr. Singhvi said the Speaker should be allowed to take his final decision on the resignations in his own time. The court could test him after he takes a call.

"We are not restraining the Speaker in any way. What stopped him from accepting or rejecting these resignations on July 6 when they were tendered to him by the MLAs," the CJI asked.

Pakistan opens its airspace after 6 months

Until now, only two of the 11 routes between the two countries had been opened. Around 3 a.m., Turkish Airlines' Istanbul-Delhi flight became the first to use the Pakistan airspace, according to the official. An hour later, Air India's flight from San Francisco followed it.

An AI official said all their flights between Delhi and destinations in the U.S. and Europe were flying through Pakistan from Tuesday.

SpiceJet's Jaipur-Dubai flight, too, flew over Pakistan, but the airline is yet to announce the resumption of its flights to Kabul.

IndiGo, whose flight to Istanbul had to take a long detour via Qatar and stop there for refuelling, doubling its flight duration, says

it is awaiting clearances to start operations on the reopened route.

Afghanistan's Ariana Afghan is expected to resume operations between Kabul and Delhi next week and Kazakhstan's Air Astana, which resumed four flights from Almaty to Delhi says it will return to its 11 flights a week mid-August after demand picks up.

As per government data, Air India was the worst affected among all Indian carriers. It lost ₹490 crore until July 2 due to the sheer number of flights it operates to the U.S. and Europe.

According to IATA, before the ban at least 220 flights used the Pakistan airspace every night between Asia and Europe.

Postal department examination annulled

A fresh one would be held in all regional languages, he said.

The House had to be adjourned thrice in the pre-lunch session.

Members of the AIADMK, a key NDA ally, trooped into the well, tore up and flung papers, demanding the annulment of the exam.

They were joined by their rivals, the DMK, the Congress, the CPI and the CPI (M), and the Trinamool Congress.

The protests started soon after the listing of papers, with AIADMK members shouting slogans and de-

manding that the government hold a fresh examination for the recruitment of postmen by including Tamil as a language. Both the AIADMK and the DMK raised the issue during a zero hour reference on Monday. They contended that excluding the regional languages put rural students at a disadvantage.

On Tuesday, within nine minutes after the House met at 11.00 a.m., Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu ordered stopping the live transmission of the proceedings owing to the ruckus and adjourned the House till noon.

PM pulls up Ministers who played truant

After complaints from the Opposition, Modi takes note of those who skipped roster duty in Parliament

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday pulled up Ministers for playing truant from roster duty in Parliament, taking cognisance of complaints by Opposition leaders.

Addressing the weekly meeting of the BJP's Parliamentary Party (when session is on), Mr. Modi said he had "asked for the names" of errant Ministers and taken the matter seriously.

Ministers are placed on roster duty to be present in Parliament when the session is on.

"Prime Minister Modi said that several Opposition leaders had mentioned to him that Ministers were missing from Parliament, and that he was not happy with that state of affairs," said a senior MP present at the meeting.

At a July 2 meeting, the Prime Minister listed out



Clear call: Narendra Modi with J.P. Nadda, left, and Amit Shah at the BJP Parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. • SANDHEEP SAXENA

several criteria based on which he selected MPs to join his Cabinet, with participation in Parliament proceedings being an important factor. Significantly, Mr. Modi indicated that there was

much on the government's legislative agenda, and that "if need be, the session can be extended," the MP said.

Members who attended the meet did not share the context in which this remark

was made. Mr. Modi also asked the MPs to associate themselves with causes related to social welfare such as the rehabilitation of those suffering from leprosy or the government's tuberculosis

eradication programme that seeks to remove TB from the country by 2025, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told presspersons after the meeting.

Social causes

"He said, 'logon ko yaad rahi, aisa koi kaam kaor [do something that will be long remembered by the people],' adding that if MPs had any aspirational districts within their constituencies, then they should get in touch with the officers serving there to lend a helping hand in the various social welfare programmes," the MP said.

"He said that officers were themselves in competition in these districts against each other and MPs should help them compete. These activities were to be undertaken in an apolitical spirit and not for votes," said a source quoting Mr. Modi.

Central Universities Bill cleared

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019, for establishing a Central University and Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh.

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" assured the House that the universities would be set up in the next four years.

The Lok Sabha had cleared the Bill on July 12.

The government has set aside ₹450 crore for the first stage of the Central University project against the total amount of ₹902.07 crore and ₹420 crore for Tribal University against an outlay of ₹836 crore, the Minister said.

The Tribal University will offer research facilities in the fields of art, culture and technology to the tribal population.

Highway tolls here to stay: Gadkari

Says people should be willing to pay if they want to save time on travel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said people should be willing to pay toll if they wanted to save time by travelling on good roads and made it clear that tolls were here to stay.

"Toll zindagi bhar band nahi ho sakta... kam-zyaada ho sakta hai. Toll ka jaanamdata mein hoon [Toll system can never end though the rates may vary from time to time. Tolls are my brain child]," the Minister told the Lok Sabha.

"If you want good services, you have to pay for it," he added as he stressed that the government funds were prioritised to build all-weather roads in rural and remote areas or hilly areas such as the northeast to improve connectivity.

Mr. Gadkari was replying to the debate on the demand for grants under the Road Transport and Highways Ministry.

E-toll system

He said that within the next few months, the electronic toll collection process would be put on fast track and made mandatory to avoid congestion at toll plazas.

He said over 40,000 km of roads had been constructed in the past five years and work totalling nearly ₹11 lakh crore had been awarded by the Ministry during this period.

Rudy questions delays

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy and Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari had an interesting exchange in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday over project delays, with Mr. Rudy stating that though the Minister wanted speedy resolutions, people sitting in the gallery [a reference to Ministry officials] did not seem to want it.

Investigation on

The Minister was quick to defend the officials, and pointed out the particular contractor that Mr. Rudy referred to was facing investigation into serious fraud.

The Minister, however,



Rajiv Pratap Rudy

added that a "positive and transparent approach" along with time-bound decision-making could resolve all issues.

"There are some people who convert problems into opportunities and there are some who convert opportunities into problems," said the Union Minister without naming anyone.

hours. He said by working on a new route that would pass through backward and tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra, the Ministry would save ₹16,000 crore in land acquisition.

The Minister said pollution in Delhi had come down by 32% due to efforts such as building the peripheral expressway to enable trucks going to other States skip Delhi by taking the circular bypass.

He also said all new vehicles from April 1, 2020 will comply with Euro 6 emission norms, reducing pollution further, adding that the government was working on technology to make the use of electric vehicles cost-effective and attractive to users.

Training for drivers

The Minister said the country faced a shortage of 25 lakh trained drivers and promised MPs that he was willing to set up training institutes that could help youth find employment.

Expressing concern over the high rate of accidents, the Minister urged members to support the proposed amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act.

When several MPs raised the issue of changes to the utilisation of the Central Road Fund in the Budget, Mr. Gadkari said he would talk to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

321 protected monuments, sites encroached upon: govt.

No study to assess impact of illegal constructions: Minister

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Over 300 Centrally-protected monuments and sites, including World Heritage Sites, across the country are "under encroachment", according to the government.

Responding to a question by Nationalist Congress Party member Vandana Chavan in the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Culture and Tourism Pralhad Singh Patel admitted that Centrally-protected sites and World Heritage Sites had been encroached upon.

Asked whether a study had been done to assess the impact of the illegal constructions or encroachments on the sites, he replied in the negative.

"Although no impact study has been done, proactive steps have been taken by the Archaeological Survey of India under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959 to keep the historical monuments free from en-



The Ellora Caves near Aurangabad. • VIVEK BENDRE

croachments," he stated. Of the total 321 encroached-upon monuments and sites that Mr. Patel's reply listed, the highest number were in Uttar Pradesh (75), followed by Tamil Nadu (74), Karnataka (48), Maharashtra (46), Rajasthan (22), Delhi (11), Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Punjab (seven each), Assam, Bihar and Odisha (six each), Himachal Pradesh (three), Madhya Pradesh (two) and West Bengal (1).

Among the monuments that have encroachments are Purana Qila in Delhi, Ellora Caves in Maharashtra, Sun Temple in Konark in Od-

isha and Brahma Temple in Pushkar, Rajasthan.

"In order to contain the encroachments and remove them, the superintending archaeologist in charge of the Circles have been vested with the powers of Estate Officers to issue eviction notices/orders to the encroachers under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. In addition to the regular watch and ward staff, private security personnel, State police guards and CISF have also been deployed for the safety and security of selected monuments," the reply said.



Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have turned down the role of Congress chief.

CWC meet not before July 22, says senior leader

No decision on Rahul's successor yet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) is unlikely to meet before July 22 as the political turmoil and the Karnataka trust vote has taken precedence, said a senior leader on Tuesday.

Though senior leaders who have been discussing about finding a consensus candidate for the next Congress president had informally set July 15 as a cut-off day by when the party would decide on the next president, all plans are now on hold.

The CWC meeting could now be delayed until the current Parliament session gets over on July 26. No final decision, however, has been taken on the date.

So far, names of several senior leaders like Mukul Wasnik, Mallikarjun Kharge among others have been in circulation. However, no consensus candidate has emerged.

A section of senior leaders have also approached Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi to become the provisional party president once again but she is learnt to have categorically turned it down.

Another section of senior leaders are of the opinion that the next CWC meeting, after Mr. Gandhi's formal resignation, should start the process of election of a new

All India Congress Committee (AICC).

And until the AICC election process gets completed, general secretaries who are in charge of party affairs in the States should be fully empowered to discharge their responsibilities.

Mr. Gandhi had informed the CWC, as far back as May 25, about his decision to step down to own responsibility for the 2019 Lok Sabha debacle. Though the CWC had rejected it unanimously, Mr. Gandhi has been firm on his decision.

Since then more than seven weeks have passed and Congress veterans have questioned the delay. "As someone who joined the Congress in 1967, over half a century ago, I am aghast to see the confusion and disorientation into which the party has fallen since Rahul Gandhi resigned on May 25," Karan Singh had said last week.

'Tiranga TV should have pay out talks'

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN
CHENNAI

As the controversy surrounding HTN's Tiranga TV channel sudden paring back of news operations - leaving most of its 200 employees facing imminent redundancy - continues, some senior journalists associated with the channel have started speaking out.

After Barkha Datt took to Twitter to criticise Congress MP Kapil Sibal and his wife, Pramila Sibal, for offering the Tiranga staff only one-month notice and salary, Karan Thapar, who had also worked with the channel, told *The Hindu*, "I believe employees have a right to a fair severance package related to their individual lengths of service, and this can neither be unilaterally imposed by management nor unilaterally demanded by employees themselves."

Given the sudden announcement of downsizing of the channel, he added that any such arrangement would have to be "mutually negotiated and agreed to by both parties," Mr. Thapar said.

Kingpin of drug racket arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MOHALI

The Punjab police on Tuesday said it had arrested the kingpin of a drug racket of habit-forming drugs, including the 'tramadol' tablets.

Chief of the Anti-drug Special Task Force and Addl. DGP Gurpreet Kaur Deo said the police had recovered a consignment of 10,67,800 tablets from accused Pardeep Goyal, a Ludhiana-based chemist. "Goyal was operating from his medical store in Ludhiana. He was arrested by the Bathinda police on information provided by a peddler Sunil Kumar. The chemist was dealing with large-scale diversion of banned drugs and tablets," she said.

She said the accused had supplied 70 lakh banned tablets throughout Punjab in the last 10 months.

Long quest to get Jadhav back

At the ICJ, India has questioned quasi-judicial trial and lack of consular access

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague will pronounce its judgment in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case at 3 p.m. (6.30 p.m. IST) on Wednesday in the Peace Palace in the Netherlands.

According to an ICJ statement, the President of the UN judicial organ Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf will deliver the judgment. Fifteen other judges on the panel – including the representative from Pakistan – will either concur fully with the final verdict or read out supporting or dissenting opinions. Officials familiar with ICJ workings say the process could take anything from a few minutes to more than an hour.

Indian officials say they hope to see the ICJ adjudge the 2017 trial of Mr. Jadhav rule the death sentence delivered to the former Indian Naval officer by a Pakistani



One-on-one: Kulbhushan Jadhav's wife and mother meeting him in a Pakistani prison in December 2017. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

military court as "illegal", and order a retrial. Pakistan, on the other hand, remains hopeful that the Indian petition at the ICJ will be dismissed.

Two-year process

The verdict will bring to a close India's two-year long quest for a reprieve for Kulbhushan Jadhav, who, the government believes, was convicted falsely on charges of

terrorism in Pakistan.

While Pakistani prosecutors maintain that Mr. Jadhav was a "spy" in Balochistan province, India has consistently held that he was working as a businessman in Iran, and was kidnapped by Pakistani agencies.

India has taken a two-pronged approach in the case: pleading that the Jadhav trial held in a military court was only quasi-judicial

and hence lacked internationally recognised procedures, and that Pakistan had violated the Vienna convention on consular relations that stipulates that foreign nationals under trial be offered consular access.

In the petition, India had asked that the ICJ suspend Mr. Jadhav's death sentence, restrain Pakistan from carrying out the military court's verdict, provide the government consular access to Mr. Jadhav, and annul the trial entirely. Finally, the government asked that the ICJ direct Pakistan to "release the convicted Indian national forthwith".

Pakistan has said it will behave "responsibly", but has given no undertaking that it would accept an adverse verdict. Pakistan's Foreign Affairs spokesperson Mohammad Faisal said he would not comment on the matter, but hit out at India for "state terrorism".

Neeraj Shekhar joins BJP, likely to be fielded for RS

Former PM's son says he 'wasn't able to work' in SP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Neeraj Shekhar, son of former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, who quit the Rajya Sabha and left the Samajwadi Party (SP) on Monday, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday in the presence of general secretaries Bhupendra Yadav and Anil Jain.

He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah before the formal joining, and with party working president J.P. Nadda after the induction.

Popular mandate

Speaking at his formal joining, Mr. Shekhar said that he had been feeling for some time that he was "not being able to work" in the place that he was before [SP] and



Neeraj Shekhar

that influenced his decision to join the BJP. "The mandate that Prime Minister Modi has got has made it clear that the people of the country feel that the nation is safe with him, and I too felt that I should join the party as a reflection of that feeling," he said.

He expressed gratitude to Mr. Yadav, Dr. Jain and Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, who he said treated him with affection and facilitated his joining the BJP.

Mr. Shekhar had been contesting the Lok Sabha elections from his father's constituency of Ballia and had won twice in 2007 and 2009 but lost in 2014. The Samajwadi Party then sent him to the Rajya Sabha, but denied him ticket in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

BJP sources said the party is likely to nominate him as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh. Currently, the BJP's tally in the Rajya Sabha stands at 78, with the recent addition of four MPs from the Telugu Desam Party and one from the Indian National Lok Dal.

Though Chandra Shekhar was not in the Samajwadi Party, the party's patriarch Mulayam Singh had never fielded any candidate against him from the Ballia constituency.

On M.P. transfers, Congress and BJP won't let sleeping dogs lie

Parties trade charges over transfer of 46 police dogs

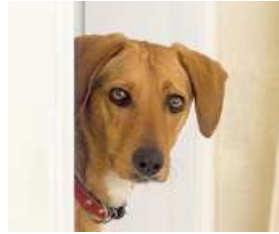
SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

If you have a dog in the fight, never let it go. So it seems seeing the ruling Congress and the BJP hurl charges at each other over the transfer of 46 police dogs and their handlers in Madhya Pradesh.

Hitting back at the Opposition party for saying that the State government has not spared even police dogs and their handlers from transfers, the Congress on Tuesday came up with a list of canines transferred by the previous BJP regime.

"There is nothing unusual about the transfers, whether of officials or dogs. It is the prerogative of the government to see who is needed where, and the BJP can't dictate us on that. They are making a laughing stock of themselves," Shobha Oza, State Congress media chief, said.

Party workers produced an 18-page document listing



orders issued by the BJP government from June 2012 to March 2018 transferring dogs and their handlers at the residence of the then Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

In a tweet on July 13, BJP State president Rakesh Singh wondered why were dogs, which could not communicate with humans directly, transferred to a location more than 500 km away.

Stating that the change of government had necessitated the transfers as the BJP had not complied with the transfer policy during its 15-year regime, Ms. Oza said, "Then, officials remained

posted at one place for five or six years, flouting the policy which mandates their transfers after every three years. The new government had to correct the wrong, stick to the rules and transfer officials."

"One day, you transfer several DSPs (Deputy Superintendent of Police) and the next day you cancel the transfers of most of them. This shows how corrupt the Congress is. For them, governance is not *jan sewa* (serving people), it is *jeb sewa* (lining one's pocket)," BJP State spokesman Gulrez Sheikh said.

Dog's mentality

Public Works Department Minister Sajjan Singh Verma told presspersons that the BJP leaders were making such accusations as they had a "dog's mentality".

Mr. Sheikh retorted, "Yes, we have a dog's mentality. We are loyal to the people and work for them."

Centre cites NGO's letter on NRC

Group, which has supported the Citizenship Bill, denies ties to the BJP

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Seeking "sample re-verification" of Assam's draft National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the Supreme Court, the Union Home Ministry, in its affidavit, attached a letter from an Assam-based NGO, Sachetan Nagrik Mancha, Axom (SNM), that had demanded an "error-free NRC".

The Supreme Court has directed that the final NRC be published by July 31. If the fresh affidavit filed by the Ministry and the Assam government seeking "20% re-verification of names included in the final draft NRC in districts of Assam bordering Bangladesh and 10% verification in other districts" is admitted by the court, it would further push back the date of the final publication of the NRC. If the SC rejects the proposal, the Centre may take the legislative route, a senior government official said.

In an affidavit filed on Tuesday, the Ministry said the SNM has on June 29 forwarded an appeal to the Pre-



Anxious moments: Verification process in progress for the National Register of Citizens in Guwahati last month. *PTI

sident signed by more than "25 lakh indigenous Indian citizens of Assam" demanding an error-free NRC containing the names of all Indian citizens of Assam with complete exclusion of all "illegal migrants".

SNM secretary Atul Burman told *The Hindu* that the NGO was formed in 2013 and it worked for "national integration" and denied it was aligned to the BJP.

"There are 5,800 members in our organisation. When the NRC was being updated, we conducted 442 meetings in Assam. We are not associated with the BJP;

people from all communities – Hindu, Muslim, Christian – are part of it [SNM]," Mr. Burman said.

While several groups in Assam have vociferously protested against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 that would benefit Hindus excluded from the NRC, the NGO supported it. The Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the previous Lok Sabha.

Shah's statement

On July 1, Union Home Minister Amit Shah told the Rajya Sabha that the government would bring in a Bill to pro-

vide citizenship to "Hindu refugees" left out of the NRC. He was responding to the Trinamool's Derek O'Brien who raised the issue of the probability of 23 lakh Bengali Hindus losing citizenship when the final NRC is published.

In 2017, the NGO filed a police complaint against former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi in a "cash for job" scam.

In its affidavit, the Ministry cast aspersions on the officials who initially conducted the verification drive. Out of 3.29 crore applicants, around 40 lakh people were excluded from the final draft NRC that was published on July 30 last year. Another one lakh were excluded in another list published last month. Of these, 36 lakh people filed claims against the exclusion whereas objections were filed against inclusion of 2 lakh persons.

"There have been instances where field officers have been arrested for taking bribes for entering names in the NRC list," the affidavit said.

Woman gets bail, told to donate Koran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RANCHI

A 19-year-old woman, who was arrested for sharing an offensive social media post targeting Muslims, has been granted bail by a local court here on the condition that she donate five copies of the Koran to separate institutions in the city.

The court of Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Manish Kumar Singh asked Richa Bharti to submit one copy of the holy book to the local Anjuman Committee in the presence of police authorities, and four more copies to different libraries in the city, her advocate Rampravesh Singh said.

The Magistrate has also sought the receipts or the acknowledgements of the donation within a fortnight, he said.

Md. Jamil Khan, a member of the Anjuman Committee, said it has welcomed the court's verdict.

SP (Rural) Asutosh Sekhar said the officers were studying the court order to understand the stipulations.

RS nod for changes to airports regulator Bill

Amendment restricts AAI from fixing tariffs for private airports

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed a Bill to amend the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008, whereby the Airports Authority would not determine tariff structures in the case of privatised airports as that was part of the bid offered at the time of the privatisation.

In all, 16 airports would come under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority



Hardeep Singh Puri

of India (AERA), while the others would continue to be under the Civil Aviation Ministry.

After introducing the Bill,

Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said in 2006 the total number of passengers at Indian airports was about 1.5 million per annum. Therefore, a regulatory mechanism was needed for fixing tariffs. In 2009, only two major airports had traffic of 1.5 million passengers per annum. In 2011, the number went up to 16 and in 2016, there were 24 such airports.

"Today, the passenger throughput at the Airport

Authority of India airports is in the vicinity of 344.69 million. So, the limited purpose of this amendment is to substitute the figure 1.5 million, which defined a major airport, which reflected 1.3% of passenger traffic at that point of time, with the figure 3.5 million which accurately reflects the state of traffic today," he said.

The Bill was first approved in December 2017, but could not be passed.

Sewer deaths: Centre calls for quick response units

Stress on trained cleaners, protective gear

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Concerned by the incidents of workers dying while cleaning sewers and septic tanks, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has asked all States and Union Territories to set up emergency response sanitation units (ERSU), which would include trained cleaners wearing protective gear.

In letters to all Chief Secretaries on July 12, Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra wrote: "The Government of India is seized of press reports regarding number of fatalities attributed to entry into sewers and septic tanks (both public and private) of personnel employed for their cleaning or removal of chokes."

While manual scavenging is offi-

cially banned, under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, incidents of private individuals, local bodies and contractors forcing people to enter sewers and tanks to clear blockages continue to be reported. The official said the workers had not been given protective gear, training or backup support by their employers.

"To implement the provisions of PEMSRA Act, 2013 regarding hazardous cleaning of sewers/septic tanks, it is advised that States/UTs/ULBs [urban local bodies] should set up an ERSU, on the lines of the fire service station, in capital cities of each State/UT and in all major cities having a municipal corporation and/or water and sewerage board with population of more than one lakh," the letter said.

ELSEWHERE



Von der Leyen secures EU executive top job
STRASBOURG
Germany's Ursula von der Leyen secured European Parliament's nod on Tuesday to become the first female President of European Commission. She presented her vision for a greener and rule-based Europe. REUTERS

Sudan paramilitaries 'torture' civilian to death
KHARTOUM
Sudan's paramilitary personnel beat and tortured to death a civilian in the Darfur region, a doctors committee linked to the country's protest movement said on Tuesday. AFP

Indian-origin man in U.S. convicted for killing wife
NEW YORK
A U.S. court has convicted an Indian-origin man for killing his estranged wife 12 years ago when she sought divorce. Avtar Grewal was extradited to the U.S. in 2011. He was found guilty of murder. PTI

Congresswomen hit back at Trump

'The blatantly racist attack is a distraction from the chaotic and corrupt culture of the administration'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON
Democratic Congresswomen targeted in a xenophobic tirade by President Donald Trump hit back on Monday, saying he was trying to distract attention away from his policies with his "blatantly racist attack."

The President first attacked the four lawmakers – all but one of whom were born in America – with a series of tweets on Sunday, saying they should "go back" to their countries of origin.

The four – Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts – struck back at a news conference on Monday and urged people not to "take the bait."

Mr. Trump was simply trying to distract with his "blatantly racist attack" on the four women of colour, Ms. Omar said.

"This is the agenda of white nationalists," she said.

Ms. Pressley also urged the American people "to not take the bait."

"This is simply a disruption and a distraction from the callous chaotic and corrupt culture of this administration, all the way down," Ms. Pressley said.

'The Squad'

The four lawmakers – who have been nicknamed "The Squad" by some media – said attention should instead be focused on healthcare and immigration and, in particular, the treatment of asylum seekers on the southern border.

"Weak minds and leaders challenge loyalty to our country in order to avoid challenging and debating the policy," said Ms. Ocasio-Cortez.

Mr. Trump "does not know how to defend his policies, so what he does is attack us personally, and that is what this is all about," she said.

Ms. Tlaib said Mr. Trump's tweets and remarks were "a continuation of his racist and xenophobic playbook."

"We cannot allow these hateful actions by the President to distract us from the



(From left) Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in Washington. •AP

critical work to hold this administration accountable to the inhumane conditions at the border that is separating children from their loved ones and caging them up in illegal, horrific conditions," she said.

Ms. Omar and Ms. Tlaib repeated calls for Mr. Trump to be impeached.

At a White House event later, Mr. Trump said, "All they do is complain."

"These are people that hate our country. If you're not happy here, you can

The President also came under fire from some members of his Republican party but remained unrepentant.

"My view is that what was said and what was tweeted was destructive, was demeaning, was disunifying, and frankly it was very wrong," said Senator Mitt Romney, a Republican from Utah.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern became the latest international leader to condemn Trump's tweets. "I completely and utterly disagree with him," she told Radio New Zealand, noting that her country welcomed diversity.

No racist bone: Trump
Meanwhile, Mr. Trump denied accusations of racism.

"Those Tweets were NOT Racist. I don't have a Racist bone in my body!" he tweeted, as lawmakers prepared to vote on a resolution condemning his "racist comments."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Britain's Theresa May also expressed disapproval.

Pak. scribes protest against censorship

'Army seeks to quash critical coverage'

ASSOCIATED PRESS KARACHI

Pakistani journalists held nationwide protests on Tuesday to denounce rampant censorship by the country's powerful security services, massive layoffs due to budget cuts and months-long delays in payments of their wages.

The rallies, dubbed Day of Protests, were spearheaded by the Pakistani Federal Union of Journalists, which said that journalists, who face the roughest phase in the country's history, have decided to "fight the unprecedented censorship."

Tuesday was only the "beginning of a protest movement," said Afzal Butt, union president.

Ad budget slashed
Journalists and press freedom advocates say that the Pakistani military is pressuring media outlets to quash critical coverage while the newly elected government is slashing its advertising budget.



Protesters holding a banner that reads: 'Stop sacking journalists', in Peshawar. •AP

In the last few months, hundreds of journalists have been laid off as media houses came under financial constraints after government advertising was drastically reduced.

Journalist wore black bands and held banners demanding an end to censorship, economic woes for those working in the media and abuse of media laws to curb free expression.

Authorities control "even minute details of the media content these days, and dictate who will be the face of print and electronic media," Mr. Butt said.

Khan to visit U.S. to 'refresh' ties

Washington may seek Pak. assistance in securing a deal to end war in Afghanistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ISLAMABAD

Pakistan expressed hopes on Tuesday that Prime Minister Imran Khan's maiden trip to the White House later this month would help repair its acrimonious relationship with Washington as the U.S. seeks its help in ending the war in Afghanistan.

Observers believe that the nearly 18-year conflict will be the major focus of talks between Mr. Khan and President Donald Trump when they meet on July 22, as Washington presses for Pa-

kistani assistance in securing a peace deal.

"Pakistan has been facilitating the U.S.-Taliban talks in good faith, underscoring that it remains a shared responsibility," Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said during a seminar in Islamabad.

'Bitter pill'

"It will therefore be appropriate to work for broader engagement from Afghanistan to bilateral issues, economic and trade cooperation, to peace and stability in



Imran Khan

South Asia," he added.

Mr. Khan and Mr. Trump have clashed in the past, with the Pakistani premier once describing a potential

meeting with the U.S. president as a "bitter pill" to swallow.

But on Tuesday, Mr. Qureshi said that Mr. Trump's invitation to the Pakistani PM reflected the "importance of the relationship for both sides".

Relations between Pakistan and the U.S. have been turbulent since Mr. Trump took office in 2017, with the U.S. leader frequently singling out Islamabad for failing to rein in extremists and being an unfaithful partner in the fight against militants.

Iran confirms arrest of academic

It risks raising tension between Paris and Tehran

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE TEHRAN

Iran confirmed on Tuesday the arrest of a French-Iranian academic without giving any details of her case, the latest in a long list of dual nationals held in the country's prisons.

The detention of Fariba Adelkhah, 60, risks increasing tension between Paris and Tehran at a critical moment in efforts to save a landmark 2015 nuclear deal.

Ms. Adelkhah is a well-known expert on Iran and Shiite Islam at France's Sciences Po university.



Fariba Adelkhah

"She is among suspects that have been recently arrested," Iran's judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said, without

specifying the accusations against her.

Sciences Po said the arrest of the researcher was "unacceptable and shocking".

French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday expressed concern for her welfare. He added that France had so far received no meaningful explanation from Iran.

Other Iranian dual nationals jailed in Iran include Iranian-American Siamak Namazi and his father Baquer, who are serving 10-year sentences for espionage.

Google's ties to China need review: Trump

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said his administration will "take a look" if Google has been working with the Chinese government. The firm swiftly denied the allegation.

"Tech Investor Peter Thiel believes Google should be investigated for treason," Mr. Trump said in a tweet. "A great and brilliant guy who knows this subject better than anyone! The Trump Administration will take a look!"

Merkel seated again after shaking spells

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BERLIN

German Chancellor Angela Merkel remained seated for national anthems at an official ceremony on Tuesday for the second time in a week, after a series of shaking spells sparked concern about her health.

Ms. Merkel took a seat next to visiting Moldovan PM Maia Sandu during military honours for her guest on Tuesday.

She has suffered three bouts of shaking while standing at ceremonies, and remained seated last week as national anthems were played during a ceremony with Denmark's PM.

How North Korea's leader gets his luxury cars

Bypassing UN sanctions, a complex system of port transfers, secret shipping ensure supply of vehicles

EDWARD WONG CHRISTOPH KOETTL

The armoured black limousines appear everywhere with Kim Jong-un, sleek Western chariots for the young ruler of North Korea.

The cars are top-of-the-line Mercedes-Benzes – the Maybach S600 Pullman Guard and the Maybach S62, popular with world leaders and costing up to \$1.6 million each. And Mr. Kim is using them in open defiance of UN sanctions intended to ban luxury goods from North Korea.

High-end Western goods are making their way to North Korea's elite through a complex system of port



Comfort trip: A file photo of Kim Jong-un waving from a car in the truce village of Panmunjom, South Korea. •NYT

transfers, secret high-seas shipping and shadowy front companies, according to research by the Center for Advanced Defense Studies, and an investigation by *The New York Times*.

From 2015 to 2017, around 90 nations served as the sources of luxury goods for North Koreans, according to a report. Moreover, the networks run through the territories of some UNSC mem-

bers and U.S. allies – China, Russia, Japan and South Korea among them.

The journey taken by a pair of armoured Mercedes Maybach S600 sedans from Europe to East Asia illustrates how one of the luxury-goods transportation networks operated.

Mysterious voyage

The voyage began in the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In June 2018, two sealed containers, each holding a Mercedes worth \$5,00,000, were brought by truck into a shipping terminal, according to cargo tracking records. The cars travelled by ship for 41 days to

Dalian, in northeast China. They were then put on a ship for Osaka, Japan. From there, they were put on a vessel for a three-day voyage to Busan, South Korea.

Then came the most mysterious part of the passage. The containers were transferred within one day of arrival to the DN5505, a cargo ship sailing under the flag of Togo, a West African nation, and bound for the port of Nakhodka in the far east of Russia. Then the ships went dark. When the signals came back on again, the ship was in South Korean waters. Now it was on a return trip to Busan, but laden with 2,588 tonnes of coal. NY TIMES

Beijing rebuffs Trump claims over slip in growth

Economy slides to lowest in 30 years

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BEIJING

China on Tuesday rejected claims from U.S. President Donald Trump that it is being forced to make a trade deal because of its slowing economy, as the two sides prepare for more talks.

Beijing and Washington have been locked in a trade war that has seen them hit each other with tariffs covering over \$360 billion in two-way trade.

On Monday, China published data showing its quarterly growth had slipped to 6.2% – the slowest in nearly 30 years.

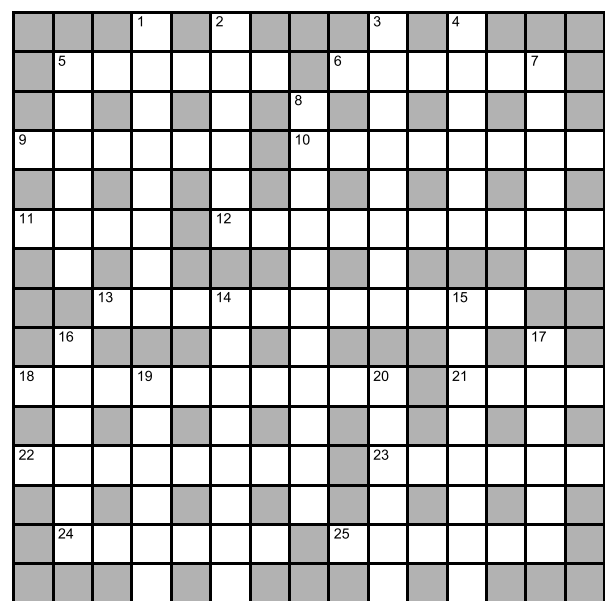
Mr. Trump tweeted:

"This is why China wants to make a deal... with the U.S., and wishes it had not broken the original deal in the first place."

But Beijing has rejected the comments. "It's completely misleading to say, as the U.S. side does, that because of its economic slowdown, China is eager to reach an agreement," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang.

"I would like to once again call on the U.S. to work together with China, to meet halfway, and to strive for a mutually beneficial and win-win agreement."

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12680



ACROSS

- 5 Doing away with North American vagabond for murder (3,3)
- 6 In charge of the soul (6)
- 9 Elector vetoing old high-flier (6)
- 10 Terrible women throttling proportional representation advances (8)

- 11 Foolish people initially rejected wicked spirits (4)
- 12 Bar aims to strip off architectural element (10)
- 13 Your future lies in the stars with her (11)
- 18 Keeners in Engineering hitting library at start of dawn on Saturday (5,5)
- 21 Oppose bill in the US (4)
- 22 Spooner's drunk winner to oversee digs in owner's absence (5-3)
- 23 Canadian First Nation claims Trudeau's beginning to bypass reason (6)
- 24 Sergeant Major finds all the soldiers obsequious (6)
- 25 Criminally underpay retiring District Attorney in straitened circumstances (6)

DOWN

- 1 Digital computers! (8)
- 2 Central components in clue (cryptic) (6)

(set by Skullduggler)

- 3 Demeaning and dodgy, if daring (5,3)
- 4 Carriage is ample, in a manner of speaking (6)
- 5 Moist, cold and ample, in a manner of speaking (6)
- 7 Spanish governess for Dutch girl from the South (6)
- 8 Absolute certainty seen in Luke and John, for example (6,5)
- 14 Motorbikes gutted, customised with cell synthesiser (8)
- 15 She throws a monkey wrench in the works (8)
- 16 Police Sergeant overwhelmed, a mite upset by jargon (6)
- 17 Sharp-sightedness you exhibited in a large town (6)
- 19 Jack in India uncovered flash card with detailing (6)
- 20 Black eye for the Polish guy! (6)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12679

4	1	5	3	8	9	6	7	2
7	9	3	6	5	2	8	4	1
2	6	8	4	1	7	3	9	5
5	3	1	8	9	6	4	2	7
9	7	4	5	2	3	1	6	8
6	8	2	1	7	4	9	5	3
3	4	7	2	6	8	5	1	9
8	5	9	7	4	1	2	3	6
1	2	6	9	3	5	7	8	4

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	5	3	8	9	6	7	2
7	9	3	6	5	2	8	4	1
2	6	8	4	1	7	3	9	5
5	3	1	8	9	6	4	2	7
9	7	4	5	2	3	1	6	8
6	8	2	1	7	4	9	5	3
3	4	7	2	6	8	5	1	9
8	5	9	7	4	1	2	3	6
1	2	6	9	3	5	7	8	4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

FAITH

Apt interpretations

Andal's Thiruppavai can be seen as praise of Ramanujacharya, said G. Satyabhama in a lecture, adding that all the verses were interpreted in this manner by Prativadhi Bhayankaram Annangarachar Swami. The first verse begins with the words Margazhi thingal. In Tamil, this is a reference to the month of Margazhi, that is Margaseersha. But marga means path, and if we take this meaning, then it can be taken as referring to the best path to moksha, which Ramanuja showed us. If we have the grace of our Acharya, then we are assured of moksha.

All of the Thiruppavai is about reverence for Acharyas. Mati niraindha, sings Andal, indicating that it is full moon. But mati can be taken to mean jnana, and niraindha, meaning full, shows that the world was filled with jnana. This happened when Ramanuja was born, for he dispelled the darkness of ajnana, just as the bright moon dispels darkness on full moon day. It is a nan naal, says Andal, a good day. It is good because the Gopikas are going to see Krishna. If we take it as referring to Ramanuja, that too is appropriate, for it was certainly a good day for mankind when Ramanuja was born. Andal refers to Krishna as kumarana, the eternally young one, and this is a most suitable description for Krishna, for He hid His greatness and mingled freely with the Gopas and Gopikas. Ramanuja too was kindness personified.

Krishna is an ilam singam – a fierce young lion. Ramanuja too was like a lion when it came to winning arguments against opponents. Kaarmeni is the word Andal uses to describe Krishna's beautiful dark hue. But how can this apply to Ramanuja, of whom traditional records say that he was fair skinned? Ramanuja was always thinking of Vishnu and so he too took on his beloved Krishna's colour.

A guide on the entrepreneurial journey

Big corporates see immense value in offering mentoring support to startups that are just out of the blocks

LIFFY THOMAS

Most of the time, entrepreneurship is about treading a solitary path. Meeta Verma is among the lucky ones who found support early on. Six months before she turned 40, Meeta received a call to join a one-year Women Startup Programme (WSP) offered by the Indian Institute of Management - Bangalore (IIM-B) with the support of Goldman Sachs and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Meeta could not have hoped for a better launch pad. Through mentoring and opportunities for networking and industry collaboration, the programme would enable participants to give their entrepreneurial idea more than a fighting chance in the market. To top it all, every participant will take home a stipend of ₹ 40,000 a month.

"I just had an idea when I joined the programme, and did not know how to execute it," says Meeta, who started Worksera, a freelance jobs platform for Indian women, in 2017.

It was with the network she had forged through WSP that Meeta found her early clients. The stipend helped her pay the rent for the office space she had taken.

Now, Worksera is 150 projects old, and has four employees, all of them women, on its rolls. Around 800 people have signed up on the platform.

Meeta's success story not



Participants at a Women Startup Programme organised by IIM-B.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

only illustrates the value of such programmes, but also underlines how support from large corporations sustains them.

There are two scenarios. One, large corporations support such initiatives, as in the case of IIM-B's WSP where the programme receives support from Goldman Sachs.

The other scenario is about these corporations starting these initiatives themselves.

Cisco and Shell are among companies that have been running "accelerator programmes" for entrepreneurs

who have just started up their enterprises.

Cisco's 'LaunchPad' is held twice a year with eight startups in each cohort. Participants go through a 24-week training programme. The organisation has so far helped more than 40 startups and provided mentorship, grants, investor connects, tech platform, customer partner access and co-working space. It does not stop with this. Some of the "mature startups" move from the accelerator to the "innovation centre programme", which provides them with a bigger platform

to develop their products and showcase them. Shell has been accelerating energy-related technologies under its programme called 'E4' (Energizing and Enabling Energy Entrepreneurs). The start-ups are incubated for six months. In the recent edition, 10 startups that had a strong connect with the company's business, were helped.

Recently, Dell opened its India chapter of what is called 'Dell Women's Entrepreneur Network' (DWEN), enabling networking among women entrepreneurs from India.

Sheenam Ohrie, vice president, Enterprise Data and Mobility Engineering, Dell Digital, says there were two strong reasons for starting DWEN.

Referring to studies, she says 40% of start-ups fail in the first year. And only 2% of venture capital funding goes to women entrepreneurs.

A 'matchmaking' platform

100 Open Startups is one of the largest evaluation and matchmaking platforms for startups to connect with big corporations.

Started by Bruno Rondani from Brazil in 2007, 100 Open Startups works in major countries to enable corporate-startup engagement.

Currently, 2,400 big corporates are on the platform. Ten thousand contracts have been signed up so far.

In India, the initiative has been running since 2015. "We have 190 corporates who are part of our programme," says Varad Krishna, co-founder and managing director - Asia, 100 Open Startups. The programme runs

through the year and is open to anyone, irrespective of age and sector. Early-stage start-ups are preferred. Participants are shortlisted based on five filters.

Problems are defined by the corporates in verticals, numbering around 24. For example, innovative cities, future of education and healthcare. Anybody with a solution for these questions can apply. The programme gets more challenging at every successive level.

"At Level 4, we have the open innovation week where corporates and startups negotiate and contracts are signed," says Krishna, adding that 90 startups from India have reached this level so far.

"It's a start of a journey where we begin by mentoring and this goes on till strategic acquisition," says Krishna.

He says corporates like to partner with the platform as they find this an efficient resource for innovation.

Talking about how the programme has evolved, he says initially the programme was started to rate and rank startups.

"Now, we also rate corporates based on how they engage with entrepreneurs," he says.

The startups with more matches and contracts signed are ranked in the 100 Open Startups' Top100.

For details, visit www.openstartups.net

Before launching DWEN, Dell did a survey, connecting with 300 entrepreneurs, to understand what kind of support entrepreneurs look for. The majority of entrepreneurs said they needed help in expansion, sales strategy and leveraging technology.

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Referring to studies, she says 40% of start-ups fail in the first year. And only 2% of venture capital funding goes to women entrepreneurs.

In a Dell survey, the majority of entrepreneurs said they needed help in expansion, sales strategy and leveraging technology

"We need to change these numbers," says Sheenam.

Win-win situation
What do large corporations gain by working with startups?

Saras Sarasvathy, Paul M. Hamaker Professor of Business Administration, The

Darden School of Business, says both big corporations and startups can gain a lot by partnering with each other. Startups think they need funding. But they should realise that building a direct relationship with the potential customer is of greater importance, she says.

That is a learning they are likely to receive from their association with large corporations. Large corporations find it difficult to leave their predictable market and therefore work with an inherent handicap while attempting new product development. And this is one area startups are naturally good at.

NEWS BYTES



HR questions answered online

Noble House, a human resources consultant, has launched 'Expert Connect' on its website. The initiative aims to help corporates and independent consultants seek advice or vet their policies.

In-house HR teams of organisations, both at a startup and mid-to-large company level can use the feature to understand new policies and trends.

According to a press release, this would allow both corporates and freelancers to interact with skilled HR professionals via a pre-paid video call or a chat option. The consultants come from diverse industries, the release says.

Job fair

Equiv, a job portal for women, differently-abled, LGBTQ and veterans, is conducting a job fair for women on July 20 in Bengaluru. Titled 'Women Changemakers', 18 companies are expected to participate in the event, says a release. To register, visit wcmi.in/events.

Returnship programme in three cities

ThoughtWorks will be hosting a multi-city edition of 'Vapasi', a technical training programme for women technologists who are planning a comeback to the industry after a career break. The event will be held simultaneously at the Chennai, Hyderabad and Gurgaon offices of ThoughtWorks on August 5.

According to a press release, the four-week programme will help experienced women technologists to return to the world of programming. Upon completion of the programme, shortlisted candi-



Photo used for representational purpose

dates will be offered a three to six-month internship at ThoughtWorks. They can later apply for permanent positions.

In a press release, Tina Vinod, Head of Diversity and Inclusion, ThoughtWorks in India, says the company is aiming to run at least eight editions of the programme across its seven offices in India this year. The last six batches of Vapasi, tailored-made for developers and quality analysts, witnessed participation of around 100 women, the release adds.

The last date for registration is July 25. To register, visit www.thoughtworks.com/talktech/vapasi.

GENERAL

IndianOil LNG

IndianOil LNG Private Limited, a JVC of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, is operating a 5 MMTPA LNG Import, Storage and Re-gasification Terminal inside Kamarajar port, Chennai.

Applications are invited from dynamic and experienced Engineers & Diploma holders (Instrumentation & Control, Electrical, Chemical/Petrochemical, Mechanical, Civil and HSE/Fire & Safety) and professionals in the field of Contract & Procurement and Human Resource for Operations and Maintenance of the Terminal.

For detailed advertisement and submission of online application please visit our website: <https://www.indianoillng.com/Careers> from 17.07.2019 onwards and the last date of receipt of application: 31.07.2019

Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be notified in company's website only.

A LEADING STEEL PLANT in TAMILNADU requires

GENERAL MANAGER - SMS BE (Metallurgy) or Diploma in Metallurgy with 20yrs exp. in Steel Melting Shop with Direct Structural Rolling of a reputed Steel Industry.

MANAGER - SMS BE (Metallurgy) or Diploma in Metallurgy with 10yrs exp. in Steel Melting Shop with Direct Structural Rolling of a reputed Steel Industry.

MANAGER - CCM BE (Metallurgy) or Diploma in Metallurgy with 10yrs exp. in CCM of Direct Structural Rolling of a reputed Steel Industry.

MANAGER - Quality Assurance BE (Metallurgy) or M.Sc/B.Sc (Chemistry) with 8-10yrs exp. in Structural Roll products quality assurance.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT Chartered Accountant with 10yrs exp in reputed Steel Manufacturing Company.

SAFETY OFFICER Engineering Graduate with Degree or Diploma in Industrial Safety recognized by Central Government with 5yrs exp in reputed industries preferably Steel Industry & have adequate knowledge in Tamil & Hindi spoken by Majority of workers.

For the above positions the selected candidates are required to stay at Uthiramerur, Kanchipuram District near our plant. Salary will commensurate with Qualification & relevant Experience.

Interested candidates are requested to apply with their CV to Email: recruitmentsntipl@gmail.com / Ph: 9791916333

COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

No. P&A/18(211)/2019 15 July 2019

INVITES APPLICATIONS FROM EXPERIENCED CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (FINANCE)

For more details visit CSL website www.cochinshipyard.com (Careers page). Last date of receipt of online application is 20 August 2019.

"Hindi version of detailed advertisement is published in the website (www.cochinshipyard.com) of CSL." Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HR & TRG)

हिन्दुस्तान एरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड
HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED
HAL Corporate Office
15/1, Cubbon Road, Bangalore - 560001

PROPEL YOUR DREAMS WITH HAL
(Adv. No. HAL/HR/36(89)/2019/2)

HAL, a Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking and a premier Aeronautical Industry of South East Asia, with 20 Production / Overhaul Divisions, 11 co-located R&D Centres & 1 Facility Management Division spread across the Country, invites applications for One Post of **Deputy General Manager (Aerodrome) / Chief Manager (Aerodrome) (Grade-VII/VI)** for its Division at Nasik, Maharashtra. The Candidates should possess requisite ATC Ratings.

Detailed Advertisement is available on the HAL Website www.hal-india.co.in Eligible candidates may forward their duly filled Applications, in the prescribed Format, on A4 size paper, as per the instructions given in the Detailed Advertisement, so as to reach on or before 08.08.2019 (8th August 2019). Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, will be hosted on the HAL Website only.

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Department of Veterinary Services
Room No. 5, Ambekar Office Complex Delhi Gate,
Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110002, Ph.: 011-23314585

PUBLIC NOTICE
Inviting Veterinary Doctors for sterilization & immunization of stray dogs under Animal Birth Control (ABC) Programme in SDMC

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) invites applications from interested Veterinary Doctors having a degree of B.V.Sc & A.H./B.V.Sc. and registered with Delhi Veterinary Council/Veterinary Council of India/any State Veterinary Council and having experience of Dog sterilization and immunization of stray dogs under Animal Birth Control (ABC) Programme at the Dog Sterilization Centre No. 2 established by SDMC at Sector-29, Dwarka. The veterinary doctors registered with Veterinary Council of India/ any State Veterinary Council will get them registered with Delhi Veterinary Council at the earliest after awarding the work of sterilization & immunization of stray dogs by the SDMC.

The Veterinary Doctors interested to be associated with the programme for sterilization & immunization of stray dogs in SDMC may send their details in hard copy to Dy. Director (VS), Rabies Control Programme at above mentioned address latest by 26.08.2019. The eligibility criteria, detailed terms & conditions and application form is available on the SDMC website-www.mcdonline.gov.in which may be downloaded from the website.

Sd/-
Director (Veterinary Services)
SDMC
R.O. No. 26/DPI/S/2019-20

GENERAL

ONGC Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise and a subsidiary of ONGC Limited)

CIN No. : L23209KA1988G01008959
Kuthethur Post, MANGALURU - 575 030, Ph : 0824 - 288 2126/2128/2113
e-mail: recruit@mrpl.co.in

Advertisement No. 77/2019 Date of opening of online portal: 19/07/2019
Last Date for receipt of online Applications: 17/08/2019

RECRUITMENT OF PROFESSIONALS IN MANAGEMENT CADRE

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), a Schedule 'A' Mini Ratna Central Public Sector Enterprise and subsidiary of ONGC; India's top energy Company, has openings for bright, energetic and aspirant professionals.

MRPL invites applications from the eligible Indian Nationals for the following Positions:

Sl. No.	Position	Grade	Scale of Pay (₹)	No of Post	* Category
1	Chief Manager (Human Resource)	E	100000-260000	1	UR-01
2	Chief Manager (Marketing Operations)	E	100000-260000	1	SC-01
3	Senior Manager (Medical Services)	D	90000-240000	1	UR-01
4	Manager (Human Resource)	C	80000-220000	2	UR-02
5	Assistant Manager (Safety)	B	70000-200000	1	OBC(NCL)-01
6	Assistant Manager (Human Resource)	B	70000-200000	2#	UR-02
7	Assistant Manager (System Administrator)	B	70000-200000	1	UR-01
8	Executive (Finance)	A	60000-180000	1	OBC(NCL)-01
9	Executive (Internal Audit)	A	60000-180000	2	UR-01, SC-01

* UR-Un-Reserved, SC- Scheduled Caste, OBC- Other Backward Class (NCL- Non Creamy layer).
One post of Assistant Manager (Human Resource) is reserved for Visually Handicapped (Low Vision) category.
Candidates are required to apply online only.
Please visit our website www.mrpl.co.in and refer 'Human Resource' → 'Careers' for further details.

Together, Let us build a Clean India

MARKET WATCH

	16-07-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,131	0.60
US Dollar	68.71	-0.25
Gold	35,570	0.28
Brent oil	66.7	-0.22

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	417.75	8.65
Asian Paints	1372.30	19.15
Axis Bank	761.05	11.30
Bajaj Auto	2732.45	18.45
Bajaj Finserv	7488.70	167.25
Bajaj Finance	3448.70	36.60
Bharti Airtel	350.75	0.15
BPLCL	354.45	7.05
Britannia Ind	2747.15	-26.45
Cipla	553.55	3.00
Coal India	232.80	2.40
Dr Reddys Lab	2676.50	48.90
Eicher Motors	19041.25	207.40
GAIL (India)	147.35	1.85
Grasim Ind	930.50	8.20
HCL Tech	1019.65	-7.85
HDFC	2277.55	12.20
HDFC Bank	2391.20	-3.55
Hero MotoCorp	2544.35	-1.20
Hindalco	199.10	-1.05
Hind Unilever	1741.30	24.35
Indiabulls HFL	646.35	7.40
ICICI Bank	424.60	2.30
Indiabulls Bank	1473.20	-1.50
Infosys	2632.70	3.45
Infusys	784.85	5.50
Indian Oil Corp	147.05	1.65
ITC	271.95	1.00
JSW Steel	273.90	2.95
Kotak Bank	1501.45	-6.65
L&T	1461.20	20.60
M&T	622.90	-8.95
Maruti Suzuki	6158.05	78.35
NTPC	130.95	3.00
ONGC	152.25	1.55
PowerGrid Corp	208.90	3.95
Reliance Ind	1293.00	16.90
State Bank	364.35	4.30
Sun Pharma	433.30	10.35
Tata Motors	170.00	9.05
Tata Steel	476.70	8.40
TCS	2106.00	-39.70
Tech Mahindra	675.95	1.45
Titan	1114.75	25.35
UltraTech Cement	4600.90	3.90
UPL	641.90	-5.50
Vedanta	166.90	0.15
Wipro	260.00	0.10
YES Bank	103.85	10.65
Zee Entertainment	346.25	0.65

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.51	68.83
Euro	76.86	77.22
British Pound	85.18	85.59
Japanese Yen (100)	63.46	63.76
Chinese Yuan	9.96	10.01
Swiss Franc	69.39	69.72
Singapore Dollar	50.47	50.71
Canadian Dollar	52.51	52.78
Malaysian Ringgit	16.66	16.78

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

	PRICE	CHANGE
Retail Silver (1g)	41.8	(41)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3312	(3296)

‘Demographic change, bank infra will help savings grow’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The demographic change India is going through, coupled with the banking infrastructure being put in place, stands to greatly increase savings in the country, Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian said on Tuesday.

Mr. Subramanian also said India needs to move out of the mindset of being apologetic for profit, as long as they are legally obtained.

“The demographic change India is going through is very important for savings growth,” Mr. Subramanian said, while speaking at a book release. “As life expectancy increases, people realise that they must begin saving by at least 40 years because they will live for much longer now.

“And, as people have fewer children, they will realise they need to save because their children might not be able to take care of them,” Mr. Subramanian added. This shift will be enabled by the Jan Dhan Yojana, which is creating the necessary banking infrastructure, especially in rural India.

The CEA also spoke about the importance of digitisation in the banking space and how it stands to greatly increase the reach of savings and credit instruments. However, he added that this digitisation needs to be accompanied by greater digital literacy.

“I don’t know why people are apologetic about profits,” Mr. Subramanian said. “If you are working within the law and are helping the economy grow, then profits are good!”

Also speaking at the event, HDFC Bank MD Aditya Puri said that banks, in fact, were the safest when it came to data security.

DHFL to seek ₹1,500-crore loans a month

Move part of the cash-strapped mortgage lender’s resolution plan to kick-start its lending business

MANOJIT SAHA

MUMBAI

Cash-strapped mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL), which was asked by banks to prepare a resolution plan, will be seeking ₹1,200 crore to ₹1,500 crore in loans per month to kick-start its lending business.

Banks have stopped lending to several housing finance companies, including DHFL, following the debt default by IL&FS in September.

According to highly placed sources in DHFL, the resolution plan envisaged restructuring of the debt first, which will pave the way for a new investor to pick up equity stake. The total debt of DHFL is about ₹80,000 crore, of which bank loans constitute ₹40,000 crore. The remain-



The resolution plan includes debt restructuring, to pave the way for a new investor to pick up stake. ■ REUTERS

ing ₹40,000 crore are in terms of money market instruments, mostly non-convertible debentures.

“The resolution plan seeks short-term loans by banks, with a maturity of one year, every month, for about one year. This will be required to kick-start lend-

ing. Home loans, which are extended with these bank loans, will be securitised with the banks again after one year,” the source said.

While banks are trying to execute a comprehensive resolution plan by including all the creditors, including the mutual funds which also

subscribed to the NCDs of DHFL, some of the fund houses are not agreeing to be a part of the debt recast process. “Banks are in discussion with some of the mutual funds who are not agreeing. In any case, these funds have a small exposure of about ₹2,500 crore,” the source said. Of the ₹40,000 crore NCDs and other money market instruments, banks alone have an exposure of over ₹12,000 crore.

Nod by month-end

The company expects banks to approve the resolution plan by the month-end.

At ₹80,000 crore, this will be the biggest debt restructuring exercise carried out by banks in the country. DHFL had assured that this would be a comprehensive

resolution plan, without any haircut to the lenders.

Banks have already signed the inter-creditor agreement and will scrutinise the resolution plan, and aim to make it operational before September 25. After the debt recast, which is essentially elongating the repayment schedule to match liabilities with assets, a new investor is expected to come in.

DHFL is in talks with Cerberus Capital, Aion Capital and Loan Star for the stake sale. Promoters of DHFL, who have 39.8% stake in the company, could see their shareholding reduced by half after the deal. DHFL aims to raise about ₹5,500 crore from the stake sale.

On Tuesday, DHFL stock rebounded to close 4.33% higher at ₹50.60.

Crisil revises rating watch on Indiabulls Housing

Implications tag changes to ‘negative’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Rating agency Crisil has revised its rating watch on the long-term bank facilities and debt instruments of Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited (IBHFL) to ‘Rating Watch with Negative Implications’ from ‘Rating Watch with Developing Implications’.

The rating on the short-term bank facilities and the short-term debt programme has been reaffirmed at ‘Crisil A1+’. IBHFL was under ‘Watch with developing implications’ when the company announced its merger with Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB).

“With progress on the

merger, the rating watch has been revised as it is possible that the credit profile of the merged entity as a bank could be relatively weaker than other Crisil AAA rated private banks, at least in the short term,” the rating agency said.

CCI nod for merger

IBHFL has received approval from the Competition Commission of India for the proposed merger, while it awaits other approvals.

Crisil said there could be transitional challenges once the merger goes through, as the entity would need to establish its liabilities franchise to compete effectively with banks.

The best is yet to come: Premji

‘Wipro to continually transform itself to scale new heights’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Wipro’s best is yet to come and the company will continually transform to scale new heights as the world changes, while remaining firmly committed to its values, said chairman Azim Premji in his farewell address here on Tuesday.

Wipro was making significant investments in digital, cloud, engineering services and cybersecurity as it was all set to outshine its previous performances, he said.

Digital technologies

Transformative digital technologies are emerging at an unprecedented rate and technology is becoming part of the core for all products and services, he added. Estab-



Azim Premji

lished business models are being challenged to give way to the new, he said, emphasising the importance of changing and reinventing.

“We have evolved by constantly re-inventing ourselves and creating newer opportunities. This has been possible because of the dedication and hard work of Wi-

proites and our absolute commitment to our values, which we call the spirit of Wipro,” Mr. Premji said. Based on clients’ needs, Wipro had sharpened its strategy into four pillars – business reimagination, engineering transformation and modernisation, connected intelligence and trust.

To build the capabilities needed to deliver these strategies, the firm had been investing significantly in four areas – digital, cloud, engineering services and cybersecurity, he said. After leading the company for more than half a century, Mr. Premji will pass the baton over to his son Rishad Premji by the end of this month.

Suzlon defaults on \$172 mn bonds

Firm asks bondholders to wait for settlement with banks

PIYUSH PANDEY

MUMBAI

In a sign of stress widening across India’s credit market, Suzlon Energy has defaulted on redemption of its foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCBs) worth \$172 million, or ₹1,200 crore, due on Tuesday.

Suzlon has asked bondholders to hold on till the company completes its one-time settlement with banks, said a source in the know of the development. However, its settlement with the banks depends upon its plans to sell stake to Canadian investor Brookfield, a move that may see promoters, with 19.8% stake, ceding management control.

“The company has not made the payment of the principal amount of the outstanding bonds, being \$172,000,000, which was due on July 16, 2019 in accordance with the terms and



conditions of the bonds,” said the company in a statement, adding that it was working on a holistic solution for its debt and that it continued to be in discussions with various stakeholders in relation to outstanding debt (including the bonds).

Brookfield is eyeing a majority stake in the company and discussions are on for a one-time settlement plan with creditors to restructure outstanding bank loans.

The firm has an outstanding debt of ₹7,761 crore, including FCCBs and working capital debt of ₹3,380 crore.

The firm’s bank facility ratings were cut to default by Care Ratings in April after the loss-making company defaulted on repayments worth ₹412 crore on term loans and working capital facilities in March. Suzlon had become India’s largest FCCB defaulter when it missed its payments in 2012.

In January 2015, Suzlon was forced to sell its prime asset, Senvion SE (formerly REpower) to U.S.-based private equity firm Centerbridge Partners for ₹1 billion (then, over ₹7,200 crore).

Sun Pharmaceuticals promoter Dilip Shanghvi is the largest shareholder in Suzlon, who acted as a white knight to help the company in 2015, buying a 23% stake for ₹1,800 crore when it was in deep financial trouble.

‘Auto sector to face a volatile year’

Industry will witness many landmark disruptions, says MRF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Tyre major MRF Ltd. expects the current year to be a tumultuous one for the auto sector on account of various regulatory changes and the switch over to BS-VI norms.

“The next six months would see a volatile auto sector on account of the shift to BS-VI emission norms,” said K.M. Mammen, chairman and managing director, MRF Ltd, in a message to shareholders. “The tyre industry would have to align its production in line with this requirement,” he added.

The Indian automotive industry is at an inflection point where both opportunities and challenges abound in equal measure. The coming year will be witness to several landmark disruptions and changes in the auto industry which will shape the direction of future



K.M. Mammen

events in the industry, MRF said.

Inventory build-up

Asserting that these short-term hiccups would have to be factored in by automobile firms and tyre manufacturers, he said that the uncertainty over the next six months would be further compounded by low consumer sentiments, resulting in inventory build-up and all

OE (original equipment) manufacturers aligning production in line with demand.

While anticipating an increase in scooter prices (due to BS-VI norms), volatile fuel prices and rising insurance costs, the company said that there could be some uncertainties around how the complete impact of BS-VI norms will play out during the next fiscal year.

Compliance with BS-VI norms will require higher investment by automakers in technology to upgrade vehicles in stock and in making new vehicles. This will also mean significantly reduced launches till the new norms come into force, effective April 1, 2020, MRF said.

While describing the electric vehicle segment as a sunrise industry, Mr. Mammen welcomed the incentives offered as they would have a long-term impact.

‘Mindtree will retain its independence’

Focus is on ‘continuity’, says L&T CEO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Post its takeover of Mindtree, Larsen & Toubro’s CEO and managing director S.N. Subrahmanyan opened his maiden address to the IT firm’s shareholders here on Tuesday with a ‘warm pat’ on the shoulders of founders and promoters.

Mindtree was a modern-day start-up with a unique culture and has evolved into an institution in its own right, he said, adding, “full compliments to the founders/promoters of Mindtree, all first-generation entrepreneurs, for creating a billion-dollar revenue business, earning over \$100 million in profit and 40% return on capital from scratch in 20 years.”

To allay concerns over ‘cultural misfit’, he said, much like Mindtree, L&T was also a venture started by founder-managers and had successfully transitioned into a well-respected, high-performing, professionally-managed company.

Addressing the Mindtree shareholders at its crucial AGM, he said, L&T would focus on ‘continuity’ as a key theme in management transition and continue to run and grow the business of Mindtree independently.

Mindtree would continue to have its independent management, unique culture and committed ‘Mindtree minds’, he said.

“We believe L&T, with its experience and track record of managing two very successful IT businesses, can add value to Mindtree and its stakeholders.”

Mindtree will be kept distinct from L&T Infotech (LTI), L&T Technology Services (LTS) and the recent-



S.N. Subrahmanyan

ly-formed business division, L&T-Nxt.

‘Minimum overlap’

LTI offers services to banking, finance, manufacturing, oil and gas, media and healthcare sectors, while Mindtree’s clients are in CPG, retail, hospitality, communication and high-tech. They operate in different areas, with minimum client overlap, he explained.

“L&T can provide further impetus to the long-term growth of Mindtree by way of board-level oversight and relevant client connects. We will be able to harness these relationships for the benefit of Mindtree’s stakeholders.”

Further reassuring shareholders, employees and clients of Mindtree, Mr. Subrahmanyan said: “Let me assure [you], that the management will be focussed on doing everything possible to keep the services being rendered to various clients at its best.”

To investors who asked whether L&T would agree to the ₹27 dividend Mindtree had announced for its 20th anniversary, he said: “We have always been fully supportive of the dividend.” He also said that there were no plans to delist Mindtree and its head office would continue to be in Bengaluru.

IN BRIEF



Coca Cola names Sarvita Sethi in M&A role

NEW DELHI
Global beverages major Coca-Cola on Tuesday announced top-level changes in its India and southwest Asia unit with the appointment of Sarvita Sethi as vice-president, M&A and new ventures and Harsh Bhutani as vice-president, finance (CFO). Ms. Sethi, who was earlier VP finance, India and southwest Asia, in her new role will provide leadership to business incubation, Coca-Cola said in a statement. PTI

Cummins India MD Sandeep Sinha resigns

NEW DELHI
Engines maker Cummins India on Tuesday said its managing director Sandeep Sinha had resigned to pursue his business interests outside the company. Mr. Sinha had joined Cummins in 2004 as a corporate indirect purchasing manager. Over his career at Cummins, he held several leadership roles in corporate strategy in the U.S. and India, playing a key role in starting manufacturing plants in the country. PTI

Centre cuts interest on GPF by 10 bps to 7.9%

NEW DELHI
The interest rate on the general provident fund (GPF) has been cut by 10 basis points (bps) to 7.9% from 8% with effect from July 1, the Finance Ministry said in a statement. "In 2019-2020, accumulations at the credit of subscribers to the GPF and other similar funds shall carry interest of 7.9% with effect from July 1, 2019 to September 30. This rate will be in force with effect from July 1," it added. ANI

Snapdeal cuts losses by 70% to ₹186 crore

For 2018-19, a period following failed merger talks, the firm's revenues too grew 73% to ₹925.3 crore

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

E-commerce firm Snapdeal on Tuesday said it had "significantly" narrowed its losses to ₹186 crore in the 2018-19 financial year.

This is a decline of 69.55% from a loss of ₹611 crore in 2017-18.

As per regulatory documents filed by Snapdeal, consolidated revenues grew to ₹925.3 crore in 2018-19 from ₹535.9 crore in 2017-18, an increase of nearly 73%.

"Two years ago, we were coming off a challenging patch for our company. However, disciplined and focussed execution by our team over these past two years shines through in our audited financial results," CEO and co-founder Kunal Bahl said in a blogpost on



Clear target: Snapdeal aims to focus on value-conscious buyers in India, says its CEO Kunal Bahl. ■ REUTERS

LinkedIn. He added that Snapdeal's transacting customers grew 2.2 times and the traffic surged 2.3 times to 70 million unique users per month. "And all this in a year when the e-commerce companies in India burnt

through about \$2.5 billion in the pursuit of growth," he pointed out.

Mr. Bahl said the firm's strategy was to focus on the needs of value-conscious buyers in India, who constitute the Snapdeal's of their

[We will not] compromise on economics and experience

KUNAL BAHL,
CEO and co-founder

users. "They are the fastest-growing mega segment in Indian e-commerce and will be nearly 400-million strong over the next few years," he added.

Snapdeal was among the top e-commerce players in the country a couple of years ago, but lost share, given the fierce competition from rivals such as Amazon and Flipkart.

In 2017, the company was also in talks to merge the firm with Flipkart. However, the deal did not go through and the company decided to "pursue an independent

path", calling it Snapdeal 2.0. Snapdeal said its selections had grown to over 200 million listings on the platform and in the last two years, the company had seen over 60,000 new seller partners coming on board.

For the ongoing year, Mr. Bahl said the company's focus areas would not be very different.

"The past couple of years have been about getting back in the saddle and putting the company on a path that has a very long runway to grow – with strong fundamentals and a fantastic culture. We are not aiming for triple-digit growth rates, as we don't believe that one can achieve them without compromising on parameters that we consider critical – economics and experience," he said.

Federal Bank net surges 46.25% on fee income

Sees fresh slippages of ₹415 crore

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI**

Private sector lender Federal Bank on Tuesday reported a 46.25% jump in its June quarter net at ₹384.21 crore on a healthy growth in non-core income and stable asset quality.

The lender reported a 17.77% growth in core net interest income to ₹1,154 crore on a 19% growth in advances and a stable net interest margin which stood at 3.1%.

Treasury operations

Boosting the bottom line, other income clipped 44.55% to ₹391.52 crore.

Shyam Srinivasan, MD and CEO, attributed this to broader growth across the core fee lines and also trea-

sury operations. The bank saw fresh slippages of ₹415 crore during the quarter, including those for ₹32 crore in loans to two special purpose vehicles of the crippled infrastructure lender IL&FS, while the overall recoveries rose to ₹300 crore.

The gross non-performing assets (NPA) ratio stood at 2.99% as against 3% in the same period of the previous year, while net NPA ratio improved to 1.49% from 1.72% in the March quarter.

About the exposure to the troubled mortgage lender DHFL, Mr. Srinivasan declined to name the account but said the bank's exposure to certain accounts was standard.

Nayara buys technology for refinery

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

As part of its \$850 million investment in its Vadinar Refinery towards expansion in petrochemicals, Nayara Energy has licensed UNIPOL PP Process Technology from W. R. Grace & Co to produce a broad range of phthalate-free products from the 20 metric million tonnes per annum (MMTPA) refinery, according to the company.

As part of the expansion, Nayara plans to set up up a 4.5 lakh-tonnes a year polypropylene plant.

"The primary source of feedstock is its existing FCC unit, which is optimised for booting performance," said Nayara Energy in a statement

'Leel Electricals officials not cooperating in SEBI investigation'

Regulator probing alleged fund siphoning by promoters

**ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI**

The ongoing regulatory probe into the alleged siphoning off of funds by the promoters of Leel Electricals, formerly Lloyd Electric and Engineering Ltd., is getting delayed as the company officials are allegedly not cooperating in the forensic audit process, which has been mandated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

While Deloitte has been tasked with the forensic audit to find out if the promoters diverted funds after the company sold its consumer durables business to Havells India in 2017 for about ₹1,600 crore, SEBI officials



recently visited the company's premises in Noida in connection with the probe and have communicated the regulator's concerns over non-cooperation with the inquiry process, said a person familiar with the development.

"The company has been

Demerger: Kesoram to seek shareholders' nod

Firm plans to spin off tyre business

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA**

Kesoram Industries Ltd. (KIL) will seek the nod of its shareholders, secured and unsecured creditors, separately, for the proposed scheme of demerging its tyre business, as directed by the National Company Law Tribunal.

Its main lines of business are cement and tyres. The company is now planning to spin off the tyre business, which functions under the name of Birla Tyres. "These are two distinct lines of business, with different nature of risks and competition necessitating different management approaches and focus. Moreover, the competitive dynamics of these businesses are also

different, the company said in its rationale for the decision. The loss-making firm (₹254.3 crore in 2018-19), posted its first quarterly net profit at ₹20.8 crore in the fourth quarter of last fiscal, making this the first net profit in 10 quarters.

The improved performance came through cost savings and efficient logistics, according to the firm.

KIL's debt now stands at ₹2,950 crore. "The separation of the tyre business would bring significant benefits to both the businesses," it said. These would be through dedicated management focus and accelerated growth for the tyre business and access to varied sources of funds for the rapid growth of both businesses.

OYO enters co-working spaces

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Hospitality chain OYO on Tuesday announced its foray into co-working spaces with a new brand – OYO Workspaces – with an aim to have 50 centres across the country by end of 2019.

The company confirmed that it had acquired co-working firm Innov8, which has about 16 centres in the country, providing seats to about 6,000 employees of brands like Swiggy, Paytm, Pepsi, Nykaa, OLY and Lenskart. While financial details were not disclosed, the acquisition is being pegged at about ₹200 crore. The firm has also introduced two other co-working brands – Powerstation and Workflo.

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

In 2017, Swati Soharia decided she'd stop buying clothes. This is important since Soharia is a knitwear designer, with a degree from the National Institute of Fashion Technology. But she just couldn't get herself to work in the fashion business. "I've never been one to stick to buying garments often, and to consumerism," she says.

For a while before she cut new buys from her closet, she'd worked in visual merchandising, with a company that did shoots for brands as diverse as Chivas Regal, Absolut, Wella, and Olay. Soharia's job was to make installations that'd feature in these shoots.

For instance, if they were doing a visual campaign for a set of nail colours, she'd make display boxes out of a medium-density fibreboard (MDF), a material made by combining wood fibre, wax, and resin at high pressure and temperature.

Typically, this process generated a lot of waste. She began noticing how much would accumulate in their factory spaces. It started to make her uncomfortable and restless. Which is when she quit, started looking at ways to reuse all sorts of waste material, and set up an eponymous label to do just this.

Beyond a trend

Upcycling isn't really new. These days, we outgrow the novelty of most things given the glut of posts, shares, retweets that tire us fast. But the upcycling and sustainability movement in fashion is still important – in fact, more so now, given how the water table in our cities is dipping further and further.

In late 2017, Soharia got in touch with a curator working in the area of sustainability. This gave her the avenue to display her initial work with the label at the Ara In-



Making it new (from left) A coaster from Soharia's studio; one of her earlier workshops; a session by Akashi; a tote by Soharia •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MAKING SUSTAINABILITY

MASS Inspired by Swati Soharia's upcycling workshops, Refash is a website that was set up earlier this year, to offer products and know-how on sustainable clothing

novation Space, a community in Vienna that brings together artists, researchers, and industries to ideate on future resource efficiency and work towards a circular economy.

Soharia, buoyed by this experience and orders that started coming in through word of mouth, opened her store in February 2018. Soon, she started collaborating with bigger brands for corporate gifting orders, meeting demand needs by reaching out to NGOs who'd already recognised women with basic tailoring skills.

"I train them further in upcycling," she says. "I bank on this sort of collaboration. We need orders, they need employment, and the corporates are happy with this sort of social collaboration," Soharia adds.

She spreads the word on upcycling with workshops at various women's

self-help groups in and around Delhi, making words like slow, conscious, sustainable, and upcycling go beyond being niche and hipster. It's now a workable means of livelihood.

Much work across genre

The connect with the urban crowd isn't secondary though. Soharia holds workshops and hobby classes, meant to influence people, helping to keep upcycling alive in everyday memory, fuelling thoughtful pur-

chase and behaviour change.

One such project is *Refash.in*, a website (not to be confused with the Singaporean website of the same name, which sells second-hand clothes) by Mumbai-based Akanksha Kailla Akashi, specialising in all things upcycled. It is billed as a portal that lets you dis-

cover, access, and educate yourself on designers and brands who "are creating new, contemporary products out of old, discarded materials."The website started in April last year, soon after Akashi attended one of Soharia's workshops in Mumbai.

"There are a lot of upcycling brands in the market, but what was missing was a platform to bring them together," she says. "We've built a database of over 200 upcycling brands from all over the world. I discover new designers and brands on a daily basis. They just don't get enough momentum or coverage," she says.

Akashi, who moved to Mumbai from Delhi in 2016, finds that in India, the movement is yet to go beyond niche brands. "The term upcycling also remains relatively new here. But the core of it is running through our veins. Indian mothers and grandmothers have

been reused fabric for ages," she says.

Through its various interviews, features, and directory of upcycling brands, *Refash.in* seeks to contribute to upcycling becoming "a mass movement in a couple of years."

Currently, they're running a series, where they spotlight upcycling efforts in one world city every month, and it has covered brands like Queen of Raw, Ilene Fisher's Waste No More campaign. They featured New York last month. This month, they officially launched their e-shop for homegrown upcycled brands like Dwij and Inai. The footwear brand Paduks, will soon feature.

Even if you can't stop buying clothes, like Soharia did, the hope in the short term, says Akashi is to see a whole "Refash" section at mainstream fast-fashion stores like Zara. Baby steps do turn into adult strides.

Soharia's upcoming workshop will focus on making bags with upcycled fabric. At the Stainless Steel Gallery, Mathura Road. ₹2,200 per head; all materials provided. To register: 9958011198

OTHER UPCYCLERS

DOODLAGE: Delhi-based upcycling brand, makes contemporary clothing

SATTHVAM TRUST: Bengaluru-based project that upcycles carton boxes into carry bags

POZRUH BY AIMAN: A Delhi-based upcycled womenswear brand

MIESU BY SEERAT VIRD: A Ludhiana-based brand that uses recycled polyester and discarded cotton



Swati Soharia

AMIT PATNAIK

FOOD REVIEW

Robust, with a side of gimmickry

The touchscreen tables are a highlight, but CAD's easy-going Indian-fusion dishes and relaxed air are for everyone

At first it might seem a bit disjointed: The smooth glass and slick neon-blue interface of the tabletops are at odds with the wine and beige interiors. It's only when you turn around to spot a kitty group playing spin-the-bottle that it makes sense.

The tech functions well as front-of-the-house gimmickry, but happily stays out of the way when you just want feel like you're in a restaurant.

The menu is a mishmash of this and that – so-called fusion food (from Kolkata Ghugni Pate and Butter Chicken Terrine to Jackfruit Filo and Maggie Thukpa).

Do try: Tandoori Thai Prawns, where the char elevates red-curry-paste marinated prawns. Three compact minced chicken sliders packed in a cylindrical shell called 'Ever ready' which actually worked despite all my cringing.

Skip: Trying to discuss your order with CAD's course names which range from 'Attributes' to 'Bread Drive'; a dry Chicken Puff called 'Bookmark'; succulent Amritsari Mutton Tikka paired sadly with a flat Green Chilli Appam which looked like it dropped dead right out of the griddle.

Go with: If you're a tech-per-



Culinary mishmash The interiors; and Cajun Spiced Paneer Tikka •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

son, just go. This is some of the best implementation of tech with food around. However, you could also just go on a Tinder date and play truth-or-dare or go with family and

friends and let the kids fiddle around with the touchscreen while you down beer with Tandoori Prawns.

Space bar: The languid sofas

which run along the wall at the back can easily seat large groups. There's also an airy al fresco area on the porch, which would be fabulous on a winter afternoon.

How much? ₹2,000 for 2 sans alcohol

Reach: It's best to cab it or drive to 32nd Milestone on NH 8. Compulsory valet parking is ₹50.

**POP-UP**

Toned down in Delhi

Anavila has launched her festive collection exclusively at Good Earth in Delhi. She'll soon take the exhibition to Bengaluru (July 18th), Chennai (August 1st), Hyderabad (August 2nd), and finally to Mumbai. As the temperature drops a few degrees, Delhi, she says is most ready for that little bit of silver and gold. Colour stories begin with blush, go on to brick, and finally cinnamon, with zari woven through in stripes, checks, and sometimes throughout the fabric, a linen warp and zari weft. She hasn't deviated from her signature linen, and sees more people requesting for evening-wear in the material. Silhouettes are relaxed, some layered (linen with silk overlays). Anavila has recently launched her online store, but the collection will be available there August onwards.

Available at Good Earth, Khan Market, ₹5,000 upward

For a listing or to be featured here, email us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in



SONAKSHI GOEL

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE**LECTURE****Music appreciation**

Composer and lyricist Madan Gopal Singh will deliver an illustrated lecture titled *The Politics of Sacred Music* at the India International Centre. The presentation will trace the difficult journey of various singer-poets who lived between the 12th to 20th centuries, and belonged to what is now known as the Sacred Music of South Asia.

VENUE: Lecture Room-II, Basement Annex, IIC
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

**FOOD****Coastal delights**

Zambar, a dining restaurant that specialises in South Indian cuisine, has launched a new menu called Coastal Delights, which goes far beyond the staple offering of sambar, dosa, vada and idli. The list has dishes like, Malbari baby potato, Bombay vada pao sliders, kolivada prawns, Andhra fish curry, and more.

VENUE: Zambar, Ambience Mall, Gurugram
TIME: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**MUSIC****Funk rock from Kolkata**

The Piano Man Jazz Club is hosting South Kolkata-based funk rock band, Slave to the Groove, tonight. This three-piece band with Suryadoy Ghosh on the vocals and guitar, Joy Bhowmic on the bass, and Bappaditya Karmakar on the drums, promises various musical genres including indie rock and pop.

VENUE: B 6-7/22 Safdarjung Enclave Market,
TIME: 9 p.m.

**PERFORMANCE****Stand-up comedy**

Playground Comedy Studio will stage Jokes Line, a Hinglish stand-up comic act by three comedians, Daahab Chishti, Himanshu Bhardwaj, and Kushagra Srivastava. Known for their signature "chill comedy", the artistes will tell new jokes, which will deal with themes ranging from gender, vanity and beauty.

VENUE: C-2, SDA Market, Hauz Khas Enclave,
TIME: 8 p.m.

**FILM****Sanskrit classic**

India International Centre, in collaboration with the National Film Archive of India will screen the Sanskrit film *Adi Shankaracharya*. Directed by G.V. Iyer, the film is set in 8th century Kerala, and is based on the life of saint Adi Shankaracharya, who consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta in Hindu philosophy.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

5 safest cars under ₹10 lakh

The Global NCAP rates these cars as the best money can buy in that given range

RIVAN RS

Global NCAP first began testing mass-market models sold in the Indian market back in 2014. Since then, the safety ratings agency has tested and rated nearly 30 models and variants, ranging from hatchbacks such as the Maruti Alto and VW Polo to SUVs and MPVs like the Mahindra Scorpio and Renault Lodgy. We take a look at the five safest cars (as rated by Global NCAP) that you can buy for under ₹10 lakh.



Volkswagen Polo

One of the first made-in-India cars to be tested by the safety ratings organisation, the Volkswagen Polo without dual front airbags scored zero stars for adult occupancy; but the version with two airbags managed a solid 4-star crash-test rating (12.54/17). Both models scored three stars for child occupancy, although the Polo with airbags managed a marginally higher 29.91/49, as compared to the 26.97 of the model without the safety feature. Remember, this was back in 2014 and the Polo at the time didn't even get ABS, Isofix child seat mounts and seat-belt reminders as standard. The top-spec Volkswagen Polo GT TSI on sale in India now gets features like traction control, ESC, hill-start assist and rear parking sensors.



Tata Nexon

Tata's compact SUV recently achieved a 4-star rating from NCAP for adult occupancy (13.56/17) and three stars for child occupancy (25/49). After this, Tata updated all variants of the model with a seat-belt reminder for the driver and front passenger and had the compact SUV pass the UN95 side-impact protection requirements – resulting in the Nexon becoming the first made-in-India model to achieve a 5-star rating, achieving a score of 16.06/18 in adult occupancy. Global NCAP rated the Nexon's body shell integrity as 'stable' while providing good protection for the head and neck of the driver and the passenger. All variants of the Tata Nexon come with two airbags, ABS and Isofix child seat mounts as standard.

Toyota Etios Liva

Tested by Global NCAP back in 2016, the Etios Liva hatchback was one of the few models that registered a commendable 4-star rating for adult occupancy in its very first crash test (13/16); for child occupancy, it scored two stars (20.02/49). While the Toyota Etios Liva was updated later with more safety kit such as ABS with EBD and Isofix child seat mounts, the model tested only had dual-front airbags and front seat belts with pretensioners.



Tata Zest

While the first round of tests for the Zest compact sedan earned it a 0-star rating, Tata was allowed another opportunity and thus it introduced an upgraded compact sedan, which was crash-tested in 2016. This model scored an impressive 4-star rating (11.15/17) in adult occupancy and two stars in child occupancy (15.52/49). The Tata Zest came with two airbags and a seat-belt reminder for the driver, but was later updated with ABS, EBD and corner stability control.

Maruti Suzuki Vitara Brezza

A feather in Maruti Suzuki's cap, the Vitara Brezza compact SUV received a 4-star rating for adult occupancy in the latest round of Global NCAP's crash tests (12.51 out of 17). However, the SUV only managed two stars for child occupancy (17.93 out of 49) with the 18-month-old dummy in the test suffering injuries to its head and shoulders. The markings for the Isofix anchorages did not meet Global NCAP testing protocols, either. All variants of the Maruti Suzuki Vitara Brezza are equipped with two airbags, ABS with EBD, front seat belt with pretensioners, a driver's seat belt reminder and Isofix child-seat mounts.



Honourable mentions:



Honda Amaze

The made-in-India Honda Amaze – sold here and in select African markets in the same specification – was tested as part of Global NCAP's Safer Cars For Africa campaign. Safety equipment such as dual-front airbags, ABS and seat-belt reminders helped the compact sedan achieve a commendable 4-star rating (14.08/17) for adult occupancy. However, despite coming with Isofix child seat mounts as standard, the Amaze performed poorly in terms of child occupancy. Global NCAP gave the car just one star (8.16/49), as the child seat mounts were not up to its standards.



Mahindra Marazzo

The first made-in-India MPV to gain a 4-star rating, the Mahindra Marazzo did far better than fellow people carriers such as the Renault Lodgy and Chevrolet Enjoy. The Marazzo MPV scored 12.85 out of 17 in adult safety and 22.22 out of 49 in child occupancy (two stars), thanks to safety kit such as dual front airbags, ABS, a driver's side seat-belt reminder, front seat-belt pretensioners and Isofix anchorages for the rear seats – standard across all variants.

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HEALTH CAPSULES

WHAT IS THE DOWNSIDE TO SLEEP TRACKING APPS?
I HAVE A SLEEP TRACKING APP NOW I CAN'T SLEEP!
THERE IS A DOWNSIDE TO SLEEP TRACKING APPS. NEUROLOGIST GUY LECHNER EXPLAINS THAT SLEEP TRACKING APPS HAVE CREATED SUCH AN OBSESSION FOR GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP THAT MANY OF HIS PATIENTS HAVE DEVELOPED INSOMNIA AS A RESULT OF THEIR OBSESSION WITH GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP.
Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic tool.

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13124

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- 2 Enormous (7)
- 3 Animal's rear (12)
- 4 Fabric made with angora wool (6)
- 6 Did little or nothing (5)
- 7 Large tropical seedpod with tanga pulp – mad train (anag) (8)
- 8 Gardening (12)
- 12 Bully (8)
- 15 Search for a fugitive (7)
- 16 Dirty rats? (6)
- 18 Insect's feeding stage (5)
- 19 Have fun – theatrical work (4)
- 21 Regular (5)
- 22 Bluish shade of green (4)
- 23 Lineage (8)
- 1 Down – acid (4)
- 17 One way to leave a pirate ship for ever? (4,3,5)
- 20 Vibrating membrane in the head (7)
- 9 From the Italian capital (5)
- 10 Mobster (7)
- 11 16th-century Spanish adventurer (12)
- 13 Warm up again (6)
- 14 Keen insight (6)

Solution No. 13123

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New Zealand done in by a bizarre set of rules

Arbitrary approach to determine the winner led to England walking away with the trophy despite the Kiwis 'not losing'

WORLD CUP

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

The gut-wrenching final at Lord's, visceral, brutal and explosive, was adjudged by a thoughtless, arbitrary number-of-boundaries rule that actually overlooked which team had lost less wickets in a tie after 100 captivating tension-filled overs.

The World Cup should have been shared between England and New Zealand and it's still not too late to right a grievous wrong that so cruelly denied the gallant Kiwis.

Idea of sharing honours
New Zealand coach Gary Stead is open to the idea of a shared World Cup if the ICC decides to re-look the events and circumstances of that epic Sunday that left millions of aficionados, cutting through barriers, feeling justice had not been done.

Former Sri Lankan World

Cup-winning coach Dav Whatmore said, "Sharing the Trophy would be the right thing to do but I don't know whether it is possible. This is the first time I have heard of a game being decided on the basis of boundaries."

New Zealand 'lost' by zero runs in both regular play and the Super Over, and was, unlike England, not bowled out during normal play.

Umpiring error

Then it emerged that the final over's pivotal moment — that left the luckless New Zealand devastated — when the ball rocketed off the desperately diving Ben Stokes' bat and shot past the ropes, was marred by a match-turning umpiring error.

The umpires awarded six runs which as celebrated umpire Simon Taufel revealed later, was a clear mistake. The batsmen had not crossed for the second run when Martin Guptill unleashed his throw and the umpires should have awarded En-

gland five runs and not six.

This also meant Adil Rashid would have been on strike and not the influential Stokes. These 'game-changing' umpiring mistakes hurt New Zealand in a game of such fine margins.

The umpires could have taken their time and referred the contentious extra run to the television umpire. Surely, they would have been aware of the rules.

In a game as big as this, the ICC should have left nothing to chance. At least, it could have continued with Super Overs until a conclusive result was reached much like penalty kicks in football that go on till a winner is found.

"This is actually a good idea," said Whatmore.

The never-say-die New Zealanders, gutsy, nerveless, skilful and full of grace and poise under extreme pressure, have been done in by a bizarre set of rules and questionable umpiring. Now, the ball is in ICC's court.



Not your day, mate! Chris Woakes consoles a crestfallen Martin Guptill after New Zealand went down in the World Cup final. • MICHAEL STEELE/GETTY IMAGES

Another Super Over should decide winner: Tendulkar

Several cricketers have also questioned the boundary-rule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Sachin Tendulkar on Tuesday endorsed a second Super Over to decide the winner instead of considering the boundary count if such an extraordinary situation arises like it did in the World Cup final.

"I feel there should be another Super Over to decide the winner, instead of considering the number of boundaries scored by both teams. Not just in a World Cup final. Every game is important. Like in football, when teams go into extra time, nothing else matters," Tendulkar said to 100omb.

Current and former cricketers including Rohit Sharma, Gautam Gambhir and Yuvraj Singh, have questioned ICC's "ridiculous" rule on boundary count that decided the World Cup title.

Kohli's suggestion

After table toppers India was knocked out of the World Cup after losing the semifinal to New Zealand, skipper Virat Kohli had suggested IPL-like playoffs instead of knockouts in the World Cup, going forward.



For rule change: Tendulkar favoured another Super Over, not just in a World Cup final but whenever required. • PTI

Asked if the World Cup format needs to be changed in the knockout stages, Tendulkar said: "I think the two teams that finish at the top should definitely have something going for them for having played consistently through the tournament."

Dhoni's slot

During India's semifinal, former skipper M.S. Dhoni was sent at No. 7 with Hardik Pandya and Dinesh Karthik

being promoted in the batting order.

Asked what batting order he would have gone with for the chase, Tendulkar said: "Without a doubt, I would've sent M.S. Dhoni at his usual position, No. 5.

"With the kind of situation that India was in and the experience that he has, the need of the hour was for him to build the innings. Hardik could've batted at 6 and Karthik would've followed at 7."

I'm sure rules will be reviewed and possibilities explored: Stead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

New Zealand coach Gary Stead has called for the Cricket World Cup's rules to be overhauled, labelling the showpiece final "hollow" after England defeated the Black Caps on a technicality.

The teams could not be separated at the end of both regular play and a Super Over shootout, so England was handed victory because it had a superior boundary count.

"It's a very, very hollow feeling that you can play 100 overs and score the same amount of runs and still lose the game, but that's the technicalities of sport," Stead told reporters in comments released by New Zealand Cricket on Tuesday.

He said such a thrilling match, which has been hailed by many experts as the greatest one-day game in history, deserved a better way to determine the result.

"There's going to be many things they look at over the whole tournament — I'm sure when they were writing the rules they never expected a World Cup final to happen like that," he said.

"I'm sure it'll be reviewed (and) there's many different



Hollow feeling: Gary Stead believes such a thrilling final shouldn't have been decided the way it was. • REUTERS

ways that they'll probably explore."

Stead shrugged off suggestions England had been mistakenly handed an extra run after a throw from a fielder hit the bat of a diving Ben Stokes' and deflected to the boundary in the final over of regular play.

England was awarded six runs but former umpire Simon Taufel said it should only have got five as the batsmen had not crossed for their second run when the throw was made.

"I didn't actually know that," Stead said. "But at the end of the day the umpires are there to rule.

"They're human as well, like players, and sometimes there's a mistake but that's just the human aspect of sport."

'We didn't lose'

Skipper Kane Williamson pointed out his team was not defeated on the pitch, saying it instead fell victim to "fine print" in the rules.

He said that was a shame but the New Zealanders had signed up to the rules that governed the tournament.

"At the end of the day nothing separated us, no one lost the final, but there was a crowned winner and there it is," he told Newstalk ZB.

BCCI invites applications for coach, support staff

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The BCCI has initiated the process of recruitment for head coach, batting coach, bowling coach, fielding coach, physiotherapist, strength and conditioning coach and administrative manager of the Indian men's team.

The BCCI's contract with the present coaching and support staff ended with the World Cup in England, but most of them have been asked to continue till the completion of the tour of the West Indies that will run from August 3 to September 4.

The BCCI though has acceded to the wishes of physiotherapist Patrick Farhart and strength and physical conditioning coach Shankar Basu to be relieved after India's campaign in the quadrennial event.

According to a press release issued by the Supreme Court appointed Commit-

tee of Administrators, aspiring candidates have to apply for particular posts on or by July 30 after which the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) will take the recruitment process forward. The release also said that the current coaching staff will get an automatic entry in the recruitment process. The BCCI has posted an advertisement on its website. Bcci.tv giving details of eligibility criteria and experience required for different posts.

The former director of Indian cricket (2014 to 2016) Ravi Shastri returned as head coach of the team after a bitter end to Anil Kumble's tenure as head coach immediately after the Champions Trophy in June 2017. Once Shastri was appointed as head coach, Bharat Arun and R. Sridhar also returned as bowling and fielding coach. The present batting coach is Sanjay Bangar.

PM May thanks England for ending 44-year wait

Jacinda Ardern praises the Kiwis for putting their all on the line

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON/WELLINGTON

The prime ministers of England and New Zealand lauded their cricket teams' performance in the World Cup, which helped bring the sport into limelight in nations obsessed with football and rugby.

Prime Minister Theresa May thanked the England team for winning the showpiece and ending a 44-year wait. "You have helped the nation fall in love with cricket once again," May told the England players.

Sport at its best

"The final was not just cricket at its best but sport at its best — courage, character, sportsmanship, drama, incredible skill and even the odd slice of luck — all combining to create a real thriller, one of the great sporting spectacles of our time," she added. Football remains the

most popular sport in England, while rugby has a loyal following in New Zealand but cricketers in both the countries have caught the public imagination following the pulsating World Cup summit clash.

May added, "It was a fitting end to what has been a great tournament — and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in once again making our country a sporting showcase for the world."

New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern praised the Black Caps for putting their all on the line and then accepting the gut-wrenching defeat with grace.

"That was undeniably an incredible game. I think as a nation we all aged a year in that super over. Congratulations to England. And to the Black Caps, I feel nothing but pride. What a team," wrote Ardern on Instagram.

Deserving winners England pump energy into fading format

It is difficult not to sympathise with the Kiwis for the non-defeat that ended all dreams, and the Cup might have been shared



BETWEEN WICKETS
SURESH MENON

The World Cup final was a celebration of cricket, revealing the possibilities of the 50-over game which was thought to be on its death bed. So England were lucky, we need to visit the rules afresh, and shouldn't New Zealand have won for good behaviour and long-term consistency? Yes, but what does all that matter when the game brought so much joy and gave us what all sport hopes to provide: a nail-biting climax?

For a long time, it wasn't a particularly good match. The Lord's wicket was too slow and the occasion seemed to get to the performers. But the finish changed everything. A tie is exciting enough, but a double tie? The questions will remain, though. Were England given an extra run when a diving Ben Stokes inadvertently deflected an overthrow to the boundary? What was that strange rule about boundaries deciding a match? How could England have won when New Zealand didn't lose?

Sport is not perfect. Often imperfection is the crack through which we see it at its best. After all, sport is, "the voluntary attempt to overcome unnecessary obstacles," as the philosopher Bernard Suits said, and the final was full of unnecessary obstacles. Rules are arbitrary, so it is as valid



Take away: England's triumph means that other teams might try to play like them, in a positive style. • AFP

to say the team with most boundaries wins as it is to say that the team which loses the fewer wickets does so. In the end, the best team took the title. Too much analysis and too many complaints will only extinguish the pleasure.

Diverse approaches

It may not be politically correct to say this, but New Zealand did not deserve to win the World Cup. They played a brand of cricket that was a throwback to the English style of old — overcautious, unadventurous, risk-averse. This, at a time when the format was in danger of being wiped out by T20, and the sport itself was struggling to attract new fans. Something was needed to provide the energy and flair that would revive it, and England delivered that in style. The ac-

cent was on attack — whether batting or bowling — and the approach attractive.

The essential difference between white ball cricket and the red is this: in the shorter formats, the result is everything, the ends justify the means. The longer format demands logic, style, and emphasis on the process as much as on the result. Only one question needs to be answered in white ball cricket about strategy, tactics, selection: did the team win? If it did then it was all brilliant. If it didn't, it's time to move on.

Good for the game

World Cup-winners tend to set the agenda. Had New Zealand won, it might have been a step back. England winning means that other teams might attempt to play like

them, in a positive, sexy style that can only be good for the game.

New Zealand were the underdogs, they have been the best-behaved team in international cricket, and in Kane Williamson they had a gracious captain with a fine tactical brain. It was difficult not to love him and his team — I wrote here earlier how a New Zealand win would be something to look forward to. It is difficult not to sympathise with the team for the non-defeat that ended all dreams, and in the ideal world, the Cup might have been shared.

But sport abhors such fragmentation. Competition demands that there be one winner, and all games have rules for breaking the tie from penalty shootouts to (in the old days) bowl outs and Super Overs. It is not a perfect system, but it is there, no one

had an issue with it before the tournament began when all teams approved.

The case of 'extra run'

Former umpire Simon Taufel has said that England were given an extra run, six instead of five, when Stokes' bat deflected the ball. A philosopher in a US University has countered that by saying the law is ambiguous thanks to a misplaced comma, and five runs was right. Interpretation is everything. The argument that England's 'extra run' led to victory assumes that everything else would have remained exactly the same. But one variable can affect others too in real-life situations.

Tournament rules (framed by the International Cricket Council) and laws of the game (the preserve of the Marylebone Cricket Club) are not written in stone, they evolve. Before Duckworth-Lewis appeared and fans stopped complaining about results because they didn't understand the rule, ODIs were decided in a variety of ways. We can get too mathematical about the Lord's final, and forget the human drama and the spirit of the players involved. Ben Stokes, for one, deserves better.

The final will have greatness thrust upon it over the years as more people than the ground could possibly accommodate claim to have watched it live. It was unforgettable, even if Williamson might not echo Roger Federer's words after his loss at Wimbledon a few kilometres and a few minutes away: "I shall try to forget."

For the moment, that is enough.

SEWERAGE MAINTENANCE DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPTT.
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ROOM NO. 220, SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH PLACE, NEW DELHI

e-Procurement Short Tender Notice

Tender ID No. 2019_NDMC_176352_1
Name of work: Hiring of 2 Nos Pressure Jetting cum Sewer Suction Machines Mounted on Truck Chassis for 7 Years.
Estimated Cost :- Rs. 8,18,83,304/-
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 16.07.2019
Date and time for pre-bid meeting, if any : --- N/A ---
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 23.07.2019 upto 3.00 PM
Further details can be seen at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note: - To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (S/M)
NDMC, NEW DELHI

To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

'Adapting to different coaching styles not difficult'

Reid believes that our finishing and defending have to improve, says Manpreet Singh

HOCKEY

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

Over the last five years, the Indian men's hockey team has had Australian, Dutch and homegrown coaches in charge, with the frequent changes at the helm now a matter of routine.

When Graham Reid was appointed in April this year, he became the team's third coach in less than 12 months, after Sjoerd Marijne and Henderson Singh. Adapting to varying coaching styles and philosophies may appear to be a tough task for players, but Manpreet Singh disagrees.

"It's not difficult at all," the Indian captain says.

"Whenever a [foreign] coach comes to India he tries to see what India's best qualities are and he wants to retain them. So far, we've never found it hard to adjust to any coach. Because coaches adapt to the team they have; they don't have one fixed style they impose on all teams. They always take their time and see what they



Gelling well: Manpreet says Reid talks to all the team members and spends time with them off the field too. ■ BISWARANJAN ROU

have to do. It's the same with Graham."

Reid has sought to make the most of India's attacking strengths while building on the defence, states Man-

preet.

"Graham has been watching India for some time. He's not trying to change much. He believes that our finishing and our defending have to

improve. He sees that we are good at attacking and counter-attacking. We have quick forwards; so his idea is for us to move the ball forward as quickly as possible. The

higher up the pitch we play, the better it is for us," he says, after a training session at the SAI here.

Working with Reid has apparently been enjoyable.

I know it's a matter of qualifying for the Olympics but we shouldn't come under pressure

"He's a friendly man," says Manpreet. "He talks to all of us. He spends time with us off the field too."

India will travel to Japan next month, for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Test Event, before preparing for the all-important Olympic qualifiers, to be played in October-November.

The identity of India's opponent in the two-legged affair is not yet known but Manpreet is not worried.

"I know it's a matter of qualifying for the Olympics but we shouldn't come under pressure," he says.

Confident

"We just want to play our best hockey. If we are at our best, we can beat any team in the world."

"We are not worried about who our opponent is going to be. No matter who we play, we are confident we can win."

Shubhankar to tee off alongside Koepka

THE OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORTRUSS (NORTHERN IRELAND)
Reigning Asian Tour Order of Merit champion Shubhankar Sharma will get another opportunity to play alongside World No.1 Brooks Koepka of the United States after being paired together in the opening round of The 148th Open starting on Thursday.

Together with 2010 Open champion Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa, the trio will tee off at the Royal Portrush as they commence their quest of lifting the iconic Claret Jug at the year's final Major.

After six years

Shubhankar was only 16 and playing in his first professional event when he was paired with Koepka in the final round of the Gujarat Kensville Challenge on the European Challenge Tour in 2013.

"Brooks is the World No.1 and I've played with him before in India. He came for the Challenge Tour event in 2013 and I'm looking for-



Shubhankar. ■ REUTERS

Hopefully more people back home in India will watch the event

ward to playing with him again," said Shubhankar.

"Obviously there's going to be a lot of people following us and hopefully more people back home in India will watch it too. It's always going to be fun playing with the Major champions," said Shubhankar.

"It was a long time ago. I haven't spoken to him since then. It will be fun to play with him again," said Koepka.

AITA Trust starts talent hunt

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The cream of junior talent across the country is all set to get financial and technical support from the All-India Tennis Association (AITA) Trust.

Players in the under-14 age group have been called from various States for a selection camp to be held at the DLTA Complex from July 19.

Each State has been asked to nominate a boy and a girl for the selection. Overall, 16 boys and 16 girls are scheduled to assemble. To start with, 50% of them will be chosen for support.

A panel of coaches, including Vishal Uppal and Ankita Bhambri, will be part of the committee in the selection process.

The players will be supported for competing in tournaments at home and abroad, and there will also be possibilities of coaches travelling with them to enhance their performance.

The selected players will be monitored through the year, in consultation with their coaches, and appropriate measures taken periodically for further improvement.

Since one of the States did not send its share of two players, Delhi will field four players for the selection camp. There will be more players added for support in due course of time, to cover all the best players from across the country in the age group.

Arrangements have been made for lodging at the R.K. Khanna Stadium. The accompanying parents will be able to stay in nearby hotels at special rates.

PKL: Nitish to lead UP Yoddha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

UP Yoddha announced on Tuesday that young defender Nitish Kumar will lead the side in the seventh Pro Kabaddi League, starting on July 20.

"UP Yoddha's team captures the warrior spirit of Uttar Pradesh and its players are ready to give their blood, sweat and tears in the battlefield. Nitish Kumar will be the captain this season," Team UP Yoddha said at an event to announce its smartphone as their official partners.

The Greater Noida based franchise made its debut in the fifth season and ended third in both the editions it has participated in. The team will play its first game on July 24 against Bengal Warriors in Hyderabad.

India was unlucky with injuries, says Whatmore

'Gill, a fantastic young batsman, could well fill the No. 4 slot'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Celebrated coach Dav Whatmore was here on Tuesday to promote Sports Exotica's Luxury Sports vacation and the launch of its Cricket Leisure League, but predictably ended up answering a barrage of questions on India and the recent ICC ODI World Cup.

Whatmore said, "India had a good tournament. It topped the group after nine matches, made runs, had a very good bowling attack, both pace and spin."

He added, "But India ran into New Zealand in the semifinal, and the Kiwis made full use of helpful conditions."

Whatmore said, "The team-management made decisions which were in the best interests of the team. India was unlucky with injuries, lost some key players."

Right technique

He observed, "But the No. 4 issue kept raising its head. India should look at the future. Shubman Gill is a fantastic young batsman and he could well fill that slot. He's got the technique."

Whatmore added, "Then



Right calls: Dav Whatmore said the Indian think-tank made decisions which were in the best interests of the team. ■ PTI

Dhoni's contribution has been enormous. He alone should decide when he leaves the international stage

you have Vijay Shankar who is a fine batsman and a useful medium-pace. Unfortunately, he got injured during the World Cup. As a coach I am always worried about cricketers picking up injuries during net sessions."

He saw a bright future for Virat Kohli as captain.

'Just one defeat'

"It's just one defeat in a World Cup semifinal that can happen to any team.

New Zealand did too much damage in the first 10 overs. India has got some powerful stroke-makers and a potent attack. It should do very well in the coming days."

Turning his attention to M.S. Dhoni, Whatmore said, "You need to look at the influence he has on the team and the youngsters as a senior player, on the field, dressing room, team meetings, in the bus."

"Dhoni's contribution has been enormous. He alone should decide when he leaves the international stage."

Whatmore's message was clear - Give Dhoni the respect he deserved.

Manpat — a mentor for the shooters

Apurvi Chandela and Meghana Sajjanar are among his students

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

He is too young to be a coach, but too good, not to be one! The 28-year-old Rakesh Manpat, who beat Olympic champions Abhinav Bindra and Alin George Moldoveanu to the gold, with a borrowed weapon, in the Intershoot at the Hague in 2016, is mentoring the women's world No.1 air rifle shooter Apurvi Chandela, among others.

Rakesh also trains Meghana Sajjanar at his base in Bengaluru, where he is all set to open a second training centre, better equipped.

It has been a golden season for Olympian Apurvi this year, as she won two gold medals with world record in Delhi and Munich, apart from the mixed team silver.

"Apurvi has been mentally very strong. She is able to keep many things off the lane in control and focus on herself more than anyone else in the world."

"It makes her a world beater. She has been shooting well in the past as well," said Rakesh.

After the spell of World Cups, Apurvi has been training in Bengaluru. She makes it a point to visit the centre once every two to three months.

"We are currently training



Grooming champions: Rakesh Manpat with Apurvi Chandela and Meghana Sajjanar. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

in Bengaluru at our new academy. We are able to train in a very controlled environment."

"Depending on the need, we train overseas as well. Earlier this year we trained in the Netherlands," said Rakesh.

It has been a long association with Apurvi, who has

been training with Rakesh from 2013. There was a break around the Olympics in Rio in 2016, but Apurvi resumed the stint in 2017.

Apart from Apurvi, Rakesh has been working with Meghana Sajjanar for the last three years.

"Meghana has shaped up well in the last three years.

The second year was sensational. We changed the rifle and it was a slight burn out owing to the number of competitions she has played. Now she is able to recover well. This year she had two scores around the 630 mark. She is able to gain the confidence back.

"Working with the shooters on the fundamentals is where I try to match up their current determination to realise potential", observed Rakesh.

There is demand for training from more shooters, and Rakesh feels that the two centres with a total of 12 electronic targets, and six manual targets for beginners, would help him mentor more shooters to world class standards.

Good team

In the Elite Shooting Academy, he has a good team, including sports psychologist G.U. Sathwik. "Together we enjoy our work, which is about 15 to 18 hours a day of late", said Rakesh.

He continues to shoot whenever he gets the time, and Rakesh feels that he has "not lost any touch".

Rakesh Manpat is on a "mission", and is "extremely happy" to guide and ensure quality training for his athletes.

Leaner Australia means business

Coach Jacco Verhaeren sets tough qualifying standards for the Gwangju meet

WORLD SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Coach Jacco Verhaeren has set brutally difficult qualifying standards to make Australia's team for this month's World swimming championships team after a poor showing two years ago.

Australia, a traditional powerhouse, had a disappointing campaign last time in Budapest, slumping to eighth on the medals table.

It's haul of just one gold, five silver and four bronze in the pool left it badly trailing the table-topping Americans, who scooped 18 golds.

Verhaeren's new selection policy means the Aussie team that competes in Gwangju from July 21 is smaller than usual, but looks very strong.

He has moved the Australian trials much closer to the championships - emulating the all-conquering Americans - while setting qualifying times far harder than required by swimming's governing body FINA.

It means the team is down to 27 swimmers compared to the upwards of 40-strong squads who have featured previously. Verhaeren said



Raring to go: Former World record holder and two-time Olympic champion Cate Campbell is determined to make amends for her poor show at the last Worlds. ■ FILE PHOTO

that while it was leaner it was also meaner with all swimmers clocking times that should put them in medal contention. "There have been some fantastic individual performances," said the Dutchman. "We now have to convert and capitalise on these performances."

Serious threat

The Dolphins will be a serious threat in a host of events, headlined by Olympic 100m freestyle champion Kyle Chalmers and former World record holder Cate Campbell. Mitch Larkin boasts a World-leading time

in the 200m individual medley and will also line up in his favoured backstroke across 100m and 200m - for which he was World champion in 2015.

There are also high hopes for a handful of Australia's younger generation, led by teen sensation Ariarne Titmus, who recently set a new Commonwealth best of 3:59.35 in 400m freestyle.

While Mack Horton failed to make the grade in either the 200m, 400m or 800m, he was added to the squad as a discretionary pick, meaning he will almost certainly renew his bitter rivalry with

China's Sun Yang.

Horton is the only man to topple Sun over 400m in major competition over the past eight years, winning the Rio Olympic gold after publicly calling the controversial Chinese giant a "drug cheat" in the lead-up to the race.

"He's an Olympic champion, it's not panic stations, he could turn it around in weeks," Verhaeren said of Horton's inclusion.

Chalmers qualified for Korea in 47.35sec to put himself in prime position for gold and perhaps even threaten Brazilian Cesar Cielo's 10-year-old World record of 46.91sec.

Campbell is also in fine form, clocking the fastest 100m time this year of 52.12 - quicker than the 52.27 swum by American Simone Manuel to win the world title in 2017. The two-time Olympic champion is desperate to make amends after famously flopping in the Rio final as the red-hot favourite, but acknowledged everything must click perfectly.

"It is the trickiest race," said Campbell. "That is why it's the blue ribbon event. Your margin for error is so small."

Indian boxing looking up: Amir

Credits the system; backs Bhidhuri to win Olympic medal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former Olympic medallist and professional star, Amir Khan feels India has a robust system in place to keep producing good boxers for the world stage and singled out 2017 World Championship bronze-winner Gaurav Bidhuri for Olympic glory at the 2020 Tokyo Games.

The 32-year-old from Bolton, who clinched the WBC international welterweight title during a Super Boxing League (SBL) bout in Jeddah last week, believes India has the wherewithal to produce champions, who can follow the likes of Vijender Singh and MC Mary Kom.

"Indian boxing is doing very good. What I like is that they have a system which not many countries have," Amir, who had knocked out Australian Billy Dib last Saturday, told PTI during an interview.

"In India, all fighters get an opportunity to fight international tournaments, they are funded and they also get paid, because these boxers can't get jobs as they have to focus on boxing."

"All countries should follow this system. That's why



Amir Khan. ■ REUTERS

they have Olympic medallists like Vijender and Mary Kom and many more will come from this, it will only inspire the next generation."

Asked if India can win a medal at the 2020 Olympics, the British-born boxer said: "One kid I follow is Gaurav Bidhuri, he is a very good boxer. I like his style, I like how he fights, how he pushes himself. I have seen his videos. This kid will get far, if he can stay focussed. He is in the national team and he made a lot of noises, he had some good performances," added Amir.

Bidhuri is only the fourth Indian boxer to get a medal at World Championship, claiming the bronze at the 2017 edition in Hamburg,

Germany.

Takeover by IOC

Speaking on other issues in boxing, Amir said it is a shame that the AIBA was suspended last month and the International Olympic Committee took over the qualification and competition for the Tokyo Olympics.

"It is crazy what is happening in boxing. IOC has taken full control and AIBA has been stripped off. I fought under AIBA rules and it was fine when I was around, but it is just a shame, you know they are not giving opportunities to young fighters," he said.

"AIBA needs to be there and so they need to set up a proper committee and work hand-in-hand. It is the only way boxing will work. Without amateur boxing, I won't be here. Champion boxers like Mike Tyson, all of them started from amateur. So without AIBA it is going to be difficult."

Amir said he is planning to open super boxing gyms in India and Pakistan next year. "I would like to help these boxers in any way I can. I would love to open an academy in India."

TV PICKS

Indonesia Open badminton: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.
Commonwealth TT championship: DD Sports, 11 a.m.

IN BRIEF



Inian finishes second

CHENNAI: Grandmaster P. Inian finished second in the Thailand open chess festival at Pattaya with seven wins and two losses from nine games. After winning the first two games, the youngster from TN lost the next two before getting back on winning ways. Inian had earlier won the gold medal in under -18, Commonwealth chess championship 2019. There were 33 titled players including six GM's, 10 IM's and 1 WIM from 19 countries with a total of 67 players.



Australian newspapers lose Gayle defamation appeal

SYDNEY: An Australian media group on Tuesday lost an appeal against an Australian \$300,000 defamation payout to West Indies cricket star Chris Gayle. Gayle was accused by former media group Fairfax, which at the time was publisher of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*, of indecently propositioning the woman in a dressing room during the 2015 World Cup in Sydney. Gayle won the defamation case in October last year. The publisher appealed the case arguing it did not receive a fair trial. Gayle also appealed the size of his payout, seeking an increase. A New South Wales court dismissed both appeals. **AFF**



Mashrafe stays skipper for Lanka ODIs

DHAKA: Bangladesh is resting allrounder Shakib Al Hasan but has retained skipper Mashrafe Mortaza for the three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka later this month, officials said on Tuesday. Left-arm spinner Tajul Islam and top-order batsman Anamul Haque were also recalled to replace Shakib and batsman Liton Das, who has been rested for personal reasons. **The squad:** Mashrafe Mortaza (Capt.), Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarker, Anamul Haque, Mohammad Mithun, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mosaddek Hossain, Sabbir Rahman, Mehidy Hasan, Tajul Islam, Rubel Hossain, Mohammad Saifuddin and Mustafizur Rahman.

Thrilled to hold Arjuna award: Bopanna

The former World No. 3 doubles star requested live streaming of matches featuring Indians

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

It was after nearly a year that Rohan Bopanna was able to lay his hands on the Arjuna award, as he received it from the Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju here on Tuesday. "It is an amazing feeling to hold the award. Definitely, I would have loved to receive it from the President at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, along with other athletes and achievers. But that does not take anything away from the thrill of receiving it," said Bopanna, who received the trophy along with his wife Supriya Annaiah.

Bopanna, a former World No. 3 doubles star, said he enjoyed his meeting with the minister.

"He is such a big tennis fan, and has been watching tennis for a long time. We spoke for nearly 45 minutes and it was very positive.

"He also talked about following women's cricket, as Smriti Mandhana also got the award today," said Bopanna.

During his interaction with the Sports Minister, Bopanna also requested that all the matches featuring Indian tennis players on the Tour be streamed live on the internet for the benefit of youngsters in the country.

"It may be difficult to get it on television, but live streaming is something that can inspire the young



Recognition: Rohan Bopanna and Smriti Mandhana received their Arjuna Awards after nearly a year. **PTI**

players. The minister was very receptive and said that he would see how it can be done," said Bopanna.

Not having received any money so far this year despite being part of the TOPS funding, Bopanna broached the subject with the minister.

He was told that the national tennis federation needed to keep the athletes in its Annual Calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC) so as to make it a smooth affair.

Since Bopanna and Divij Sharan had won the Asian Games doubles gold, they have been kept in the TOPS as a team.

Thus, whatever money is sanctioned would be split equally between the two.

"I would love to continue to play with Divij on the Tour. But, the fact is that with our ranking, we are not getting into the ATP-500 and Masters events.

"It is not easy to play only the big tournaments with other partners. Even now, the cut for Washington DC is 47. Denis Shapovalov and I are one out at the moment, and have to wait. That is the reality.

"If we don't play the big tournaments on the Tour, how do we prepare for the Grand Slams and the Olympics?" queried Bopanna.

Smriti wants to add more power

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India opener and No. 1 ODI batswoman Smriti Mandhana is in no mood to take it easy after a memorable season and is busy tweaking her all-round game in the lead up to the Women's T20 World Cup early next year.

The season that went by saw the 22-year-old reach the top of the ODI rankings. Smriti is not just known for her stylish strokeplay anymore. She has added the much needed power to her game to meet the demands of the modern game.

Ready for the grind

"It was a good fitness camp. Finally after an year or two, we got a month off. It was good for us to come back and do a fitness camp. It was much needed because we are going to have a hectic eight months, so we have to get our body prepared for the grind."

On her batting, she said: "I and coach

Raman sir have been discussing quite a bit about my game. How I can become more consistent in T20 cricket, how I can add more power to my game. I still feel I need to improve on that front.

"You have to improve because other teams are also keeping an eye on you. Adding new shots is not something which I am looking at. I am looking to consistently hit the same length of balls in different places," Smriti, who is confident of another stellar season in the Kia Super League to be held in the United Kingdom next month, said.

While she was India's stand-out performer in ODIs and T20s, the team's performance in the shortest format has left a lot to be desired as it lost six games in a row. The team did not have enough fire-power and though the issues facing the side were discussed at length in the camp, Smriti feels there is still a long way to go.

Indian men claim 25m sports pistol gold

SPORTS BUREAU
SUHL (GERMANY)

Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu, Adarsh Singh and Vijayveer Sidhu clinched the junior men's sports pistol gold for India with a total of 1738, ten points ahead of China, here on Tuesday. The best individual fare was Rajkanwar (582) placing fourth, a point behind Florian Peter of Germany.

India continued to top the medals table with seven gold, seven silver and two bronze medals. China was second with five gold, three silver and five bronzes.

The results: Junior men: 10m air rifle: 1. Grigori Shamakov (Rus) 250.0 (625.0); 2. Zhang Changhong (Chn) 249.1 (625.2); 3. Xu Yuannan (Chn) 228.6 (628.7); 4. Hriday Hazarika 207.3 (627.9); 7. Yash Aishwan 142.9 (628.4); 9. Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar

624.7; 24. Paarth Makhija 621.1. **Team:** 1. China 1877.8 WRJ; 2. India 1877.4; 3. Hungary 1887.1.

25m sports pistol: 1. Xia Qi (Chn) 584; 2. Yuriy Kolesnyk (Ukr) 584; 3. Florian Peter (Ger) 583; 4. Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu 582; 6. Dilshaan Kelley 581; 8. Adarsh Singh 578; 10. Vijayveer Sidhu 578; 30. Ashwatharadhya Yadav 567; 37. Agneya Kaushik 562. **Team:** 1. India 1738; 2. China 1728; 3. Czech Republic 1726; 5. India-A 1710.

Junior women: 25m sports pistol: 1. Miroslava Mincheva (Bul) 30 (578); 2. Camille Jedrejewska (Fra) 28 (580); 3. Zhu Siying (Chn) 25 (580); 21. Abhidnya Patil 569; 23. Priya Raghav 568; 32. Arunima Gaur 566; 34. Devanshi Rana 565; 41. Esha Singh 560; 51. Sneha Bhardwaj 552. **Team:** 1. China 1734 EWRJ; 2. France 1729; 3. Thailand 1718; 8. India-A 1694; 9. India 1686.

Prajnesh falls early

SPORTS BUREAU
NEWPORT (USA)

Prajnesh Gunneswaran lost 6-2, 6-2 to Marcel Granollers of Spain on grass in the first round of the ATP tournament here on Monday.

Ramkumar Ramanathan won his second and final qualifying round, against Yuichi Sugita of Japan 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-3, to make the main draw.

The results: \$652,245 ATP, Newport, USA:

First round: Marcel Granollers (Esp) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Mao-Xin Gong & Ze Zhang (Chn) bt Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja 7-6(3), 7-6(10).

Qualifying singles (second and final round): Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Yuichi Sugita (Jpn) 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-3.

\$135,400 Challenger, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan: First round: Sidharth Rawat bt Sanjar Fayziev (Uzb) 6-2, 6-2.

Indians target a rich medal haul

Top stars hope to make best of prominent absentees

C'WEALTH TT

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

It was one of the most sought-after tournaments on the table tennis calendar till about two decades ago. But with the ever-increasing opportunities on the global circuit, the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship has lost its sheen in the last few years. While India makes an effort to revive the tournament — staging it for the third time in succession with the tournament finding no host for its last edition in 2017 — the hosts will enter as firm favourite to sweep a majority of titles.

Five pull-outs

The 21st edition — seventh in India — will see 12 teams, despite five pull-outs for a variety of reasons, vying for glory at the Jawaharlar Nehru indoor stadium on the banks of the Mahanadi. In the last four years — when India tallied three gold, four silver and seven bronze medals in Surat — the Indian table tennis has reached greater heights. Add to that the fact that some of the other contenders, including England and Nigeria, have rested top players and have instead fielded second-string teams to plan for the future it makes India's job easier to better the medal haul.

While England, the top seeds in men's, has travelled without its top two players, World No. 15 Liam Pitchford and veteran Paul Drinkhall,



Aiming high: Manika Batra will be hoping to lead the Indian women to a second successive triumph. **BISWARANJAN ROU**

Nigeria has travelled without star paddlers Aruna Quadri (World No. 21) and Segun Toriola.

India men, on the other hand, have stuck to G. Sathiyar (World No. 24) and A. Sharath Kamal (World No. 32) to lead the charge.

That would mean the Indian men will be the team to beat in the team championship.

Even in the women's section, with Singapore not fielding its top four players and Australia travelling without their highest-ranked paddler, Manika Batra-led India will be in contention for the yellow metal. It will be interesting to see if Manika can lead Indian women's charge to a second glory at the Commonwealth stage in as many years.

A tournament guide

THE GROUPS

MEN	WOMEN
Group A: England, Sri Lanka, Cyprus	Group A: Singapore, Wales, Scotland
Group B: India, Singapore, Scotland	Group B: India, South Africa, Sri Lanka
Group C: Nigeria, Malaysia, Bangladesh	Group C: Australia, Malaysia, Cyprus
Group D: Australia, Wales, South Africa	Group D: Nigeria, England, Bangladesh

INDIA SQUADS

MEN	WOMEN
A. Sharath Kamal, G. Sathiyar, A. Amalraj, Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar Coach: Soumyadeep Roy	Manika Batra, Madhurika Patkar, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Archana Kamath and Ayhika Mukherjee Coach: Brett Clarke

India has previously hosted the championship in 1982 (Bombay), 1994 (Hyderabad), 2001 (New Delhi), 2007 (Jaipur), 2013 (New Delhi) and 2015 (Surat)

Gritty India shares honours with Syria

The result knocks the latter out of contention

INTERCONTL. CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
AHMEDABAD

India produced a cohesive display to hold Syria 1-1 in its concluding league outing of the Hero Intercontinental Cup at the EKA Arena here on Tuesday.

Narender Gahlot found the target for India while Firas Alkhatib equalised for Syria off a penalty. The draw saw Tajikistan and DPR Korea progress to the final with six points each while Syria (4) joined India (1) on the sidelines.

India's gritty resistance kept Syria at bay in the first half. Head coach Igor Stimac fielded a side that appeared the best combination from the two previous outings — against Tajikistan and DPR Korea. With Adil Khan suspended (two bookings) and Sandesh Jhingjan injured, Sti-

mac went for a new combination in defence, trying out the young Gahlot and Rahul Bheke in the full-back position. Pritam Kotal retained his right-back spot while Mandar Rao Dessai rejoined the side as a left-back.

Back in the swing

The midfield saw the return of Lallianzuala Chhangte, Anirudh Thapa, Samad Abdul Samad and Udanta Singh, who joined Amarjit Singh Kiyam to make the creative zone a youthful one. Sunil Chhetri, who has 71 international goals, manned the attack while Gurpreet Singh Sandhu regained his position in goal.

Needing a win to secure a spot in the final, Syria pushed for an early lead. India, however, soaked up the pressure and also retained its back-line shape. Gurpreet cleared an attempt by Syrian

striker Mohammad Almarroum in the third minute before India regrouped quickly and almost found the lead in the sixth minute. Udanta essayed a fine cross across the Syrian goalmouth, but Samad and Chhangte failed to tap home in tandem.

Following a barren first half, India returned with more purpose after the break.

It created more chances and finally found the breakthrough in the 52nd minute when Gahlot rose above his marker to head home. This was his first goal in only his second appearance for the country.

India held on to its lead till the 77th minute when the referee awarded a penalty to Syria. Alkhatib made no mistake with it. **The result:** India 1 (Narender Gahlot 52) drew with Syria 1 (Firas Alkhatib 78-pen).



Nodding home: Narender Gahlot hoists the lead for India with a perfect finish. **COURTESY AIFF**

Track trouble for athletes at Bishkek; AFI needs to check injury list

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

Triple jumper Mohammed Salahuddin, who is enjoying the best phase of his career, had just one legal jump at the Tatyana Kolpakova international athletics meet in Kyrgyzstan on Sunday and there was a painful reason for that.

"The track was not in good condition, it was damaged and uneven. And I started getting heel pain from my first jump, so I did not continue after the fourth round," Salahuddin, the country's leading triple jumper this year, told *The Hindu* from Bishkek after his 16.53m second round effort that brought him the gold.

Salahuddin had jumped a personal best 16.64m earlier



Mohammed Salahuddin. **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

this month in another meet at Almaty, Kazakhstan.

"If the heel pain had not appeared, I would have done my best again. Some people had also warned us about the track even before we came here," said the 25-year-old who hopes to qualify for this

September's World championships in Doha (entry standard 16.95m).

Poor condition

"Worst condition...we are lucky we came out without any injuries after competing on that track," said P.T. Usha.

Usha, who was also in Bishkek with quartermiler Jisna Mathew, sent some photos of the track to this correspondent and it clearly appeared worn out and damaged in many places.

"This 'worst condition' athletes ran in Kyrgyzstan," she said.

Some of India's biggest athletes are down with injuries this season.

Asian Games and Commonwealth Games javelin

throw champion Neeraj Chopra had an elbow injury and had surgery a few weeks ago while Hima Das, the under-20 World champion and Asian Games women's 400m silver medallist, had a back injury that forced her to retire midway through the quartermile heats at the Asian championship in Doha in April.

She has been running a series of 200m in meets in Poland and the Czech Republic the last few days.

Back home

Meanwhile quartermiler Arokia Rajiv has returned to India to treat the injury near his big toe.

"I came back three days ago. I had an MRI done and it

does not show anything. So, I don't know what exactly is the problem," said Rajiv. But a national coach revealed that it could be surgery.

That should be a big blow and could hurt the country's relay chances of qualifying for the World championships in September-October in Doha.

And the mile relays are events where the Athletics Federation of India feels that the country has a chance of winning a medal at next year's Tokyo Olympics.

The Indian men's 4x400m team will be running in the Balkan Relays at Erzurum (Turkey) on July 24 and 25.

Poovamma getting better Meanwhile Galina Bukhari-

na, the coach for quartermilers and relays, said that M.R. Poovamma, who had suffered an Achilles heel injury recently, is recovering well.

"It is getting better, she will compete in the Czech Republic on July 20," said Bukharina from the Indian team's training base in Spala, Poland, on Monday evening.

Quartermiler-hurdler A. Dharun is also recovering from a shin bone stress fracture and could be in action in the Czech meet.

With many in the injured list and the Worlds a couple of months away, the national federation should ensure that its athletes are offered quality meets and the best of conditions, be it in India or abroad.

Two Indian pairs begin well

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

The Indian shuttlers had a good day in office at the \$1,250,000 Indonesia Open with two doubles pairs entering the second round of the BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament here on Tuesday.

The men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty saw off Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin 21-19, 18-21, 21-19 in their opening match that lasted an hour, their fourth win over the Malaysian pair.

The world No. 20 Indian pair, who had won the Brazil

International Challenge in May, will face Indonesian top seeds Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo next.

The mixed doubles combination of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Sikki Reddy also dished out an impressive performance, edging out Netherlands' Robin Tabeling and Selena Piek 25-23, 16-21, 21-19 in a 63-minute contest.

Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Ashwini Ponnappa and Sikki fought hard before going down 20-22, 22-20, 20-22 to the Malaysian combination of Vivian Hoo and Yap Cheng Wen in women's doubles.