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WEATHER

Max: 35.0°C
Min: 24.3°C
RH: 57%
R'fall: 1.1 mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Rain, thundershowers likely. Max/Min 34/23°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Ashada Bahula
Vidiya whole day
Star: Sravanam till 1.34 am (Friday)
Variyam: Nil
Durmuhurtam: 10.13 am to 11.04 am; 3.23 pm to 4.15 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR
Ziqaad 14,1440 AH

PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.43 am
Zohar: 12.32 pm
Asar: 4.45 pm
Maghrib: 6.59 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.51 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 7.23 PM
MOONSET TODAY 5.59 AM

COUNTER POINT

This is the safest way for MLAs to reach the Assembly!

India, Israel sign \$50m Navy deal

Jerusalem: State-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) on Wednesday said it has inked a follow-up deal worth \$50 million to supply complementary Naval MRSAM (medium range surface-to-air missile) systems to the Indian Navy.

WORLD 10

House vote condemns Trump's 'racist' tweets

SPORTS 15

Kapil Dev-led panel to pick coach, could divide COA

PAK ARRESTS HAFIZ TO PLACATE U.S.

Under intense pressure to avoid Pakistan's blacklisting by the global body to combat terror financing and ahead of Pakistan PM Imran Khan's forthcoming visit to the US, the Pakistan Punjab police on Wednesday arrested Mumbai attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed on charges of terror financing.

KARNATAKA CRISIS

SC order gives a big jolt to HDK

Can't force MLAs to be in Assembly: Apex court

DC CORRESPONDENTS
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU, JULY 17

Six days after Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy announced that he would be seeking a trust vote despite the resignation of 16 Congress and JD(S) legislators, the Janata Dal(S)-Congress coalition government will on Thursday face the biggest challenge of its 14-month tenure after the Supreme Court ruled that the rebel MLAs cannot be compelled to participate in the House proceedings. "We make it clear that until further orders, the 15 members who are not to be compelled to participate in the proceedings of the House and an option should be given to them that they can take part in the proceedings or opt to remain out of the same," a Supreme Court bench said. This decision means that any whip issued to make the rebels participate in the Assembly and support the coalition government when the confidence motion is put to vote will not apply to them.

BSY READY TO TAKE OATH ON JULY 21 OR 22

● BJP sources confiding that Mr B.S. Yeddyurappa is getting ready to take the oath as CM on July 21 or 22.

RELATED REPORT P7

Another report on P7

CHANDRAYAAN-2 LIKELY TO BE LAUNCHED ON JULY 22

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR I DC
NELLORE, JULY 17

The organisation will finalise the launch after carrying out a series of checks on the launch vehicle GSLV-Mk III, presently at the launch pad in Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Shriharipuram, on Thursday.

Report on Page 6

Jadhav case: Big win for India at ICJ

Pak told to review conviction, allow consular access; Pak says will go as per law

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI I DC
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

In a major victory for India in the high-profile Kulbhusan Jadhav case, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague in the Netherlands on Wednesday held Pakistan guilty of a violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations for its failure to give India consular access to the imprisoned former Indian naval officer, while directing Pakistan to provide "effective review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence" (of death penalty) awarded earlier by a Pakistani military court to Jadhav.

The ICJ also held that the "continued stay of execution constitutes an indispensable condition for an effective review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence" of Mr Jadhav.

Pointing out that the ICJ has asked Islamabad to provide Indian consular officers access to Mr Jadhav in accordance with the Vienna Convention, New Delhi said it expected "Pakistan to implement the directive immediately". In its reaction, a defiant Islamabad merely said it would "proceed as per the law" even as it accused Mr Jadhav of terror acts.

FINAL VERDICT

ICJ President Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf delivered the judgment. Fifteen other judges have concurred with the final verdict. The Pakistani judge has dissented.

● The UN top court has ruled that Pakistan had breached the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, which gives countries the right to consular access when their nationals are arrested abroad.

● The ICJ directs Pakistan to provide "effective review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence" (of death penalty) awarded by a Pakistani military court.

Truth and justice have prevailed. Congratulations to the ICJ for a verdict based on extensive study. — **NARENDRA MODI, PM**

Page 7: ICJ turns down India plea on Jadhav release

Full report on Page 6

METRO RAIL BHAVAN TO BE CM OFFICE

S.A. ISHAQI I DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The state government has decided to temporarily shift the Chief Minister's Office from C Block in the Secretariat to Metro Rail Bhavan at Begumpet, till the proposed new Secretariat building is ready.

Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd's administrative offices are in the four-storey building at Begumpet. Metro Rail authorities admitted that there is a proposal from the state government to give some floors of the building to accommodate the CMO temporarily on rent.

Report on Page 5

HC tells TS Errum Manzil is on heritage buildings list

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA I DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

Digging up Section 6 of the General Clauses Act, which states that the repeal of any Act or regulation does not affect the instances wherein it might have been previously applied, the Telangana High Court said the state government had no authority to put the heritage buildings list on the backburner or to vapourise every sign of its existence.

Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan while heading the bench with Justice Shameem Akther called the provision a "China Wall" for the petitioners appealing against the demolition of Errum Manzil. The bench made the observation on Wednesday when additional advocate general (AAG) J. Ramachandra Rao stated that the Hyderabad zoning regulations had been repealed and therefore, the heritage list was non-existent.

WHEN THE court asked how the state could demolish a building on the heritage list, the AAG said the Huda rule was repealed in 2015 by GO 183 hence the structure is not on the list.

Page 5: Heritage list has to be protection, says HC

2018 saw fall in H-1B visas for Indians

COREENA SUARES I DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

Data available with the US State Department shows that the number of H-1B visas (work visa) issued to Indian professionals dropped by 3,569 in 2018 compared to 2017.

Some 1.25 lakh Indian professionals were granted H-1B visa in 2018, while 1.29 lakh were issued in 2017. However, India continues to get a large share of the H-1B compared to other Asian countries, that is, between 69 per cent and 72 per cent of the total number of such visas issued.

A new law lifting the per-country cap is before the US Senate and India is hoping that the number allotted to it will then increase.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US firms to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. It is a gate pass through which US employers can sponsor skilled workers for admission.

According to official US data, the total number of H-1B visas issued by the US in the financial years 2017 and 2018 was 1,79,049 and 1,79,660, respectively. Out of the total 1,79,660 issued last year, 1,25,528 were issued to Indians.

Page 3: Closer scrutiny reason for fall in H-1Bs

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TTD CANCELS VIP CATEGORIES OF DARSHANS

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, JULY 17

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has revoked the categorisation in the VIP break darshan tickets with immediate effect.

TTD trust board chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy said the move was meant to eliminate the categorisation in darshan as per the instructions issued by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy directing the TTD to prioritise common pilgrims by allowing them more darshan time.

The decision to cancel L1, L2 and L3 darshans — a system that was introduced in 2012 — was implemented with immediate effect. The chairman said, however, that it might take up to two days to develop the new software for a clearer picture of the system which will come into effect thereafter. It was learnt that new system is similar to the Archanantara Darshan system, in vogue before 2012. VIPs under protocol will not suffer any inconvenience, Mr Subba Reddy said.

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Bowenpally 80870 04488 73373 32222 Medchal 91009 03327 Siddipet 70361 11120 80870 04488	Himayatnagar 809 6666 473, 809 6666 096 Malakpet 888 666 3516, 809 6666 065 LB Nagar 79979 66069, 809 6666 054 Madinaguda 888 666 3435, 809 6666 386 KPHB Manjeera Mall 79979 67374, 79979 66770	Lakdi-ka-pul 90609 56789 ECIL 'X' Roads 90609 56789 Hi-Tech City 90609 56789 Shaikpet 90609 56789 Gachibowli 90609 56789	S.P. Road, Begumpet 98488 99762 Jubilee Hills 96660 22254 Erragadda 91000 41360 Banjara Hills 91000 85203	Mettaguda, Secunderabad 040-6681 1111 98850 77777, 92480 77777 Trimulsherry 040-27745555, 91180 55555 88630 99999



New move

GHMC's Musharraf Ali Faruqi announces trial run of electric bollards at Charminar to demarcate pedestrian, vehicle zones



Challenge KCR to go for direct elections as 'Brand Modi' will work in TS

— Bandi Sanjay
BJP MP

BRIEF

KIN DONATE BRAIN DEAD MAN'S ORGANS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

Five organs of Anumula Srinivas, 40, an employee of the postal department, were donated to the Jeevandan scheme after he was declared brain dead.

Srinivas, posted in Warangal, was returning from work when he lost control of his two-wheeler and fell down. He suffered a severe head injury and was rushed to the hospital. He was shifted to another hospital for better treatment but did not recover. He was declared brain dead after 44 hours.

His wife Mamatha agreed to donate his organs donation and the kidneys, corneas and a liver where donated to the government scheme.

WOMAN INJURED IN PIG ATTACK

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 17

A pig has attacked a woman in Gajuwaka in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday morning. Passersby tried to rescue her but it took more than five minutes to drive it away.

The incident took place at Tenneti Viswanadham Colony when the woman, P. Latha, went to throw garbage at a dump. She fell on the road after the pig began attacking. The people beat it repeatedly to drive it away. Ms Latha was shifted to the Aganampudi community health centre where she was administered an anti-rabies shot and referred to the King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam.

RADIO STILL IMPACTS RURAL LIFE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

A study conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj revealed that community radio can facilitate the proper implementation of government schemes and its benefits in rural areas.

Community radio is a short-range, non-profit radio station meant to inform people in the languages and formats appropriate in their local context.

It was found that radio stations can help lead conversations in rural development-related issues like gram panchayat development plan, social audit, water harvesting and solar panel installation.

The community radio station in Pastapur, Medak district, is a success story. It is funded by the Deccan Development Society and is being run by three local women, Ms 'General' Narsamma, Ms Algaloo Narsamma and Ms Pullamma, for 20 years now. The radio station reaches 30 villages with information about health, sanitation, education and rural governance.

The study by NIRDPR found that programmes on women's health subjects like gynaecology and rural taboos can be used to spread awareness among rural women. The study recommends the ministries of culture, information, broadcasting and rural panchayati raj to lead a convergence of panchayati raj institutions and rural community radio stations. This will help spread awareness on rural development issues but also bring transparency at the grassroots level.

Highlighting the impact of rural community radio, Dr Akanksha Shukla said, "Talking on the radio allows villagers to feel like celebrities, so people do look forward to participating in such programmes. With its appeal, the community-based tool can be used to reap its various rural development benefits."

CHANGING FACES OF THE MOON



The various phases of the moon seen during the partial lunar eclipse in the early hours of Wednesday. The eclipse was seen between 1.45 am and 3 am. A surprisingly clear sky gave diehard astronomy followers a clear view of the eclipse.

— GANDHI

Borewells to 'return' water back to earth

GHMC to instal injection borewells in all apartments

MADHY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has decided to instal injection borewells in all residential properties by next summer to beat acute water crisis. It has already started fixing systems at roadside locations prone to waterlogging.

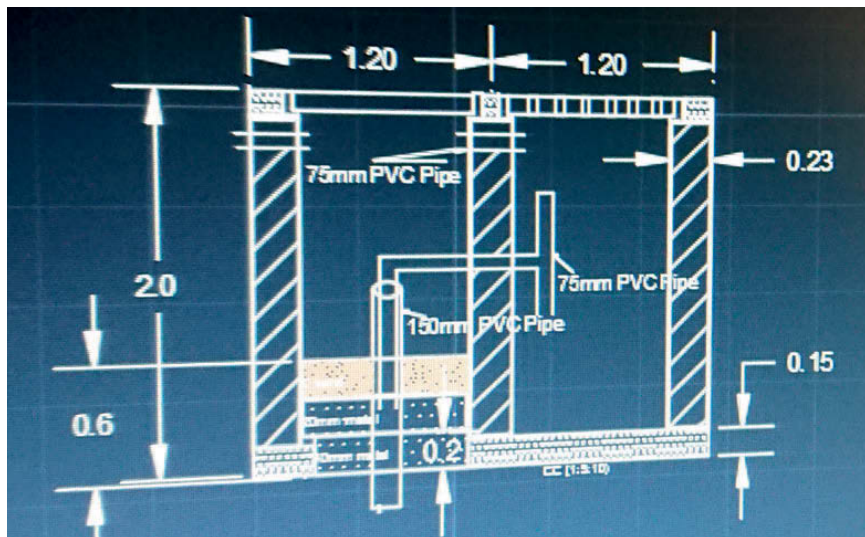
Officials said injection borewells, costing between ₹50,000 and ₹70,000 each, will be dug to 1/3 of the actual depth of the borewell constructions in the vicinity. The proposal aims at 100 per cent rainwater conservation.

Highly placed sources in the corporation said a group of engineers accompanied by groundwater department officials will visit target locations to set up injection borewells since the water table varies in different areas. The corporation will first conduct a meeting with residential welfare associations, colony welfare associations and apartment owners and explain to them the benefits of installing injection borewells. Emphasis will be laid on apartments for they draw water from single borewells and because it will prove cost-effective for owners.

The corporation will construct a mechanism wherein the rainwater collected on the roof will be routed to the injection borewell that will recharge the groundwater. Corporation officials will help citizens in setting up the mechanism, however, residents will have to bear the cost of the injection borewell or dry well.

A senior GHMC official on condition of anonymity said although rainwater harvesting pits were made mandatory, they haven't yielded good results because property owners have been not maintaining them. He said harvesting pits require about ₹ 35,000 for construction and need regular maintenance for best results.

Unlike harvesting pits, injection borewells require only minimal maintenance. He said the corporation will prioritise installing injection borewells in all major gated residential communities first. Any further delay in the installation will cause a rise in the likelihood and magnitude of the water crisis in the



THE CORPORATION HAS IDENTIFIED 160 LOCATIONS GENERALLY PRONE TO SEVERE FLOODING

The corporation has identified residential areas to construct injection borewells to recharge groundwater levels, which have depleted by over **1,500ft**

The civic body will focus on the western part of the city, especially areas like Serilingampally, Bachupally, Manikonda, Patancheru and Puppalguda, where groundwater levels have depleted by over 2000 feet. Emphasis will be laid on Mega Hills across the 100-foot road.

- The corporation has developed a unique mechanism to filter the rainwater flowing into injection borewells so only pure water is sent to the ground.
- Injection borewells to become mandatory to beat the water crisis in the city.
- Gated communities and apartments will be targeted first.
- Officials opine that recharging groundwater through injection borewells at ₹50,000 is a better alternative to spending ₹5 lakh-₹10 lakh annually on water tankers.
- Emphasis will be laid on apartments for they draw water from single borewells and because it will prove cost-effective for owners.

WATER BOARD OFFICIAL

Only pure water will enter

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has developed a special mechanism to collect pure rainwater from water clogged roads. Corporation officials noticed that although injection borewells were constructed in flood-prone areas, they mostly ended up collecting water mixed with petroleum discharge

and overflowing sewer water. Officials claimed that to prevent sending contaminated water to the ground, injection borewells will be designed to collect all oil deposits on top and all solid deposits at the bottom. This mechanism will best suit the city's requirements, they said.

A senior GHMC official said roadside injection borewells will pass through rainwater har-

vesting pits.

Two 75-mm PVC pipes — one installed in the centre and one constructed perpendicular to it in the collection chamber — will facilitate separation of oil and solid deposits from water. This mechanism will enable pure rainwater to enter the ground through the injection borewells. This will be implemented at all 160 flood-prone locations identified thus far.

Presently, the water level in the Sriramsagar project on Wednesday stood at 1,048.4 feet as against its full reservoir level of 1,091 ft. The same day last year, the level was 1059.7 ft (13.28 tmc ft). Against the storage capacity of 90,313 tmc ft, the SRSP has merely 5.36 tmc. Outflow for drinking water needs was 226 cusecs on Wednesday.

In Nizamsagar, the water level is 1,366.74 ft against its FRL of 1,405 ft. Against the storage of 17,803 tmc ft, the project has 0.08 tmc ft. Last year, on the same day, water in the Nizamsagar stood at 1385.06 ft and storage was 2.39 tmc ft, data with the government showed.

after several brainstorming sessions with water conservation experts. Further, in the future, occupancy certificates will be issued only for properties with injection borewells, going by this process.

CJ rues no one pointed to crucial legal provision

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan said it was unfortunate that no petitioner or government counsel in the Errum Manzil case had raised section 6 of the General Clauses Act. As per the provision, the repeal of any Act or regulation does not affect its past applications.

While hearing the government's side on the petitions against the proposed demolition of Errum Manzil, Justice Chauhan, who headed the bench with Justice Shameem Akther, hit back at additional advocate general J. Ramachandra Rao's comment that the bench itself

had developed the case for the petitioners.

Justice Chauhan said that as the law officer of the state, the additional advocate general should have first brought the provision to the notice of the court and the government. The Chief Justice explained that the court cannot suppress the existing provision i.e. Section 6, which the petitioners' counsels ought to have raised.

He said it was unethical for the court to issue orders without considering Section 6. The case could have escalated to the Supreme Court, which would opine then that the High Court bench was unaware of the existing sections, Justice Chauhan said.

COURT IS READY TO INTERVENE EVEN AT NIGHT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

A bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Shameem Akther assured counsel for the legal heirs of Fakhru Ali, the builder of Errum Manzil, that they can approach the court even at night if the government moves to demolish the structure.

Petitioners' counsel then asked the court to issue status quo orders. The bench turned down this request.

Heritage list not hit by repeal: HC

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

Digging up Section 6 of the General Clauses Act, which states that the repeal of any Act or regulation does not affect the instances wherein it might have been previously applied, the Telangana High Court said the state government had no authority to put the heritage buildings list on the back-burner or to vapourise every sign of its existence.

Additional advocate general J. Ramachandra Rao said there was no heritage

repealed in 2015 by GO 183. In response, Justice Chauhan asked the AAG to look into Section 6 of the General Clauses Act, the provision that expounds the effects of a repeal of an Act or regulation.

The Chief Justice then clarified that as per the provision, the heritage list, comprising 137 buildings and 15 other structures and prepared by the Heritage Conservation Committee, was never affected by the repeal. According to section 6, the buildings mentioned in the list have to be protected.

The bench concluded that to alter or demolish any structure mentioned in the heritage list, the government must first take permission from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Agency.

The case was adjourned to July 22 for submissions from the Telangana government on the petitions. The court is dealing with a batch of writ petitions against the state government's proposal to demolish the Errum Manzil. One of the main contentions is that the structure is a heritage monument, which the government has strenuously denied.



The Nizamsagar project has water till 1,366.74 ft against its full reservoir level of 1,405 feet. Against the full storage capacity of 17,803 tmc ft, the project had merely 0.08 tmc ft on Wednesday. The same day last year it had 2.39 tmc ft.

Projects in north TS have almost run dry

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, JULY 17

Major irrigation projects in composite Nizamabad district have not yet received inflows from upstream areas.

There is no water flow in the river Godavari and its tributary, the Manjeera, passing through Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts.

Shortage of water in Sriramsagar and Nizamsagar projects till mid-July is worrying people. These two projects not only cater to agricultural needs, they also provide drinking water to more than six districts, especially, undivided Nizamabad, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Karimnagar. Deficit rainfall in the catchment areas is also adversely affecting water storage in both the projects.

The Godavari get water from rain in Maharashtra and the Manjeera from Karnataka. The dry spell is continuing in the southern states leaving the rivers dry. Interestingly, dams across the Godavari and the Manjeera in upstream areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka have also been facing a similar situation of water shortage.

Presently, the water level in the Sriramsagar project on Wednesday stood at 1,048.4 feet as against its full reservoir level of 1,091 ft. The same day last year, the level was 1059.7 ft (13.28 tmc ft). Against the storage capacity of 90,313 tmc ft, the SRSP has merely 5.36 tmc. Outflow for drinking water needs was 226 cusecs on Wednesday.

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State looks for alternatives

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, JULY 17

The farm department responded to the dry spell conditions in the district and evolved two alternative kharif crop plans. The two alternative crop plans are related to the two different schedules.

The targeted crop extent of the present kharif plans is different. The extent was taken as per the average cultivable area of the kharif season. As part of the first plan, farmers were asked to go to the irrigated dry crops from July 30. Farmers have to raise maize paddy, green gram, red gram, cotton and chilli in the July 30 time schedule.

The target of area is pruned to 1.41 lakh hectares against 1.92 lakh hectares of cultivable area in the first plan. Farmers should raise maize, cotton and chilli over a limited extent.

Paddy farmers were asked to raise the crop under minor irrigation tanks and borewells. The extent of paddy was reduced from 59,000 to 43,000 hectares. Cotton farmers should

Id sow 65,000 hectares as against 96,000 hectares in the district. The cultivable extent and crops have been decided based on the June and July rainfall and available water.

In case the dry spell continues after July 30, officials will ready the second crop plan from August 15. The government is not hopeful of receiving water for the Srissalam and Nagari-unasagar. The second plan is designed based on the expected rainfall in the coming days.

In the second plan, farmers were advised to go for short time yielding varieties in it. The cultivable area in the second plan will be less when compared to the first one.

The cultivable extent will be 1.10 lakh hectares in the second plan, 81,000 hectares less than the norm.

The paddy sown area will be 19,500 hectares against the total of 59,000 hectares. Cotton will be allowed on 68,000 hectares against 96,000 hectares. There is no chance of raising green gram and crops like red gram and maize are reduced to 60 per cent.



Haj ready

Deputy Mayor Baba Fasiuddin reviews arrangements for pilgrims at Haj House ahead of the pilgrimage



Appeal to Muslims to sacrifice sheep instead of cows during Bakrid

— Mohammed Mahmood Ali
Home minister

IN BRIEF

POWER | SHUTDOWN

10 am to 12 noon: RP Road, Andhra Bank area, Aavulamandi, Chandana Brothers, Bommana Brothers, Rangaraj Bazaar, Kummabasthi

10 am to 1 pm: Deepti Apts, Iskon Siemens, Keyes High School, St Francis School, Hill Street, Gopalapuram, Archana Arcade; Langer Houz crossroad, Pensionpura, Golla Basthi, Baghdad Colony, Ahmed Colony, Company Bagh, Military Hospital, Indiranagar, Flour Mill, Himadiya Masjid, Ek Minar Masjid, New Hakeemsha, Masjid PT, Kala bungalow, Kousar Bakery

12 noon to 2 pm: RP road, Shivajinagar, Shankar Veedi

2 pm to 4 pm: Basera Hotel, ICICI Bank, St Mary Church, IBP petrol bunk, St Ann's School, South India Church, Madhava Hospital

4 pm to 5 pm: Monda Market, Anjaiah complex, Victoria-gunji, Hill Street, Janambhoomi, Audiahnagar, government school.

2 pm to 5 pm: Palika Bazaar, South India Church, Prakash Hospital, old Gandhi Hospital area; Humayunnagar, Mehdi-patnam, MIGH, Srirammagar, Muradnagar, Niloufer Hospital, Lakdikapul, AC Guards, Saleem function Hall, Nampally police station, town planning, office Election Commissioner's Office, municipal commissioner's office, Ganga Jamuna Hotel.

Haj Panel borrows ₹1 cr for camp

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The process of departure for Haj has started, but the state government has not provided money to conduct camps for the pilgrims. This has forced the Haj Committee to borrow ₹1 crore from the Telangana State Urdu Academy.

The Haj Committee requires more than ₹1 crore for the Haj camp and had sought this money from the government. The file is yet to be cleared by the finance department.

Haj Committee chairman Mohammed Masihullah said the borrowed amount will be returned after receiving the money from government.

Disqualified corporator gets relief

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The High Court on Wednesday issued interim stay orders on the disqualification of Kache-guda corporator Ekkala Chaitanya Kanna for having three children. The Chief Judge of the City Civil Court cum Election Tribunal had disqualified Chaitanya on a petition by Uma Devi Ramesh Yadav of the BJP.

The High Court was dealing with a petition filed by Chaitanya against the disqualification order.

PHOREN | DREAM India confident new US law will help applicants

Close scrutiny, fewer visas

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

Data available with the State Department of the United States of America shows that the number of H-1B visas (work visa) issued to Indian professionals dropped by 3,569 in 2018 compared to 2017.

Overseas consultants cite reasons like excess scrutiny of applicants, the aggressive policies of the Trump administration aimed at clamping down on work visas, and the US government coming down heavily on firms violating H-1B visa rules.

"If at all there is a decrease it could only be marginal. This could be owing to the new excessive scrutiny of how Indian sponsor companies are utilising their visas. However, Indian professionals will continue to be major consumers of H-1B visas because there is no other source in the world for techies but India," said Xavier Augustin, founder and CEO of Y-AXIS, an employment consultancy firm.

Officials in the external affairs ministry attribute the fall in numbers to cer-

tain administrative measures with respect to the H-1B visa programme that involved closer scrutiny of H-1B applications.

"Government of India has closely consulted all stakeholders and engaged with the US Administration and Congress on issues related to the movement of Indian professionals, including those pertaining to the H-1B programme," said MEA authorities.

The H-1B visa issue was raised during the visit of US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo to India in June 2019. "The ministry has emphasised that India

has a mutually-beneficial partnership with the US and Indian skilled professionals have contributed to the growth and development of the US economy. Besides, Indian tech has helped the US retain its competitive edge and innovation advantage. The US side has valued the contribution made by Indian nationals in the US," said an MEA statement.

The MEA is confident that the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019 passed by the US House of Representatives will help increase the H-1B visa quote for Indian profes-

City air 'clean' in global charts

Hyd has 171th dirtiest air in the world

ANURAG | DC
HYDERABAD JULY 17

According to a report published by IQAir AirVisual, 13 of the top 15 polluted cities around the world are from India. As per the study, Gurugram with its average AQI of 135.8 is the most polluted city in the world followed by Ghaziabad at 135.2, Faridabad at 129.1, Bhiwandi at 125.4 and Noida at 123.6.

Hyderabad with its global average of 44.2 secured rank 171 in the list while Visakhapatnam with its average of 52.8 secured rank 112.

This data was compiled by aggregating and validating real-time data from governments and the monitors operated by individuals and organisations to educate people about the concentration of Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 particles in the air. IQAir AirVisual is a leading Switzerland-based provider of global air quality data.

Pollution expert W.G. Prassana said, "Dust from roads and construction sites and hydrocarbon combustion are the major sources of particulate matter. To improve air quality, introducing efficient public transport should be given foremost priority. We need to reduce our dependence on diesel and petrol and move to alternative technology."

Past studies have identified a range of natural and man-made sources of particulate matter. Common sources include combustion (vehicle engines, industry, wood, coal) and other pollutants reacting in the atmosphere.

IQAir AirVisual researchers conducted this study in over 3000

MOST POLLUTED CITIES

Gurugram	135.8
Ghaziabad	135.2
Faisalabad, Pakistan	130.4
Faridabad	129.1
Bhiwandi	125.4
Noida	123.6
Patna	119.7
Lucknow	115.7
Lahore, Pakistan	114.9
Delhi	113.5

MOST POLLUTED COUNTRIES

Based on estimated average PM2.5 concentration

Bangladesh	97.1
Pakistan	74.3
India	72.5
Afghanistan	61.8
Bahrain	59.8
Mongolia	58.5
Kuwait	56.0
Nepal	54.2
United Arab Emirates	49.9
Nigeria	44.8

Studies have identified a range of natural and man-made sources of particulate matter. These include combustion (vehicle engines, industry, wood, coal) and other pollutants and dust.

cities across the world, and 64 per cent cities were found to surpass WHO's annual exposure guidelines (PM 2.5). An alarming 95 per cent South Asian cities exceed WHO standards. Experts say public availability of data not only empowers the people to respond to the cur-

rent condition and protect human health but also facilitates public awareness and action to combat air pollution in the long run.

Pollution control entrepreneur Parth Pandey said, "The existing rules of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), National Green Tribunal (NGT), Pollution Control Board (PCB) and other enforcing bodies are sufficient, however, they are not being implemented effectively. Most sectors have a bypass system for the rules, and one reason for such loopholes is their feasibility. If our industries begin to follow every rule in the book, then they risk operating at half profit or less."

Botox now works for pelvic pain

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 14

The use of botulinum toxin to relieve pain in the bladder or pelvic muscle spasm has shown a positive outcome in controlled trials published in the *Regional Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine*. This could pave the way for better treatment of the disease, which otherwise depends on hormonal therapy, opioids and painkillers.

The study was carried out in women who were in their pre- and post-menopausal stage and reported of experiencing pelvic floor spasm or bladder pain.

Dr Ruma Sinha, senior gynaecologist at Apollo Hospitals, explained, "Presently, botulinum toxin is used in a very small diluted dose for the treatment of bladder pain which is based on these trials. We are using this for those patients who have taken hormonal therapy and medication and still complain of pain. But

THE TRIAL was on a small number of patients where the long-term outcomes and follow-up would give better insights, doctors said.

There is a need for more studies on the long term outcomes of endometriosis pain."

There are multiple modalities used for relief as the pain is debilitating and hampers the quality of life. The trial was on a small number of patients where the long-term outcomes and follow-up would give better insights.

Dr Geeta Naidu, senior gynaecologist, said the disability during these painful times was one of the major problems faced by women as they have difficulty carrying out normal day-to-day work. "This affects them not only physically but also mentally and most of them get addicted to painkillers to relieve themselves of the pain."

TIRUPATI-HYD SPICEJET PLANE HIT BY GLITCH

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, JULY 17

A Spicejet plane returned to the Tirupati airport 10 minutes after take-off after a snag was detected. The plane was bound for Hyderabad.

All 74 passengers on board the flight, among them YSRC MP Avinash Reddy, were safe.

The flight from Hyderabad had reached Tirupati one hour behind schedule at 8.30 am. It left for its return flight to Hyderabad at 9 am. Sources said the pilot reported a snag and the plane returned to Tirupati.

Passengers became restless when the Spicejet refused to refund the fare and said they would be accommodated in other flights scheduled for the afternoon and evening.

A passenger, Mr Saikrishna of Puttur, said he had urgent work at the railway office in Hyderabad but the flight was an hour late schedule and then returned to Tirupati.

There will never be any shortage: Water Board

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 17

Metropolitan Water Board managing director M. Dana Kishore on Wednesday said the city was getting sufficient quantity of water from projects on the Krishna and the Godavari rivers.

He said that the city would not face any crisis given the amount of water available.

Mr Kishore said the requires 420 million gallons a day (MGD). Kaleshwaram via Yellampally was a perennial source of 172 MGD and the Krishna river gives 270 MGD to the city. The Nagarjuna-

gar even at dead storage levels can supply 270 MGD for more than an year, with pumping. Yellampally which has a capacity of 20 tmc ft. It has 4.87 tmc ft water, and only 0.83 tmc ft is being drawn.

Under the Kaleshwaram project, the Yellampally barrage is a major balancing reservoir. It receives supplies of about 180 tmc ft from Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla.

Monsoon inflows had begun at Yellampally and it would also get water from its own catchment area.

Explaining the reliability of supply sources on the

Krishna, Mr Kishore said the Water Board has drawn the full quantity of water through emergency pumping. He said the board had the experience to draw the full design capacity of 270 MGD per day even from depleted storage.

Mr Kishore said that the Krishna river was a perennial source for the city, the it was bound to get inflows during the monsoon.

Mr Kishore said that the Sewerage Board was hunting for ₹8,000 crore for the sewerage master plan. Work would be expedited on the 10-tmc ft Keshavapuram reservoir.

GHMC rescues two kittens from a well

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD JULY 17

Two kittens which fell into a 40-feet well in Malkajgiri were rescued by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation officials on Wednesday.

The civic body's Disaster Response Force (DRF) saved the kittens after a resident informed the GHMC officials about the kittens.

The DRF personnel entered the well and took the kitten out with the help of a rope.

The residents said that when they saw the kitten, they tried their best to take them out but the well was too deep. "We heard sound on Sunday but we were unable to locate where it was coming from. After find the kittens, we tried taking



GHMC's disaster relief personnel hold the rescued kittens.

them out but because of lack of equipment and fear of incurring any injury, we informed the GHMC who took the kitten out. While the kittens were in the well, we gave them milk and biscuits in a bucket," said one of the residents.

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NOTIFICATION
Notification No. JNTUHS/Asst. Prof./C/2019 Dt. 18-07-2019
Applications from M.Tech. / Ph.D. Graduates are invited for the appointment of Assistant Professor (Contract) in School of Information Technology, JNTUH, purely on temporarily basis for a period of one academic year 2019-20.
Further details and application form are available on our website: www.jntuh.ac.in
Sd/- DIRECTOR, School of IT, JNTUH

PROF. G.RAM REDDY CENTRE FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION
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ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-20 COURSES OFFERED

Course	Years	Eligibility
M.B.A.	2 yrs	Graduate with qualifying in TS ICET / AP ICET-2019 or ET conducted by PGRRCDE, OU
M.C.A.	3 yrs	Any Graduate with qualifying in TS ICET / AP ICET-2019 or ET conducted by PGRRCDE, OU
M.A. (Urdu / Hindi / Telugu / Sanskrit / English)	2 yrs	A Graduate in the concerned subject
M.A. (Philosophy/Sociology/ Public Personal Mgt)	2 yrs	Graduate of any faculty
M.A. (Economics/Pol.Sci/Hist/History/Psychology)	2 yrs	A Graduate in the concerned subject at U.G. level
M.Com	2 yrs	Pass in B.Com
M.Sc. (Mathematics)	2 yrs	A Graduate in the concerned subject
M.Sc. (Statistics)	2 yrs	Graduate with Mathematics and Statistics
B.A.	3 yrs	Inter or 10+2 level exam Pass
B.A. (Mathematics & Statistics)	3 yrs	Inter or 10+2 with Mathematics as one of the optional subject
B.Com (General)	3 yrs	Inter or 10+2 level exam Pass
B.B.A.	3 yrs	Inter or 10+2 level exam Pass
P.G. Diploma in Mathematics	1 yr	Graduate of any faculty, (3 YDC)
P.G. Diploma in English Language Teaching	1 yr	Graduate of any faculty, (3 YDC)
P.G. Diploma in Business Management	1 yr	Graduate of any faculty, (3 YDC)
P.G. Diploma in Bioinformatics	1 yr	B.Sc/ M.Sc/ B.Sc (Ag)/ B.Pharmacy/ BVSc/ MBBS/ BDS/ BAMS/ BUMS/ BHMS/ BE with 50% of marks
P.G. Diploma in Computer Applications (Two Semesters)	1 yr	Graduate of any faculty

For On-line registration and admission details visit website: www.oucdce.net
Admissions start from: 18th July, 2019
Last date for Admission without Late fee is: 30th September, 2019.
Sd/- DIRECTOR

75 YEARS OF DECCAN CHRONICLE
Linked for the future

Hyderabad

IMAGES AND MEMORIES

We wrapped up our celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of Deccan Chronicle on May 15, by bringing a special compilation of seventy-five stories filled with intrigue and delight from the final days of the Nizamshahi, titled *Hyderabad: Images & Memories*

From the palace mysteries and murder plots to the Nizam's 3,000 wives and how the ruler faced allegations of kidnapping his bride, all under the watchful eyes of the British, it is all there.

We scoured the archives and collected anecdotal evidence from several actors of that era to discover delightful asides like how the motichur laddus got their name, how an aide saved the Nizam's legendary treasures for the royal family and how Indira Gandhi floored the Nizam.

There are more than 75 pictures, a few of them rare and perhaps being published for the first time.

HYDERABAD: IMAGES AND MEMORIES
The hard-bound : ₹2,000, Soft cover : ₹1,500.
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NOW AVAILABLE



Police effort

DGP M. Mahendar Reddy says women's safety is taken to the next level with NRI Women Safety Cell



Sonia Gandhi must become saviour of the Indian National Congress

—V. Hanumantha Rao
Senior Congress leader

BRIEF

Jobless man cheated of ₹5L

Hyderabad: A man who was on a job search fell prey to cyber fraudsters who offered him a job as a ticketing agent and took ₹5 lakh from him. The victim, 20, resident of LB Nagar had uploaded his resume on a job portal. He received a call offering to recruit him for an airline job and gave his details. He later received a call offering him a job as airline ticketing executive in the US with a salary of about ₹28,000 per month. In exchange, he paid up ₹5 lakh. He moved the cops when the fraudsters demanded more money.

MBA student held with ganja

Hyderabad: Three drug peddlers, including an MBA student-turned-drug peddler, were arrested by the Medchal district Task Force and dry ganja worth ₹1 lakh was found in their possession. The task force was tipped off and conducted a route watch at Gundlupochampally. Police nabbed Thakur Akash Singh, 23, and a habitual offender, and his accomplice T Gopal, 21m with 21.98 kg of dry ganja. Inspector O. Sahadevudu said, "We also nabbed P. Sai Teja, 23, an MBA student turned drug peddler, who was smuggling dry ganja. The police recovered 4 kg of ganja from his possession." Sai Teja was initially a customer of Akash Singh before branching out.

Family jailed for harassing

Hyderabad: The Second Additional Sessions Judge Court at LB Nagar convicted a man and his parents of domestic violence and attempt to murder. Prime accused G. Srinivas, 29, husband of the victim Kavitha, was sentenced to four years jail and his G. Rama Rao, 52, and Subba Laxmi, 48, to two years. The case was registered at Keesara police station in 2013. Police found Kavitha was harassed for more dowry. A panchayat of elders counselled the family but there was no change in their behaviour, police said.

Man stabbed in group clash

Hyderabad: One person was stabbed and another received injuries when two groups clashed, reportedly over a girl, at Brindavan Colony, Tolichowki, on Tuesday night. One group led by Sharugh, Salauddin and Rahman started an argument with Syed Muteen about his friend Md Ahmed's love affair with a girl. Golconda inspector K. Chandra Shekar Reddy said that in the melee, auto dealer Md Masood, 23, was stabbed in the chest.

ACB TO PROBE ESI MEDICINE PURCHASE SCAM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD JULY 17
The ACB is likely to probe the scam that was unearthed in the ESI by the vigilance and enforcement wing recently. The V&E wing had concluded that there was a multi-core scam in the supply of medicines to dispensaries and ESI Hospitals by non-rate contract firms, involving top government officers. The V&E after studying the supply of medicines between 2016 and 2018 found largescale violations and recommended disciplinary action against the officials. The ACB is likely to probe the role of at least half a dozen officials including ESI director Devika Rani in the alleged swindle of ₹200 crore. Ms Rani is accused of setting up benami firms to supply drugs at escalated prices. The V&E had inspected several firms.

Doctors fail rape victims

Poor collection of samples hampers trial, affects victims

COREENA SUARES I DC HYDERABAD, JULY 17

A large number of vaginal swabs and semen samples collected in rape cases do not yield accurate results, because the substance collected is not sealed properly nor stored at a suitable temperature. This mishandling is likely to hamper the investigation.

The forensic department of the AIIMS is battling for a one-stop sexual assault examination, enabled with state-of-the-art DNA collection and testing facilities. The lack of proper facilities at hospitals has been found to have a direct correlation with the quality of DNA evidence collected.

Dr Sudhir K. Gupta, head of the AIIMS department of forensic medicine, said that vaginal swabs and semen samples must be

THE FORENSIC department of the AIIMS is battling for a one-stop sexual assault examination, enabled with DNA collection and testing facilities.

analysed quickly. "Currently, 80-90 per cent of samples do not yield viable results either because they are not collected and sealed properly, or because they are stored at an unsuitable temperature. There is a dire need for educating and training first-line responders on proper collection and handling of DNA samples while at the same time creating dedicated infrastructure to attend to rape survivors".

According to AIIMS statistics, 40,000 cases of rape are reported in

India every year. The post-trauma care that survivors get at authorised hospitals is still poor.

"At present, government hospitals just provide a room in the existing gynaecological emergency with no dedicated forensic staff. They even send them to the regular OPD (out-patient department) which can take days," added Dr Gupta.

Creation of one-stop sexual assault examination and care centres will help sexual assault or rape victims, because the centre will preserve the forensic evidence. This is vital as there is a steady rise in demand for DNA testing in rape cases.

The number of DNA profiles derived from crime scene evidence has doubled over a year, from 10,000 cases tested in 2017 to nearly 20,000 this year. Despite an

uptick in the number of profiles being tested, the volume remains low considering that four cases of rape are registered hourly.

Statistics show a dramatic increase in the number of crimes against women, which have increased more than 80 per cent over 10 years. But only one in four rape cases results in a conviction.

Forensic DNA has emerged as the most reliable crime fighting technology the world over.

Many countries are effectively using forensic labs and protocols to collect, test and compare DNA at crime scenes with that of suspects, with promising results. India has been slow to follow suit. Lack of scientific methods in investigations and absence of a policy framework continues to hamper justice.

Realtor who drove SUV into wife's car arrested

JAYENDRA T. CHAITANYA I DC HYDERABAD, JULY 17

A realtor from the city, who attempted to kill his wife by ramming her car with an SUV because she had lodged complaints against him and his family members, has been arrested by the Medipally police.

According to the Medipally police, the attempt to murder P. Sangeetha Reddy took place on June 26, when she was on her way to another town via Medipally. Sangeetha was married to P. Srinivas

POLICE SAID realtor P. Srinivas Reddy and his wife Sangeetha were estranged. On June 26, Srinivas tried to ram his SUV into Sangeetha's car on the highway. He later escaped.

Reddy, 35, a realtor from Saraswati Nagar in Boduppal. She had been at loggerheads with her husband's family and had lodged complaints against them at the police station. For this, Srinivas

wanted to kill her, a police officer said.

On June 26, Srinivas drove out in his SUV (TS08 EC 346) after removing its registration number plates on the front and rear. He hit his wife's vehicle, but she survived the murderous attempt and lodged a complaint.

Srinivas, who has been absconding since then, was caught at Boduppal on Tuesday evening and his car was seized. He was placed under arrest and produced before a court which remanded him to judicial custody, said the police.

TV channel finally sets up panel for women

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

Following a complaint against the organisers of the TV show *Big Boss 3* at two police stations in the city, the seven-member internal committee was formed to look into the complaints of sexual harassment. This is mandatory under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

The committee asked the victims to submit a written complaint detailing the names of the Star Maa employees concerned and their alleged misbehaviour.

Two cases were filed against the Big Boss organisers, one in Banjara Hills and another in Raidurgam. On Saturday, a city based woman journal-

RELIEF FOR TV MAN

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

Justice Ghandikota Sri Devi of the High Court directed the Telangana police to not take coercive steps against Abhishek Mukherjee, creative director of the reality show *Bigg Boss 3*.

TWO CASES were filed against the Big Boss organisers, one in Banjara Hills and another in Raidurgam according to the police.

ist complained to the Banjara Hills police that the Star-Maa reality show *Big Boss 3* organisers Ravikanth, Raghu, Abhishek and Shyam had misbehaved

with her. The Banjara Hills police registered a case under section 354 IPC (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty). The next day film actress Gayathri Gupta lodged a similar complaint at the Raidurgam police station. Raidurgam police registered a case against the same organisers under Section 354 of the IPC.

POLICE SETS UP NRI WOMEN'S SAFETY CELL

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

An NRI women's safety cell has been formed to provide legal guidance to women in troubled NRI marriages. It is supported by NILA, an NGO for aggrieved women in NRI marriages.

IG, Women Safety Cell, Swati Lakra, said: "The cell will guide station house officers during investigations of cases related to harassment of NRI spouse or relatives. Training in investigation and various procedures will be given to the SHOs. Legal guidance will be given to the victims."

Regional passport officials are involved as they are competent authority to cancel passports. Mr Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Regional Passport Officer, Hyderabad, said, "The ministry of external affairs is sensitive to the harassment of women by NRI spouses. The MEA has established an Integrated Nodal Agency to help such victims in fighting legal battles. Embassies in various countries have been allotted a budget to support the victims in emergencies and also 193 NGOs provide support in counselling and legal advice."

Ms Tripuraneni Venkataratnam, former chairperson of the State Women's Commission emphasised that the registration of NRI marriages should be brought in force. Enforced Previous circulars and letters written by magistrates in cases of such harassments will be helpful for the SHOs.

IN VIRAL VIDEO, BORROWER SAYS HE WILL END LIFE

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, JULY 17

A merchant who reportedly owed creditors ₹8 crore has posted a selfie video saying he will commit suicide and has gone missing for the last five days.

The video of merchant Rayapati Narasimha Rao was posted to his friends and family members and went viral in Khammam on Wednesday.

As per the video, Narasimha Rao said he will commit suicide because of mounting debts. He runs an advertising agency and other businesses and had borrowed ₹8 crore.

He listed the names of his borrowers. He also listed out the names of people who he said owed him money.

SIBLINGS IN THEIR THIRTIES SUCCUMB TO SUICIDE BID

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD JULY 17

Manu Kharbanda, 34, who had attempted suicide last week after the death of her parents, died while undergoing treatment at a hospital on Wednesday. She and her brother, Nikhil, 30, had consumed poison on July 11. Nikhil died on Monday.

On Thursday last, police found the bodies of Neelam Kharbanda, 56, and her husband Pavan, 65, in their rented flat at Durgabai Deshmukh Colony. Their two children were unconscious, having consumed poison. It was not clear if Pavan had also consumed poison after his wife's death or had died of a heart attack.

Their relatives had tried to call them as they had not heard from the family. When no one responded, they went to the police who broke open the door of the house and found the family.

6 more NBWs on Nowhera Shaik

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The Eighth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court cum special court for economic offenses issued the non-bailable warrants (NBW) against Heera group founder Nowhera Shaik and two others in connection with the six cases filed by the Registrar of Companies

(RoC) for reportedly failing to submit balance sheets since 2016.

The RoC filed 17 cases against Nowhera, company director Mubarak Jan Shaik, and some companies of the group.

The NBWs directed Nowhera and the other accused to appear before the court on August 30. Nowhera is under arrest.

FLORIST FOUND MURDERED IN KOTHUR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

A 22-year-old florist was found murdered on the outskirts of Kothur, which comes under the jurisdiction of the Cyberabad police commissionerate, on Wednesday

morning. According to the Cyberabad police, the deceased was identified as Mohammed Ismail, 22, a native of Kothur. He was married to a woman from Kishan Bagh in Hyderabad, who is pregnant and living with her parents.

IN MEMORIAM

A. SARAH THEROPHENA
18.09.1948 - 18.07.2019

Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this? John 11:25-26 (NKJV)

ONCE I WAS DEAD, BUT NOW I AM ALIVE IN CHRIST, TO TELL THE WORLD THAT ONLY JESUS CAN GIVE YOU PEACE AND ABUNDANT LIFE
Inserted by: Family Members

To know more please visit:
CHURCH AT ANTIOCH - Every Sunday @ 10 AM
ACTC - Beside LIC Building, Gandhi Nagar Hyderabad - 500080

(L/1920/D00003)

OBITUARY
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.... Matthew - 5:4

Mrs. GERTRUDE JOSEPH
DOB - 16-11-1956 - DOD - 17-07-2019
Left to her heavenly abode on 17th July 2019.
Funeral service will be held at St. Anthony's Church, Venkatapuram on 18th July 2019 at 11.30am. Followed by burial service at Gunrock Cemetery.

NEAR & DEAR
Ph: 9849097517 / 9701141234

(CA- 2892)

SAD DEMISE OF A NOBLE MOTHER
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. They will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them... Rev. 14:13

Mrs. B. SARAH PRAKASHAM
W/o Late B. Gnana Prakasham
Retd. Principal, Govt. Junior College (for Girls) Mahabubnagar.

Promoted to Glory on 14-7-19.
Memorial Service will be held on 18th July 2019 at 11:00 am at Sudarshan Convention Hall, Station Road, Mahabubnagar.

Inserted by: Family Members

(S/1920/D00553)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints - Psalm 116:15

Ravindranath Vundru
Dob: 20-05-1953 - DOD: 17-07-2019
Funeral at Narayana Guda Cemetery on 18-07-2019, Time: 3pm.
Memorial on 19-07-2019 at Lutheran Church, Lakdikapool at 6pm.
Contact: 8374020246, 9885810513

With profound grief we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved Father
SRI KOLISETTY NAGESHWAR RAO GARU
on 09/07/2019 Pedda Karma would be conducted at 12PM on 18/07/2019 at Royal Function Hall, Saidabad Colony, Hyderabad.

Sons Dr Sunil Kolisetty & Kolisetty Koushal
Wife Smt K. Vijaya Lakshmi
Daughter in law Dr Rathna Kumari
Grand Children - Kolisetty Chetan & Jithamanyu

(S/1920/D00553)

11th ANNIVERSARY

SRI BODA SIVADAS
Asst Mechanical Engineer (C&W) Sc. Ry (Retd)
D.O.B: 21-5-1921 D.O.D: 18-07-2008
Your affection and ideas remain throughout in our lives
Inserted by:
Sons, Daughters - in - Law
Grand Children, great grand Children, Relatives & Friends

1st YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Wg. Cdr P. RAJGOPAL (Retd)
July 22, 1942 to July 30, 2018
We still can't believe it has been a year since you left for the heavenly abode. You will be in our hearts forever. We all love you and miss you a lot.
Inserted by:
Family and Loved Ones

UTHAVANA

Smt. JASIBEN MANIAR
Expired on: 15.07.2019
UTHAVANA TODAY
Thursday 18th July 2019
4:30pm to 5:00 pm: NAVGRAH TEMPLE, Jeera, SECUNDERABAD. 500003.
LALIT MANIAR, BALDEV MANIAR, BHARAT MANIAR

IN LOVING MEMORY

Sri. MUDIKE SATHYANARAYANA YADAV
DOD: 17-04-1989
Smt. MUDIKE MAHESHWARI YADAV
DOD: 18-07-2015
Your memories are always in our hearts forever, May Your Soul Rest in Peace
Inserted by: Sons & Daughter
Smt & Sri Mudiike Vedkumar Yadav
Plot No.48, Jyothsna colony, Sec'bad Ph. 9886275915

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord Roman's 6:23

M.K. JAYANANDAM
DOB: 18-07-1933 DOD: 08-04-1986
A wonderful husband, father true and kind loved and respected by all around.
Inserted by: WIFE, CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN & FAMILY

7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Smt. Dr. SAVITRI KHOLEY
D.O.B: 19-09-1933 D.O.D: 18-07-2012
Your kindness, love and affection always remain in our hearts forever.
Inserted by:
Husband and Family Members
Ph: 9849005516

18th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

A.S. DAYAKER
(Retd. Chief Photographer S.C. Railway)
DOD: 18-07-2001
VIJAYA DAYAKER
DOD: 13-04-2014
"Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear."
Inserted by: Hema & Family Members
Ph: 9849005516

(S/1920/D00558)



Rich party

KCR tells party leaders ahead of the municipal elections that the TRS has a fund of ₹255 crore



Provide 2BHK to the poor instead 1BHK as proposed by the Centre

— Nama Nageshwar Rao TRS MP

BRIEF

UMF says TRS is anti-minority

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The United Muslim Forum (UMF), an platform for many Muslim organisations, has expressed disappointment at the attitude of the TRS government on the policies related to minorities. Addressing mediapersons, Moulana Syed Shah Ali Akbar Nizamuddin, mutawalli of the Dargah Shah Khamoosh and vice-president of the forum, said they had tried to meet Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu, to express their concerns, but could not do so. He said that minority institutions had become dysfunctional due to the negligence of the government.

NEW MUNICIPAL BILL GETS CABINET NOD

Entails integration of databases and penalty for officials

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the new Municipal Bill and Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu will introduce the Bill in the Assembly on Thursday.

The Cabinet decided to hand over the increased pensions under the Asara scheme to the beneficiaries on July 20 after holding meetings in each Assembly constituency.

The Cabinet discussed the Bill in detail and the holding of municipal elections in the state.

Sources close to the government said that the Chief Minister explained the salient features of the new Bill which is supposed to provide transparent and corrupt-free local governance.

Mr Rao explained that the new Act would enable the integration of the databases of the Municipal Administration, Revenue and Panchayat Raj departments, and that would enhance transparency.

He explained that officials are made more accountable under the Act

Secunderabad to host CM's Office

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The state government has decided to temporarily shift the Chief Minister's Office from C Block in the Secretariat to Metro Rail Bhavan at Begumpet, till the proposed new Secretariat building is ready.

Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd's administrative offices are in the four-storey building at Begumpet. Authorities at Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd admitted that there is a proposal from the state government to give some floors of the building to accommodate the CMO temporarily.

The state government has offered to pay the rental for the space it will use.

with regard to discharging of duties in a time bound and transparent manner.

Mr Rao said that govern-

Sources in the government disclosed that one floor will be given to the managing director of Metro Rail and the rest of the building will be taken up by the Chief Minister's Office.

Sources in the government disclosed that the Chief Secretary's Office, General Administration and some other departments will be accommodated in the Burgula Ramakrishna Rao Bhavan at Tank Bund.

Sources said that the GAD and other departments have already started moving their files to their new office. The Chief Minister's Office will be shifted after seeking permission from the Chief Minister.

ment officials who are derelict in their duties will be jailed if a departmental enquiry finds them guilty.

TS HIGH COURT STAYS POLLS IN 4 MUNICIPALITIES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The Telangana HC on Wednesday stayed urban local bodies elections to the Miryalguda, Meepet, Mahbubnagar, and Bandlaguda Jagir municipalities until due process was followed in respect of delimitation of wards.

Justice P. Naveen Rao passed the interim orders on individual petitions filed by the residents of these municipalities stating that the division and delimitation of the wards was illegal and ultra vires to the Telangana Municipalities Act and the Rules.

Taking the petitioners' submissions into consideration, the judge stayed the election to the four municipalities until due process was followed in respect of the delimitation. The judge admitted the petitions and issued notices to respondents.

KCR TO RESOLVE TRIBAL LAND DISPUTES SOON

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday said he would tour districts to sort out land disputes, particularly relating to tribal and Adivasis.

The TRS chief assured MLAs about his intervention during a meeting that he had with them on the construction of party offices at the district headquarters on Wednesday at Telangana Bhavan.

The TRS chief handed over the designs of the party offices to the in-charges and also ₹60 lakhs each for the construction of party buildings.

Mr Rao also asked the in-charges to ensure that the buildings are ready on Dasara.

During the meeting, some MLAs mentioned about the tensions in the tribal areas after the eviction of the tribals and Adivasis from their forest lands and also clashes while digging the trenches in the forests.

Vanama Venkateswara Rao, Kothagudem MLA, is said to have raised the issue about high-handed behaviour of the forest officials, which increased tension in the tribal areas.

KTR credits KCR for water supply

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

TRS president K.T. Rama Rao on Wednesday said that Chief Minister Mr. K. Chandrababu Naidu's vision and persistence in completing the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project in three years has made sure that Hyderabad will never have drinking water crisis like in Chennai or other metros.

He was replying to the twitterites for their reaction on his tweet with regard to the importance of the rain water harvesting.

He appealed to the people through twitter that for those interested in learning more about Rainwater Harvesting, strongly recommend you to visit the Rainwater Harvesting Theme Park run by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Works and Sewerage Board in city. Some of the twitterites reaction to his tweet raised the water scarcity in Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

Telugu film director Maruthi sought to know from Mr Rao about a news report (not Deccan Chronicle) which cited that Hyderabad had just 48 days of drinking water left.

Mr Rao replied "that report is not accurate. Once water from Kaleshwaram Project reaches Yellampally reservoir (in next few weeks), it will ensure that 172 MGD supply to Hyderabad will continue unabated. At the same time, it's time all citizens realise importance of water conservation and harvesting." He said the CM has succeeded in completing the Project because he emerged as a leader from the mass movement. He pointed out that as of now dry spell is continuing and there was no flood flows in Godavari, but "we have lifted the flood waters of Pranahita and stored about 11 TMC of water." Mr Rao felt that with this water around 1.5 lakhs will be irrigated and if the flood in flows increases, then they can be able to lift the waters through all the pumps of the project which will irrigate each acre of dry land in the state.

KTR SAID once water from Kaleshwaram Project reaches Yellampally reservoir, it will ensure that 172 MGD supply to Hyderabad will continue unabated

Arvind calls KCR a lightweight CM

AVINASH PUJARI | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 17

Confident that the lotus will make a mark in the upcoming municipal elections in the state, BJP MP Bandi Sanjay dared Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu to go for direct elections as "Brand Modi" would defeat him.

"KCR promised an easy win against the BJP. The lightweight Chief Minister has asked his cadres not to bother about us, when the truth is the TRS doesn't stand a chance against us," Nizamabad MP D. Arvind said.

Taking another jab at Mr Rao, Mr Arvind asked why he was trying to rush the municipal polls if he isn't intimidated by the BJP or Mr Modi.

"Mr Rao is about to give the municipal counselors' reservations to chairmen, corporators to mayors, and I believe he wants to wrap

up the elections before August 10 with the 14-day notification period. If he's as brave as he poses to be, then after finalising his candidates' reservations he should allow 15 days to the people who might want to challenge him in court," he said.

"Some things that Mr Rao is doing is illegal, but the State Election Commission isn't challenging or stopping him. Even the voters' list is in a detestable state. I urge KCR to allow some more time so the election commission can rectify the voters' list," MP Arvind concluded.

"If Mr Rao is so confident, then he should participate in direct elections. He has merged a couple of villages in my segments into one or two wards. Due to this, his strength has increased by 3,000 votes, and he will revise reservations accordingly," Mr Arvind added.

BJP HIGH COMMAND WILL SEND PANEL TO PICK STATE PARTY CHIEF

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The BJP high command will send a screening committee to take a call on who should be inducted as party chief in the state.

Senior leaders like Mr T. Raja Singh, the party's only MLA in the state, MP Bandi Sanjay, party MLC N. Ramchander Rao, Sudhakar Reddy and others are in the running for the post.

The favourite appears to be party general secretary P. Muralidhar Rao, who has not joined the race.

Party leaders want the high command to apply in Telangana state the same formula that worked in Jharkhand, Haryana and the northeast and helped the BJP come to power.

The party leaders feel that only a hardline approach can help dethrone the TRS.

HC rejects petition of disqualified MLC

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

The Telangana High Court dismissed the petition filed by disqualified MLC R. Bhupathi Reddy of Nizamabad, who had petitioned the court to suspend the disqualification order issued against him by the Chairman of the Telangana Legislative Council. A division bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Shameem Akhter pronounced the judgement on Wednesday and said that it did not find any illegality in the order of the Council Chairman.

The bench refused to interfere with Para 8 of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution, which speaks

about the power of the Council Chairman to disqualify a member and Rule 7(4) of the Members of the Council (Disqualification of Grounds of Defection), which were challenged by the petitioner.

Mr Bhupathi Reddy had stated that the rule does not lay down any criteria for the type of disqualification petitions that are to be directly dealt with by the Chairman under the power conferred under Para 6 of the 10th Schedule.

The clarified that Para 8 of the 10th Schedule and Rule 7(4) of the Members of TSLC are constitutionally valid.

The court had earlier upheld the disqualification of former TRS leaders Yadava Reddy and Ramulu Naik.

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New appointment

Former Goa chief minister Digambar Kamat of Congress was Wednesday appointed as the Leader of Opposition



Instead of probing the desecration of religious texts case, Sukhbir sent it to CBI

— Amarinder Singh, Punjab chief minister

BRIEF

PDP founding member quits

Srinagar: The PDP suffered a jolt on Wednesday with founding member Mohammed Khalil Bandh resigning from the party, alleging that it had not only neglected but also humiliated its senior leaders and its basic principles had been compromised. Founding members of the PDP who have resigned from the party include Altaf Bukhari, Haseeb Drabu as well as Imran Ansari and his brother Abid Ansari. Party leaders said some more resignations could be expected in the next few days. In a letter addressed to party chief Mehbooba Mufti, Bandh said the party was not worth continuing in.

German envoy meets RSS chief

Nagpur: German ambassador to India, Walter J Lindner, met Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh supremo Mohan Bhagwat here on Wednesday. Lindner met Mr Bhagwat at the RSS headquarters, the Sangh said on Twitter. He also visited the ancestral home of Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, the late RSS founder, it said. — PTI

BJP MP PICKS UP WOMAN SCRIBE ROW

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 17

Raising the issue of alleged misbehaviour with a woman journalist of a private news channel, BJP's Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Bhupendra Yadav on Wednesday urged Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu to refer the matter to the ethics committee of the House, if any member was suppressing the voice of the media.

Without naming the news channel or any person, the BJP MP raised the issue through a 'point of order' during the Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha.

"We do not want to interfere in any private organisation, but if a woman is misbehaved with, and employees are not paid, it is responsibility of the parliamentarians to protect the freedom of speech," Mr Yadav said.

The BJP MP further said the Rajya Sabha Chairman had the power to send the matter to the ethics committee "if any member was suppressing the voice of the media".

Mr Yadav said the matter should be referred to the ethics committee to protect rights of media persons.

Earlier, Mr Yadav's party colleague also sought to raise the issue, but Congress members objected saying there is "conflict of interest".

Mr Naidu too asked Mr Bhupendra Yadav to confine himself to the topic for which he had given the Zero Hour notice and not take up other matters.

Madrasa student loses 90% vision after senior beats him

SHAINU MOHAN | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 17

A 13-year-old boy suffered 90 per cent vision loss allegedly after being brutally assaulted in a madrasa in Kollam.

The incident occurred at Chavara last Sunday when a 26-year-old senior student from the class hit the young boy with a stick for talking to a classmate.

The boy, who is currently undergoing treatment at

Pak arrests Hafiz for financing terrorism

Mumbai 26/11 attacks mastermind was sent on remand

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD, JULY 17

Under intense pressure to avoid Pakistan's blacklisting by global anti-terror financing entity FATF, the Pakistan police on Wednesday arrested Mumbai attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed on charges of terror financing.

The arrest was made by the counter-terrorism department (CTD) of Pakistan's Punjab province. Saeed is the founder of terror group Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and now heads terror group Jamaat-ud-Dawa.

Saeed, who has several cases pending against him, was travelling to Gujranwala from Lahore to get pre-arrest bail in terror financing

cases registered against him there when he was arrested, a CTD official told PTI in Islamabad. "The CTD chief was going to Gujranwala from Lahore on Wednesday morning when a CTD team intercepted him near Gujranwala city (some 80 km from Lahore) and arrested him on terror financing charges," the official was quoted as saying.

Soon after the arrest, Saeed was presented before an anti-terrorism court in Gujranwala that granted his judicial remand. He was subsequently shifted to Lahore's high-security Kot Lakhpat jail.

India is believed to be viewing these developments with caution in view of Islamabad's previous track record, where it has back-

tracked on action against terrorists. Just recently, New Delhi had accused Pakistan of attempting to "hoodwink" the international community by trying to show action against terror groups and said one should not be "fooled by these cosmetic steps".

The comment was made by New Delhi earlier this month after reports that Pakistan claimed it had "booked" Saeed and 12 of his close aides for "terrorism financing" in 23 cases.

The MEA had said "Pakistan's sincerity to take action against terror groups will be judged on the basis of their ability to demonstrate verifiable, credible and irreversible action".

A few weeks ago, Pakistan had escaped

blacklisting at anti-terror body FATF meeting in Orlando in the United States, but FATF is all set to examine Islamabad's track record once again in October this year.

The FATF had earlier put Pakistan on its "Grey List" (in which it is currently) for monitoring by FATF's International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG). The "Grey List" comprises nations who are seen to have failed to fulfil their obligations to combat terror financing.

The Pakistani CTD had on July 3 registered 23 FIRs against 13 top leaders of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, including Saeed, on charges of "terror financing" in different cities of Punjab province.

Chandrayaan-2 may be launched after July 22

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JULY 17

Isro is planning to launch the aborted Chandrayaan-2 mission in the afternoon on July 22 or before the end of this month.

The organisation will finalise the launch after carrying out a series of checks on the launch vehicle GSLV-Mk III, presently at the second launch pad in Satish Dhawan Space Centre,

Shar, Sriharikota, on Thursday.

Isro has confirmed that the problem was observed on board the rocket and not the lunar orbiter Chandrayaan-2 or the lander, which implies the mission is not in jeopardy.

As reported earlier, a gradual drop in the high-pressure helium bottles meant to operate the cryogenic upper stage valves caused Isro to abort the launch

scheduled for 2.51 am on Monday.

Sources in Shar attributed the interruption to a helium tank leakage. Helium gas is used to operate valves for cooling rocket engines. They said the problem was minor and had been rectified.

According to Shar officials, Isro will conduct a full dress rehearsal on Friday and most likely launch the mission on July 22.

Shootout in UP: 9 killed, 19 hurt

Sonbhadra / Lucknow, July 17

A village head and his supporters allegedly opened fire on a rival group in a land dispute in Sonbhadra, killing nine people, including three women, and leaving 19 injured on Wednesday, police said.

The land in the district's Ghorawal area earlier belonged to an IAS officer and he had sold it to village head Yagya Dutt, who wanted to take possession, Uttar Pradesh DGP O.P. Singh said.

When Dutt reached the spot with his henchmen in 10 to 12 tractors, local villagers tried to stop them from taking over the land, police said.

Those accompanying him then showered a hail of bullets on the villagers, all tribals, killing nine of them. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the Director General of Police to personally monitor the case and ensure action against the culprits, a government spokesperson said. — PTI

Priyanka tweets wedding sari pic

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 17

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was the latest to join the bandwagon of women posting their pictures in Sari on Twitter. Her post led to a rare personal exchange on the social media site with her husband Robert Vadra.

"#Saree Twitter" has been trending on the microblogging website, which is flooded with posts from women all over

Joining the trend, Priyanka Gandhi tweeted a photo showing her in a pink and gold Banarasi saree. "Morning puja on the day of my wedding (22 years ago) #SareeTwitter," she tweeted with her photograph.

The Congress leader who has recently taken over as a general secretary of the party in Uttar Pradesh, said it was a throwback photograph from the day of her wedding.

Madrasa student loses 90% vision after senior beats him

SHAINU MOHAN | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 17

A 13-year-old boy suffered 90 per cent vision loss allegedly after being brutally assaulted in a madrasa in Kollam.

The incident occurred at Chavara last Sunday when a 26-year-old senior student from the class hit the young boy with a stick for talking to a classmate.

The boy, who is currently undergoing treatment at

private clinic near our home. They sent us to the Kollam district hospital, and from there, we were referred to the eye hospital here," said the boy, who is studying Class 7.

"I was talking to another kid, and the senior students usually hit us in the arms or shoulders."

"This time the blow landed on my eyes. There was swelling and blood clot inside my eyes. I got scared and ran back to my home immediately."

CABINET APPROVES ₹330CR TO PAY PSU EMPLOYEES

New Delhi: The Cabinet decided to provide budgetary support to the tune of ₹330

crore for meeting liabilities of employees of three pharmaceutical PSUs whose sale of surplus lands and subsequent closure was decided

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India from competent and experienced contractor for execution of the undermentioned work.

E-tender Notice No: RE-DNR-Gr176-FP-I Date: 15.07.2019

(1) Name of the work with its location : E-tender for Design & Drawing, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25KV, 50Hz, AC single phase of SP/SSP including balance transmission line termination work of TSS in Gr. 176 under RE Danapur Project. (2) Approximate Cost of the work : Rs. 2,76,66,588.31/- (Rs Two Crore Seventy eight Lakh sixty six Thousand Five Hundred eighty eight and thirty One Paise Only) (3) Cost of Tender Form & Earnest Money to be deposited : Tender paper cost Rs 10,000/- & EMD Rs 2,89,300/- (Rs. Two Lakh Eighty nine Thousand three Hundred Only) only through payment modes available on IREPS portal through net banking, debit card, credit card etc at www.ireps.gov.in (4) Date & Time for online submission of tender and opening of Tender : Bidding starts from 07.08.2019 and opening of e-tender on 21.08.2019 after 11.00 hrs. (5) Address of the office from where the tender details can be obtained. Website particulars and notice board location: Office of the Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Danapur, Near Jagjeevan Stadium, Khagauli, Danapur-801105. E-tendering website-www.ireps.gov.in Notice board - Office of the Chief Project Manager, Railway Electrification, Danapur, near Jagjeevan Stadium, Khagauli, Danapur. Dy.Chief Electrical Engineer, Railway Electrification, Danapur PR/762/RE/Elect./T/19-20/44

GODAVARI GAS PRIVATE LIMITED RAJAHMUNDRY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Empanelment of contractors for Composite Works in CNG Stations)

Godavari Gas Private Limited, Rajahmundry, A.P. invites applications from eligible contractors for empanelment of contractors for Composite Works in CNG Stations as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Document No.	Application available from	Pre Bid Meeting on	Bid due date and time
1.	GGPL/KKD/C&P/EM/PANEL/MENT/CW/01/2019-20	18.07.2019	23.07.2019 & 27.07.2019	08.08.2019/ 1400 hrs

For further details, please visit GGPL tender website (<http://www.godavari.in>)

For any queries, contractors may contact A.Ramesh Naik, CM (C&P) Phone: 7861029777 (M); e-mail: rameshnaik@godavari.com Any revision, clarification, addendum, corrigendum, time extension, etc. to the above tender will be hosted on the website <http://www.godavari.in> only and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly to keep themselves updated

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN e-TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Rolling Stock Engineer/Coaching, Northern Railway, Baroda House for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on "TWO PACKET SYSTEM" for following work from experienced and capable tenders.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Description
1	Setting up & Operation of 24 Ton Mechanized Laundry including supply and installation of plant equipment related infrastructure and operation at Railway premises at DLT Maintenance Complex of Coaching Depot, New Delhi for a period of 10 years on BOOT model including collection/transportation of soiled linen from nominated linen store complexes and transportation/transferring the washed linen to nominated linen store complexes of C&W Depots over Delhi Division.	
2	Work Place	New Delhi, Northern Railway
3	Period of Work	120 months
4	Approximate cost of work	Rs. 1,77,23,32,060/- (Including the provision of GST)
5	Earnest Money (to be deposited online)	Rs.90,11,700/- (Earnest money shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only available at IREPS portal. Earnest money in the form of Bank Guarantee or bond is not acceptable.)
6	Cost of the e-tender form (non-refundable)	Rs. 29,500/- (Including GST @18%) (e-tender form cost of GST shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only available at IREPS portal. This cost in the form of Bank Guarantee or bond is not acceptable.)
7	Availability of tender documents	On website www.ireps.gov.in
8	Date & Time of availability of tender documents	From 15.07.19 to 13.08.19 upto 14.30 Hrs.
9	Date & Time of tender closing	13.08.19 at 14.30 Hrs.
10	Date & Time of tender opening (Technical Bid)	13.08.19 at 15.00 Hrs.
11	Date & Time of tender opening (Financial Bid)	After Technical Evaluation
12	Place of opening of tender	Northern Railway, HQs Office, Baroda House, New Delhi.

Note: Cost of e-tender documents and EMD shall have to be deposited separately through net banking, failing which the offer shall be liable to summarily rejected. No. R116-S/Laundry/BOOT Model/DLT-NLDM/ICV/2019 Date : 15.07.19 2289/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Notice Inviting Open Tender, online (E-Tendering) The Dy.CE/BRLU, E.C.Railway, Hajipur is inviting online (E-Tendering) Open Tender for and on behalf of the President of India from reputed contractors with experience, financial capability including those registered/working with Railway/Irrigation/CPWD/MES or any other public sector undertaking for the following works:-

Tender Notice No. : BRL/DNR/EOT/19/04, Sl. No. : 1. Name of the Work with its location: Open tender for Provision of side pathway and metalizing of floor members of bridge no.29 (3x18.3 M +3x12.2 M + 26x9.14 M) between stations SRY-LKR and bridge no.66 (2x12.2 M +15x9.14 M) between stations SHK-KSC and bridge no.268 (1x26.3 M) between stations TIA-WZJ in KG section of Danapur division under Dy. CE/BRLU/HJP. **Sl. No. : 2.** Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 2,45,08,307.76. **Sl. No. : 3.** Earnest Money to be deposited: 2,72,600/-

Sl. No. : 1. Name of the Work with its location: Metalizing of floor member of Br. No. 4 UP/DN (9x18.3M), 5 UP/DN (15x18.3M), 6 (15x18.3M), 7 (5x18.3M), 46 (3x12.2M), 77 (3x12.2M), 98 (2x12.2M) & 107 (18x12.2M) in BKP-RGD section. Br. No. 30 (1x12.2M), 31 (1x12.2M), 47 (18x18.3M) & 49 (6x18.3M) in RGD-TIA section of Danapur division under SSE/Br/DNR. **Sl. No. : 2.** Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 2,09,15,517.00. **Sl. No. : 3.** Earnest Money to be deposited: 2,54,600/-

Sl. No. : 1. Name of the Work with its location: Metalizing of floor member of Br. No. 21 UP & DN 2X (2X15.27+2X15.04M) between stations PRBZ-PPN at Km 11/8-10. Br. No. 36 UP & DN 2X (1X15.27+2X15.37+2X12.19M) between stations PET-NDW at Km 20/9-21/1. Br. No. 70 UP & DN 2X (7X18.3M) between stations JHD-JHD at Km 46/27-33. Br. No. 94 UP (3x12.2+1x24.4 M) and Br. No. 94 DN (5x12.2 M) between station MDE-BLA at Km 63/1-3 of PG section of Danapur division. **Sl. No. : 2.** Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 1,19,905,76.22. **Sl. No. : 3.** Earnest Money to be deposited: 2,10,000/-

Sl. No. : 1. Name of the Work with its location: Metalizing of floor member of Br. No. 104 UP/DN (9x18.3M) between station KSC-WRS at Km 44/6-8. Br. No. 146 UP/DN (16x18.3M) between station BBE-NVD at Km 62/6-9. Br. No. 213 (8x18.3M) between station CHTH-TIA at Km 82/7-9. Br. No. 240 (9x18.3M) between station TIA-JMN at Km 91/5-6 & Br. No. 321 (2x12.2+3x24.4M) between station KRJR-PMI at Km 118/10-14 in KG section under SSE/Br/DNR of Danapur division. **Sl. No. : 2.** Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 1,68,89,673.98. **Sl. No. : 3.** Earnest Money to be deposited: 2,32,000/-

Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender: The tender has been submitted on 15.07.2019 online on www.ireps.gov.in upto 12.00 hrs. and the date of opening is 07.08.2019 and will be opened on the same day after 12.00 hrs. • Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. 1. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> & full details of notice can be seen on notice board. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required. PR/769/HQ/ENGG/T/19-20/96 Dy. Chief Engineer, Bridge Line, E.C.Railway, Hajipur

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE No. 05/CWM-UBLS/2019-20 Dated: 10-07-2019

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tender for the following work.

Name of work	Approx. Value
Maintenance of 7520 Nos. of IR-DRDO type Bio toilet tanks i.e., Dismantling, Cleaning, Repair and Re-fitting through outside agencies & with labour and materials at Carriage Repair Workshop, South Western Railway, Gadag Road, Hubballi-580020.	Rs. 2,89,32,200/-

Last date of submission of bids 02-08-2019 upto 15:00 hrs.

For details log on to website : www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Workshop Manager South Western Railway/Hubballi PWB/161/AAV/PRB/SWR/2019-20

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN : U40109PB2010SC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in
(Old CETLS, B-1, Shakti Vihar, Patiala)
Phone No. 0175-2301537, Fax No. 0175-2220143, Email: adilsecell2@gmail.com

OPEN e-TENDER NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE Chief Engineer / Transmission System, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL Patiala - 147001
TEL : 0175-2301537, FAX : 0175-2220143
EMAIL: se-ss-design@pspcil.in, E-tendering page: pspcil.abcprocure.com

Online Tenders are invited for the supply of the following material as per Tender Specification No. 178/SSD-1/2019 of PSPCL :-

Item No.	Description	Qty Nos.	Enquiry No/ Year
1.	1000 Nos 150 W LED Flood lighting Fixtures with accessories (complete in all respect)	1000	191/SSD-1/ 2019

Last date & time for downloading of tenders 31.07.2019 11:00 A.M.

Last date & time for bid submission 02.08.2019 11:00 A.M.

Date & time of opening of bids 02.08.2019 11:30 A.M.

Detailed NIT and Specification may be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website <https://pspcil.abcprocure.com>

It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, NO CORRIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL website www.pspcl.in and www.pspcl.abcprocure.com.

SE/Sub-Station Design PSPCL, Patiala.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

NIT NO. _____ NAME OF WORK _____ Estimate Amount (₹) _____ Start/Last Date of Bid _____ Name Address Officer Cell No. _____

Tender Notice No. 13/C/CGHMC/2019-20 Dt. 17.07.2019

CGHMC is inviting tenders on e-procurement platform for the following works

"Engaging of vehicles and machinery for removal of waste generated during Bonal, Festival for the year 2019-20 from various circles of GHMC for Package: 1 to 6 and details are as follows: Package 1: Provision of (10) Mini Tippers with (4) labour, (2) JCB, (4) 25 Ton Tippers to Circle 15, Circle 16 and Anaparthi Transfer Station of GHMC ECY. Rs.5.5 lakh. Package 2: Provision of (1) 4CB (4 wheel loader), (5) 25 Ton Tippers to Transfer Station of GHMC ECY. Rs.2.1 lakh. Package 3: Provision of (5) Mini Tippers with (4) labour, (1) Bobcat (600 Steer Loader) to Circle 26, Circle 29 and Circle 30 of GHMC ECY. Rs. 4.48 lakh. Package 4: Provision of (10) Mini Tippers with (4) labour to Circle 6, Circle 7 and Circle 8 of GHMC ECY. Rs. 9.98 lakh. Package 5: Provision of (8) Mini Tippers with (4) labour to Circle 9, Circle 10 and Circle 11 of GHMC ECY. Rs. 6.23 lakh. Package 6: Provision of (12) 25 Ton Tippers to Inlban Transfer Station of GHMC ECY. Rs.4.59 lakh. The interested bidders should download the tender document from the e-procurement platform www.tenders.telangana.gov.in website. The last date for uploading of bids in the e-procurement platform is 18.07.2019 @ 04:00 pm. Bidders can participate in one or more lots/packages subject to Terms and Conditions of the Tender document. For further details contact Sd/- Suresh, CTO, GHMC. Cell No. 959929996.

Sl. No.	Work Name	Estimate Amount (₹)	Start/Last Date of Bid	Name Address Officer Cell No.
01	Recapitalizing of BT Road: laying of CC Road, Restoration of CC Road, etc.	126.15	18.07.19 at 9:00 PM	E.E. C/35/GHMC Cell No. 978523433
2	Various Works Under Gasmainline Division, 340MM	71.02	26.07.19 at 3:00 PM	EE-14/GHMC/Asset Parking Cell No. 978523433
3	Laying of Damaged CC Pavement, Laying of Damaged Storm Drain & Footpath, Providing interiors to the chamber of HW major at 7 th floor North Block, GHMC Head Office etc.	15.02	18.07.19 at 11:00 AM	EE-14/GHMC/Asset Parking Cell No. 978523433
4	CC Roads, Community Halls (7 Works), etc.	41.80	18.07.19 at 3:00 PM	E.E. C/44/GHMC Cell No. 981929712

For further details can be seen at e-procurement platform www.tenders.telangana.gov.in Call: 9802111111, 999 2487. GHMC services. Commissioner.

INTEGRATED HEADQUARTERS MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (NAVY) Tender Notice No.: SA/3125/TPT Dated: 09 Jul 2019

GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE

1. Bid in sealed cover is invited for Sea Transportation of a Kilo class submarine from Naval Dockyard, Mumbai (India) to Severodvinsk (Russia) on a transport docks ship during the time period mid Oct 19 to early Dec 19. The tender shall be submitted in single stage single bid system. The details of tender are as follows:-

Cost of the tender document	Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees one thousand only)
Details of tender can be seen at the following Link	https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/tenders (under section Request for Proposal (RFP)/Tenders)
Last date / time for submission of sealed tenders	06 Aug 19 by 1600 hrs
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 44,34,00,00/- [Rupees Forty Four Lakhs Thirty Four thousand only]

2. The bidders are requested to access the tender document, using the above mentioned link. Further, the tender document cost & EMD be submitted along with the bid vide Demand Draft drawn in favour of "PCDA, New Delhi" payable at New Delhi. Downloaded Tender document submitted without Tender document cost & EMD, as mentioned above will be rejected outrightly. No tampering / alteration or changing of the content is permissible. No late or delayed tender will be accepted. Bids to be submitted in the manner as mentioned in the Tender document.

3. **Contact Details:** Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence (Navy), Room No. 74, 'A' Block Hutments, Dara Shukoh Road, New Delhi-110011. Tel: 91-11-23010255. Fax: 91-11-23010986. Email: dsmo-navy@nic.in.
davp 10702/11/0099/1920

SOUTHERN RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT e-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES NO-E-14/2019

The following e-tenders are published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to Login to <http://www.ireps.gov.in> to view tender goods & services (new) and quote against these tenders. Manual quotations will not be entertained for these tenders. Closing time for all tenders 14.30 hours.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Due Date
1	06190201A	TOP COATED THERMAL PAPER IN REEL OF 120 GSM.	23-JUL-19
2	10190082		



An advice

IAS officers should stay in regular touch with the common man, says Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

Bihar police letter seeks info on RSS

Patna, July 17: A Bihar police letter to its district officials asking them to gather information on functionaries of the RSS and its affiliates has raised hackles of the state BJP which questioned the "surveillance", but the police claimed the step was taken due to inputs about threat to life of members of saffron outfits.

His remarks came as several BJP leaders reacted with indignation to the letter and some of them even questioned the intentions of chief minister Nitish Kumar, bringing to fore the unease in the party's ties with ally JD(U).

The letter dated May 28 issued by the special branch had directed that a report on name, address, telephone number and occupation of district-level office bearers of 19 Sangh Parivar outfits be submitted within a week.

BJP MLC and party's media cell national co-in charge Sanjay Mayukh raised the matter in the state Legislative Council during the day and urged the state government to clarify the issue. "I am astonished that the government is seeking such information. The government should have had the information by now since Sangh activists are not known to be secretive. They function in a transparent manner," he said earlier.

J.S. Gangwar, additional director-general of police (special branch), said the manner in which the letter has been worded has been found "objectionable" and an explanation has been sought from the officer of SP rank who drafted it.

ABDUCTION CASE: CBI RAIDS ATEEQ AHMED'S PREMISES

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 17

The CBI conducted searches at the premises of former Samajwadi Party leader Ateeq Ahmed and others in Prayagraj (Allahabad) and Lucknow in a case related to the kidnapping of a businessman.

The CBI last month registered a case against Ahmed and 17 others for kidnapping real estate dealer Mohit Jaiswal in December 2018 and taken to Deoria Jail, where he was assaulted by Ahmed.

cities of UP as part of agency's investigation. The agency sleuths recovered several incriminating documents during searches.

BJP has edge in trust vote

One MLA returns, ruling group now has 102 MLAs, BJP+ has 107

DC CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI/BENGALURU, JULY 17



Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy leaves Vidhana Soudha after meeting Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar in Bengaluru on Wednesday. — PTI

Six days after Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy announced that he would be seeking a trust vote, the Janata Dal(S)-Congress coalition government will on Thursday face the biggest challenge of its 14-month tenure after the Supreme Court ruled that the rebel MLAs cannot be compelled to participate in the proceedings of the Assembly.

In such a situation, the Opposition BJP, which has the support of 107 MLAs (105 of its own and two Independents), enjoys a clear edge over the JD(S)-Congress coalition, which has seen its numbers fall from 118 to 101 (which includes the Speaker). Of the 16 MLAs who resigned, 13 are from the Congress and three from the JD(S).

Only 15 MLAs approached the Supreme Court seeking an early decision on their resignations, with former home minister Ramalinga Reddy being the lone MLA who did not.

In an interesting development, Mr Reddy met the Speaker and withdrew his resignation, boosting the coalition numbers to 102, amid speculation that both

parties had stepped up efforts to woo some of their members back.

The Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, which also included Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose, however, gave Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar the freedom to decide on the resignation of the 15 MLAs within a timeframe considered appropriate by him.

The Speaker, on his part, welcomed the court decision. "The Supreme Court has put an extra burden on me, I will con-

duct myself responsibly in accordance with constitutional principles," he told reporters in Kolar, his hometown, adding: "My role is like that of an umpire (in a cricket match). If it is a no ball... I will say no ball. It is very difficult to say what will happen on Thursday."

The rebels MLAs, now camping in Mumbai, hailed the decision and said there was no question of going back on their resignations from the Assembly or attending the session, further diminishing any hope

the coalition had of pacifying them and getting them to vote in favour of the confidence motion to be moved by Mr Kumaraswamy. In a video released to the media, rebel

Congress MLA B.C. Patil said: "We are happy with the decision of the Supreme Court, we honour it."

Flanked by 11 other Congress-JD(S) MLAs who have quit, the Congress legislator said: "We all are together... there is no question of going back (on the resignations)."

CONG LEADERS DIVIDED ON SC VERDICT

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 17

As the situation gets from bad to worse for the Congress-JD(S) government in Karnataka, the Congress seemed to be divided on the Supreme Court verdict.

While Congress chief spokesperson Randip Surjewala described the verdict as a "terrible judicial precedent", legal luminary and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who is also a spokesperson claimed that it was "not a victory for the BJP" as the top court indicated that the Speaker has a "free hand in running the Assembly".

"We have emerged victorious. Ninety per cent of the case argued says the Speaker should decide in x number of days. Honourable court says we should not fetter the Speaker in any case," Mr Singhvi.

"The SC has said the Speaker can decide what he likes, when he likes and hence the Speaker will decide," Mr Singhvi said.

ASSAM FLOODS CLAIMS 20, 57L DISPLACED

MANOJ ANANAD | DC GUWAHATI, JULY 17

The flood situation remains grim in Assam on Wednesday with death toll climbing to 20. More than 57 lakh population across 30 districts of the state were reeling under the floods which have inundated or marooned more than 4626 villages under 114 revenues circles of 30 districts of the state. Though the Centre has released an amount of ₹251.55 crore of grants-in-aid to Assam towards Central share of state disaster relief fund for the current year, people affected by flood complained about the non-disbursal of relief materials in adequate quantity at various places.

DEATH TOLL IN MUMBAI COLLAPSE 13

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, JULY 17

The death toll in the Kesarbai building collapse incident in south Mumbai's congested Dongri area has gone up to 13 — five men, three women, four minor boys and a minor girl — while 10 people in total were injured. Nine of the wounded were taken to the state-run JJ hospital and one was admitted to Habib Hospital. Three victims have been discharged from JJ Hospital after receiving medical treatment as they had received minor injuries.

The Jadhav saga: Three years of subterfuge, uncertainty, tension

2016

March 3: Pakistan arrests Kulbhusan Jadhav, a former Indian Navy officer.

March 24: Pakistan claims Jadhav, "an Indian spy" arrested from the Balochistan province.

March 26: India claims there is no proof that Jadhav who owns a cargo business in Iran was arrested in Balochistan.

March 29: New Delhi seeks from Islamabad consular access to Jadhav. Over the next one year, it made 16 such requests which were denied by Pakistan.

2017

April 10: A Pakistani army court sentences Jadhav to death "for his involvement in espionage and sabotage activities against Pakistan". India warns Islamabad that it is a case of "premeditated murder".

April 11: Then External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj makes a statement in both Houses of Parliament, that India will go "out of way" to ensure justice to Jadhav.

April 14: India demands from Pakistan a certified copy of the chargesheet as well as the judgment in the death sentence of Jadhav and seeks consular access to him.

April 20: India officially seeks from Pakistan details of the trial proceedings.

April 27: Sushma Swaraj writes to the then Pakistan Foreign Affairs Adviser Sartaj Aziz requesting visa for Jadhav's family to visit him.

May 8: India approaches



An Indian resident walks past placards with the picture of Kulbhusan Jadhav in the neighborhood where he grew up, in Mumbai on Wednesday. The ICJ held Pakistan guilty of not extending India consular access to the former Indian naval officer. — AFP

the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at Hague against Pakistan military courts decision.

May 9: The ICJ stays Jadhav's execution.

May 15: India and Pakistan cross swords at the ICJ over the case.

May 18: The ICJ tells Pakistan to put his execution on hold pending its final order.

December 26: Kulbhusan Jadhav meets his wife and mother, more than a year after he was arrested by the Pakistan Army and accused of spying.

2018

April 17: India files 2nd round of written reply in the ICJ in Jadhav's case.

July 17: Pakistan submits its second counter-memorial in the ICJ on the conviction of Jadhav.

August 22: The ICJ sets February 2019 for hearing Jadhav's case.

November 21: Sushma Swaraj seeks diplomatic access to the former Indian Navy officer.

2019

February 18: Four-day hearing in Kulbhusan Jadhav's case opens.

February, 19: India urges the ICJ to annul Jadhav's death sentence by a Pakistani military court and order his immediate release.

February 20: India questions the functioning of Pakistan's notorious military courts and urged the ICJ to annul Jadhav's death sentence.

February 21: Pakistan asks the ICJ to "dismiss or declare inadmissible" India's claim for relief to Jadhav.

July 4: The ICJ announces that it will deliver verdict in the Kulbhusan Jadhav case on July 17.

July 17: In a major victory for India, the International Court of Justice rules that Pakistan must review the order that called for death sentence for Kulbhusan Jadhav and provide him consular access.

ICJ REJECTS INDIA PLEA TO FREE JADHAV

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 17

In a major victory for India in the high-profile Kulbhusan Jadhav case, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague in the Netherlands on Wednesday held Pakistan guilty of a violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations for its failure to give India consular access to the former Indian naval officer, while directing Pakistan to provide "effective review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence" awarded earlier by a Pakistani military court to Jadhav.

However, the ICJ did not grant India's plea "to annul the decision of the military court" and "to direct Pakistan to ... release Mr Jadhav and to facilitate his safe passage to India" on the grounds that "it is not the conviction and sentence of Mr Jadhav which are to be regarded as a violation of Article 36 of the Vienna Convention", and that it "is not to be presumed... that partial or total annulment of conviction or sentence provides the necessary and sole remedy" in cases of violations of Article 36 of the Vienna Convention. A 16-member bench led by the Judge Abdulgawi Ahmed Yusuf, made all the rulings by a 15-1 vote margin.

INDIAN INTERESTS ■ Bill gives NIA powers to probe terror attacks targeting Indians

No misuse of NIA Act: Amit Shah

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 17

In a major move aimed at giving more power to the National Investigation Agency and enable it to probe terror attacks on Indians and Indian properties abroad, Parliament on Wednesday approved the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill. Two days after the Lok Sabha passed the Bill,

Rajya Sabha approved it unanimously.

The bill gives powers to the NIA to probe terror attacks targeting Indians and Indian interests abroad. The latest amendments will enable the NIA to additionally investigate offences related to human trafficking, counterfeit currency, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism, and offences under the Explosive Substances

The amendment will allow NIA to act against any harm brought to Indians or their properties on foreign soil.

— AMIT SHAH, Home minister

Act, 1908. Replying to the debate on the Bill, home minister Amit Shah assured the

Rajya Sabha that the legislation will not be misused. "I want to assure the House that wherever abroad Indians are harmed by a terrorist, NIA is capable of taking action. I want to assure that the Modi government will not allow misuse of this law. The amendment will allow NIA to act against any harm brought to Indians or their properties on foreign soil," he said.

LS PASSES APPROPRIATION BILL, GRANTS FOR 2019-20

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 17

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2019 and Demands for Grants for various ministries and departments under the Union Budget 2019-20. The

Appropriation Bill allows the Union government to withdraw ₹98.18 lakh crore from the consolidated fund to meet its expenditure during 2019-20. The Bill, moved by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, was passed by a voice vote.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION DIVISION KRISHI ANUSANDHAN BHAVAN II, PUSA NEW DELHI 110 012

NETAJI SUBHAS - ICAR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR THE YEAR 2019-20
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Dignity does not consist in possessing honours, but in deserving them

If you keep winning, you don't know the areas you've to work hard

DECCAN Chronicle

18 JULY 2019

SC order death knell for Cong-JDS govt?

Is the H.D. Kumaraswamy government's fate sealed? After the Supreme Court ruling on Wednesday that the 15 rebel Congress and JD(S) MLAs, whose resignations brought the Janata Dal (Secular)-Congress government to the brink, cannot be compelled to take part in the trust vote that the Kumaraswamy-led government has moved for July 18, there was quiet jubilation in the BJP camp.

The prospect of the BJP forming a government in Karnataka under state chief B.S. Yeddyurappa is clearly an all-too-real possibility.

While the Congress reacted with predictable outrage, the bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi gave Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar some room to decide on the resignations of rebel MLAs by saying the time-frame of the decision would be left to him, heading off what could have become a confrontation between the court and the Speaker.

But as the coalition partners attempt now to prolong the inevitable by seeking a debate on the confidence vote that may last until Monday, Congress legislature party leader Siddaramaiah has approached the Speaker with a set of arguments that boils down to whether all MLAs, bound as they are by the rules of the Assembly, must seek prior permission of the Speaker to remain absent from the House or face disqualification.

The situation may therefore not see an early closure. In one of two separate petitions handed over by the coalition partners to Mr Kumar on Wednesday, the Congress states that the court's order indirectly infringes on the right of political parties to issue a whip. It also states that none of the rebels has sought the Speaker's permission to remain absent from the House, which they say is a clear case of violation of rules of the Assembly; implying that these have been ignored by the court.

The Congress, in a bid to further cut the rebels' numbers, has also moved a petition for the disqualification of minister R. Shankar on the grounds that he met governor Vajubhai Vala and extended support to the BJP less than a month after giving a letter to the Congress that he would merge his outfit, the Karnataka Parjnavantara Janata Party, with the Congress.

As for the JD(S), for whom the loss of Karnataka will come as a huge blow as it is unlikely to have the numbers to form a government on its own in the near future, chief minister Kumaraswamy made a last-ditch attempt to save the coalition by offering to step down and allow a Congress leader to take over the reins. How the drama unfolds on Thursday, however, will depend on the Speaker's decision on the rules of the House on one hand, and that of the BJP against the possibility of the debate on the trust vote being dragged beyond Thursday.

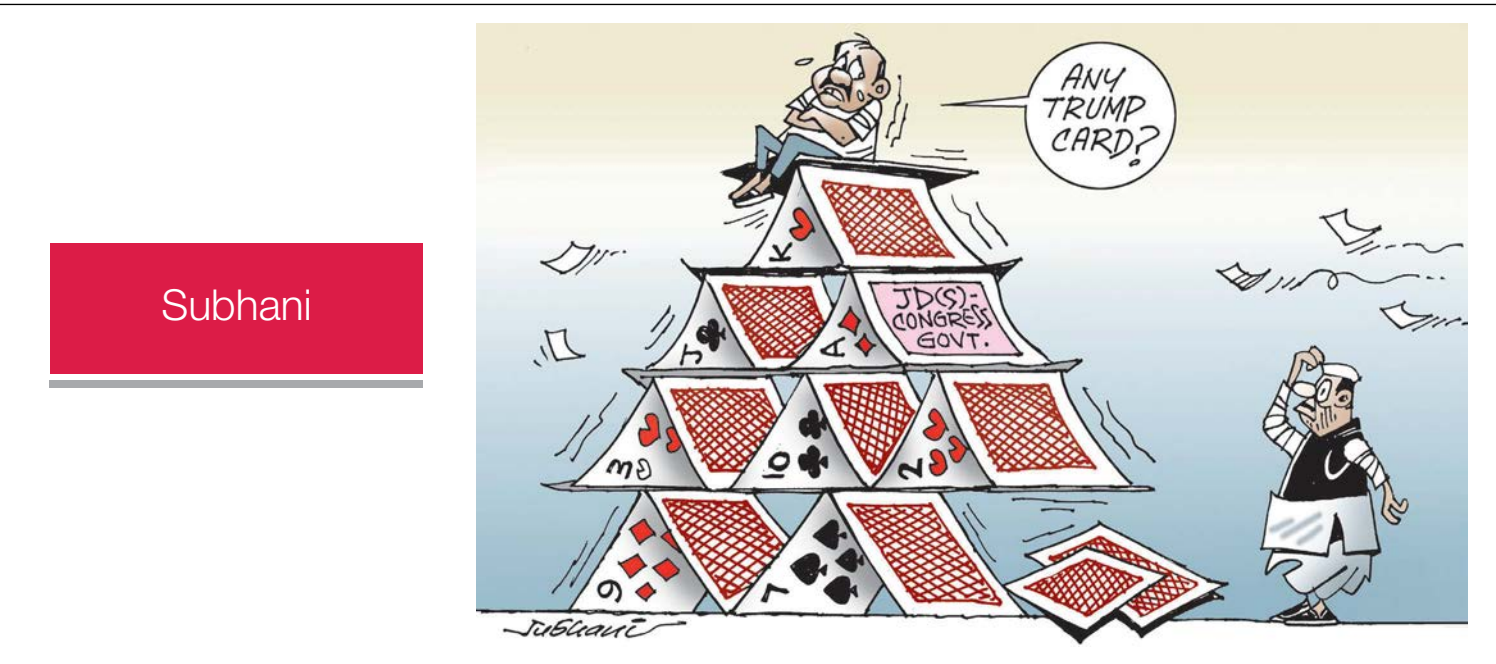
The Congress-JD(S) has 101, and the BJP 107, in a House of 224. The numbers say it all.

How the drama unfolds on Thursday will depend on the Speaker's decision on the rules of the House on one hand, and that of the BJP against the possibility of the debate on the trust vote being dragged beyond Thursday

Building safety audits vital

Living in dilapidated buildings, risking life and limb, is a human tragedy from which there is little escape. In urban clusters like Mumbai this is a big problem as the cost of redevelopment deters solutions. When the monsoon hits, the condition of old buildings is severely tested. The latest collapse of an unauthorised part of an old building in Mumbai is an annual mishap that takes lives of people living in a permanent Catch-22. The problem isn't restricted to megacities, as we see structures collapse nationwide in climatic cycles as old buildings come under severe stress from rain. Enormous capital is required to be able to provide engineering and planning solutions of acceptable quality to guarantee the safety of occupants; the sheer number of endangered buildings in cities is huge.

Most people forced to live in dangerous dwellings — "ceased" buildings as they are known in Mumbai — where the institution tasked with repairs and reconstruction spends just ₹30 crores a year, while the number of such buildings runs into thousands — are unable to move out. Neither the greed of private developers nor the insecurity of tenants is solution-friendly. The inability of cities to take care of a rising number of people willing to risk all in their search for a livelihood adds to the problem created by those already living there and unable to find safe housing in crowded localities. Unless safety audits are done, and unsafe buildings are marked for evacuation with provision for those evicted to live somewhere, such tragedies are bound to recur. This is a challenge even for the richest city civic bodies.



Subhani

Where parties fail, can civil society succeed?



Bharat Bhushan

The present crop of Indian political parties have been largely incapable of taking on the BJP's brand of authoritarian and religiously sectarian politics. Many think that the hope of an alternative politics may lie with those who work outside the framework of political parties in the voluntary sector.

Could they somehow become effective in reviving the politics of resistance in an increasingly authoritarian, majoritarian and relentlessly market-driven polity? The question may seem odd at a time when NGOs, human rights organisations, or what are broadly called civil society organisations, seem to be losing steam.

Civil society organisations have been under a constant onslaught for the past decade. What started with the ostensible aim of preventing money laundering and terrorist funding through Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) in 2010 has ended with specific targeting of civil society activists. The FCRA was the response to international pressure by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Money Laundering on countries to "review the adequacy of laws and regulations that relate to entities that can be abused for the financing of terrorism".

The FATF had found India non-compliant in terms of its recommendations in 2010. Even before the FATF report could be published, eager to comply, the Indian government at that time led by the Congress brought in a stringent FCRA. This law allowed the government the discretion to describe troublesome civil society organisations as "political", and thus to prevent

their access to foreign funding.

The targeting of civil society organisations, started under the Congress government, mushroomed into a full-blown onslaught on them under the BJP. Organisations that spoke up for protection of human rights, the rights of minorities, dalits or tribals were constantly on the State's radar. Their licences were cancelled and their office bearers termed "anti-national" or "urban Naxalites". Many continue to be harassed, entangled in legal cases or incarcerated. All this is fairly well known.

However, the sections of civil society that remain functional seem to have capitulated quickly. Can they be the basis of hope of an alternative?

From the 1970s to the 1980s, the civil rights movement both at the national level and in the states was fairly strong in India. They were voluntary in nature and funded themselves through contributions. The agitated over issues of poverty, gender, caste, minorities, workers and peasants.

A major transformation in this sector seems to have come with the once liberal availability of foreign funds. However, foreign funding changed the focus of civil society organisations to investigations and reports. Defending the people and fighting for their rights at the ground level became less and less important.

Because the State saw them as adversarial and acted or threatened to act against them, sections of civil society organisations withdrew from getting involved in peoples' struggles. It was easier to become post-mortem experts who would send investigation teams and write reports in the aftermath

of a conflict.

Foreign donors also encourage this as they view such reports as their main "output". A social activist described this process as the "project-ising" of civil society organisations, who cease to be interested in a social issue once the project funding for it is over.

Foreign funding also puts civil society organisations in a quandary over whether they should focus on the agenda of the funders or on the issues of tribals, dalits, landlessness, poverty or other pressing local issues? It is also possible that once these organisations see the fate of activists in conflict zones, their desire to survive prevents them from taking up issues which can pit them against the government and those in power.

There is also a tendency for civil society organisations to see themselves as apolitical, and to project their agenda as non-partisan. This leads them to equivocate about about whether they stand on the side of the weak, whose rights need to be protected against the onslaught of the State, and the interests it promotes.

If they are to be the nursery of an alternative politics, Indian civil society organisations need a course correction. Many social activists feel that there is a need to get out of the observation and recommendation mode and move towards activism, either based on forming trade unions or associations of interest groups.

To reduce their dependency on donors, and particularly foreign donors, civil society organisations once again need to go back to voluntary contributions. Innovative ways of fund-

ing need to be designed — such as looking not for a single big foreign donor but a larger basket of domestic donors and charities. The retail contribution of volunteers and other donors will also give them a sense of ownership.

The State is the protector of rights given by the Constitution, and activists' groups can push it to do its duty by using protests, sit-ins, strikes, non-cooperation, or politics-by-other-means. For this, civil society organisations will need to get out of the professional NGO mode and go back to voluntarism. Just as political parties ask people to join them voluntarily and become stakeholders in their future, so should civil society organisations make people their partners. They can create a network of volunteers and membership among the affected people, instead of relying only on the well-intentioned vocal elite. This alone will give ordinary people a stake in the activities of civil society organisations.

They will also have to work in local politics outside the metropolitan cities. Instead of working in their centralised silos in metro locations and aiming for big change, it might be more productive for them to decentralise and work with local bodies like municipalities, elected village and district bodies, and state administrations. Those who are doing so already are paying a price. But this is a more effective way of changing this country's politics than merely sloganeering against the Big State, its functionaries and ideologues.

Instead of being accountable to their donors, civil society organisations can then become truly accountable to the people and their politics. They can still complement the protection of rights through legal and constitutional means with participation in local political movements by the affected organised through local regional and national campaigns.

The writer is a journalist based in New Delhi

To reduce their dependency on donors, particularly foreign donors, civil society organisations once again need to go back to voluntary contributions. Innovative ways of funding need to be designed

LETTERS

LUNAR FOCUS

I wonder what's the logic behind spending billions to make the moon habitable for humans, while destroying the earth by making it inhabitable. Climate change and loss of forest cover is leading water crisis in most countries, including India. But the government focuses little on such issues. If we have to make our future generations inherit a beautiful and livable world, we must act now to solve the issues that threaten the world.

B. Jagdish Rao
Hyderabad

SCHOOL FEES

I wonder why should the government and courts intervene in fixing fees for schools and colleges. There are a number of schools in the city. Nobody is forcing them to enrol their children in a particular school. So they are free pick the school that they like. Schools invest in land, buildings and infra and spend money for hiring best teachers and would like to recover the money invested.

Sudarshan Singh
Hyderabad

CRICKET THRILLER

The World Cup final was never so exciting. One surely thought the home team England would score off the required runs and overtake the New Zealanders. But that would have taken away all the excitement. What we got to watch was indeed a nail biting match. While the English team must be jubilant for winning such a tough match, I feel sorry for the New Zealanders.

N.R. Raghuram
Hyderabad

The cricket has won at the Lords. All the hearts were gasping with silent-claps till the last ball was bowled. Finally, England won but New Zealand did not lose. I hope the next World Cup which is hosted by India in 2023 too turns out to be a great entertainer.

P.V.M.Rao
Secunderabad

BUYING LEADERS

Business persons mostly go by what profits them. They can shift their partners if they find any good alternative. Similarly, the BJP has thrown out its partners — on whose support it had formed government in Goa after 10 Congress MLAs joined the party.

Baratam Raghunadha Rao
Hyderabad

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A.T. JAVANTI
Editor

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Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-255284/255287; Telefax: 0866-255234

Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285

Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208

Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433

Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatchalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22524747/485051; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325

Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-4346050; Fax: 080-22960552

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Kochi: No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloorkadavanthara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408

Thiruvananthapuram: St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycud (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014

Kozhikode: Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Fax : 0495 4019 018

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Harry Mount

Run, Boris, run: Fitness rage in UK, waistlines become history

Forget the cigar, the hom-burg and the V-for-victory sign. If Winston Churchill were around today, he'd be pounding the streets in T-shirt, shorts and chunky trainers. Jogging is an almost compulsory obsession for any Tory alpha male. Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt are forever out running; Michael Gove has lost a drastic amount of weight racing around west London; and Boris has revealed he's down to 15 and a half stone, from 16 and a half.

He's also declared he'd freeze obesity taxes on fattening food — the answer to losing weight was more exercise, he said — and admitted to failing to keep up a vegan diet (he likes cheese too much). But he is certainly looking slimmer since he started going out with Carrie Symonds, 24 years his junior. If he can't shrink the age gap, he can shrink the weight gap. When he was foreign secretary, he used to go

jogging with his security team. 'We used to get up at six o'clock every morning wherever we were and do a very, very lackadaisical run around whatever national landmark — Red Square, Sydney Harbour,' he explained, in a recent *Spectator* interview.

The jogging craze began with the previous Conservative administration. Both David Cameron and George Osborne graduated from biking to work (before they rose to power) to jogging around the streets of Westminster once they were in office. It's largely a male thing, and a generational thing too. Theresa May (born 1956) wouldn't be seen dead in a singlet. And can you imagine Margaret Thatcher (born 1925) in a pair of trainers? The new generation of jogging Tories were born within a seven-year period: Boris Johnson (1964), Jeremy Hunt (1966), David Cameron (1966), Michael Gove (1967) and George Osborne (1971).

They were children when the American inventor of jogging, Jim Fixx, wrote his 1977 bestseller, *The Complete Book of Running*. Forty years later, when they entered middle age and faced the dreaded tummy and horrifying moobs, jogging had become mainstream.

In the old days, it didn't matter if a Tory politician was fat — look at Churchill and Ted Heath. It was almost impossible not to be fat. Think of the endless receptions, speaking engagements, three-course constituency dinners and late-night parliamentary sittings lubricated with gallons of Château Paintstripper in the many Commons bars. Now even Nicholas Soames has slimmed down (not forgetting the King of the Tory Slimmers, Nigel Lawson — though he wouldn't have gone jogging in a million years).

But it isn't just middle-aged politicians who are losing weight; it's middle-aged professional men

generally. Upper-middle-class chaps — who would once have rejoiced in red faces, big tums and red cords — are now whippet-thin. Their favoured party outfit — jacket plus T-shirt with lightweight trainers — only really looks good if you're thin.

The elderly whippet look is catching on everywhere. I have been bicycling along the Outer Circle of Regent's Park for more than 30 years. For the first 20, I was one of very few cyclists, often overtaking Alan Bennett travelling at a stately pace on his vintage boneshaker. These days, I'm the slowcoach, overtaken by high-speed pelotons of skeletal bankers and lawyers, wrapped in lurid Lycra stamped with Tour de France sponsors' motifs. Snapping at the heels of the competitive middle-aged professionals are the millennials — who drink much less, eat more healthily and take more exercise than the generation above them. And then,

at the other end of the age spectrum, there's the dreaded spectre of death and — worse for many middle-aged men — retirement.

So how do you keep up with the younger generation and fight off the Grim Reaper? Get thinner. Just ask Osborne (on the 5:2 diet) and newscaster Huw Edwards, who has shed three stone thanks to boxing and a thing called TRX (Total Resistance Exercises, a system developed by a US Navy Seal, where you suspend your body from a tree with a vast elastic band).

It's all rather undignified and vain. How much better to grow old gracefully, like Kenneth Clarke, the heroic panatella puffer and beer drinker, who at 79 has announced he will stand down at the next election. We shall not see his like — or his waistline — again in future great Tory politicians.

By arrangement with the *Spectator*

Corn genetically modified to produce antibodies that destroy sperm

The reinforcement of set beliefs among like-minded people, leading to miscalculations and errors in judgment

Trump, Saudis & Iran: Is toppling in the offing?



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray
 Reflections

The British warships in or steaming towards the Persian Gulf offer further evidence of Great Britain's total subservience to the United States. When US President Donald Trump reneged on the "Iran nuclear deal" — the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action signed in July 2015 — and tried to pressure the other signatories to do likewise, they issued a joint statement that the United Nations Security Council resolution endorsing the deal remained the "binding international legal framework for the resolution of the dispute" over Iran's nuclear ambitions. Not any longer, it would appear, and certainly not for Theresa May's discredited government tottering in the final

stages of extinction. Her passive obedience to Big Brother on the other side of what used to be called "the pond" — meaning the Atlantic Ocean — isn't surprising after the way Tony Blair, the Labour Prime Minister from 1997 to 2007, kowtowed to George W. Bush Jr over invading Iraq in 2003. Mr Blair's first foreign secretary, Robin Cook, suggested that his boss worshipped power, which Mr Bush radiated. Ms May isn't a consequential enough public figure for anyone to try to analyse her motives. What is worrying is that it isn't yet clear whether Washington has another toppling in mind. While Mr Trump's thunderous rhetoric and provocative actions certainly suggest another "regime change" may be in the offing, his earlier dire warnings about

a border wall that Mexico would pay for suggests a degree of bluster in his political style not necessarily backed by action. At the same time, Venezuela's President, Nicolas Maduro, isn't the only head of government to accuse the United States of manufacturing humanitarian crises in order to find an excuse for invasion.

If the United States does embark on another such adventure, it will be less to support the principle of non-proliferation than to cosy up to Iran's sworn enemy, Saudi Arabia, which has emerged as the central pole in America's West Asian diplomacy. Mr Trump's close partnership with the desert kingdom is causing ripples of resentment even in Washington, where both Republicans and Democrats cited the war in Yemen, the murder of a prominent Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul and other human rights abuses to introduce legislation calling for a "comprehensive review" of the US-Saudi relationship. The bill introduced by Senator Jim Risch, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations

Iran may be the payoff. Mr Trump can even discharge his debt to Riyadh by punishing Tehran. The post-World War II dispensation that decided the nuclear regime recognises only five nuclear states. The others (including India) are still illegal.

Committee, also criticises the all-powerful Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and seeks to impose travel restrictions on Saudi royals until the kingdom improves its human rights record. The measure seeks to authorise the President to suspend US visas of Saudi citizens, including specifically government employees and descendants of King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud, the founder of modern-day Saudi Arabia and the Crown Prince's ancestor, while allowing for exceptions for diplomatic personnel and heads of state.

The opportunity for voicing this disapproval came when Mr Trump sought congressional approval for an "emer-

gency" transfer of \$8 billion worth of precision-guided and high-technology weapons to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for use in the Yemen war. The UAE now seems to be pulling out of Yemen, but it always played a secondary role in the crisis. Saudi Arabia is the principal player and also by far the biggest buyer of US arms. The bill is co-sponsored, among others, by Mr Trump's close ally, Senator Lindsey Graham, who is critical of the Saudi Crown Prince, and Senator Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat. Although the bill doesn't mention weapons (possibly because selling them is so important for the beleaguered American economy) it is an undisguised indictment of Mr Trump's foreign policy. Last year's \$110 billion deal with Riyadh will mean sales of tanks, combat ships, missile defence systems, as well as radar, communications and cybersecurity technology worth \$350 billion over 10 years.

The great religious divide between Shia Iran, which has always prided itself on its Aryan roots, and the Arab world, which is overwhelming-

ly Sunni, can mean nothing to Mr Trump or his influential son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner. But Mr Kushner's reported friendship with the Crown Prince is held responsible for Riyadh's acquiescence in Washington's blind support for Israel at the expense of all moral and legal considerations as well as longstanding commitments to the Palestinians. The Saudis, once regarded as the leader of the Arab and Islamic worlds and foremost champion of the Palestinian cause, watched silently from the sidelines as Mr Trump underwrote the shift of the American embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which the Palestinians also claim, the annexation of Syria's Golan Heights and the so-called Bahrain plan (believed to be Mr Kushner's brainchild) which will deny sovereign independence to the West Bank and reduce it to the permanent status of an Israeli colony.

Iran may be the payoff. Mr Trump can even discharge his debt to Riyadh by punishing Tehran with an air of righteousness. The post-World War II dispensation that decided

the nuclear regime recognises only five nuclear states. The others (including India) are still illegal. However, the signatories to the Iran deal — the United States, China, France, Russia, Britain, Germany and the European Union — solemnly assured Iran of certain economic benefits in return for restricting its nuclear programme. Having unilaterally broken that commitment, Mr Trump now regularly threatens the Iranian leaders with "obliteration" while needling them with provocative military action in the air and at sea. Reports indicate that Iran is no longer abiding by its side of the bargain regarding the quantity and level of uranium enrichment. If so, and if as a consequence a threat of nuclear devastation looms over West Asia, the US President is to blame for recklessly betraying his country's sworn word. It's no excuse that the Iran deal was former President Barack Obama's handiwork, which his jealous successor therefore feels compelled to undo.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

Cox compromise safest route out of Brexit mess: Can Boris pull it off?



James Forsyth

After being backed by a majority of Tory MPs, Boris Johnson now looks set to win over party members by an even larger margin. Surveys suggest he will hoover up between two thirds and three quarters of the vote. A Tory leader with such a mandate would, normally, start his premiership with huge amounts of political capital and be able to dictate terms to their opponents within the party. But Johnson will have to watch his back from the moment he crosses the threshold of No. 10. Most new Prime Ministers arrive with a decent majority. Johnson will be clinging to power from day one. Even with the DUP, the government has a working majority of just five MPs. That might go down to just three after the Brecon and Radnorshire by-election next month. It's taking place because Chris Davies, the Tory MP, was caught fiddling his expenses and his constituents were so angry that they successfully petitioned to have him removed. Such conditions do not augur well for a Tory victory this time especially as Davies is their candidate. Aggravating the problems caused by the parliamentary arithmetic are two political diseases in wide circulation:

Brexit derangement syndrome and Boris derangement syndrome. Many Tories are being driven to distraction by both. A handful even think that bringing down their own government and ushering in a general election is preferable to no deal, even if that might mean a Jeremy Corbyn premiership and another Scottish independence referendum. It's still a fringe position: even Sir Oliver Letwin, a hardened anti-Brexit rebel, concedes a Corbyn government is unlikely to offer better solutions. A Corbyn-McDonnell government may well lead to chaos that puts any Brexit effect in the shade: if property rights were undermined, it would strike at the very heart of this country's international reputation. Boris Johnson wants all prospective cabinet ministers to sign up to his Brexit policy, so all of them must say they are ready for the United Kingdom to leave without a deal on 31 October if needs be. Theresa May's negotiating strategy was weakened by arguments in her cabinet, which meant the EU doubted May's ability to deliver on any deal. Nor did they believe that she would stand by her policy that "no deal was better than a bad deal". Collective responsibility is

The Attorney General is leading the work on how to negotiate with the EU — and handle parliament. When he went to Brussels to try to salvage May's deal, he argued for a change to the backstop. Had he succeeded, parliament may well have passed May's deal.

not the same as ideological purity, though. It doesn't mean every minister has to believe in the same policy. It means that they abide by it and defend it, both in public and private, and stick with the government line when things get tough. Johnson has fretted to confidants that ministers might sign up to his no deal policy to start with but go wobbly as the Brexit deadline draws closer, resigning at the government's moment of maximum vulnerability. This is an understandable concern; he and David Davis successfully destabilised May's Brexit strategy by resigning after her Chequers plan. She was further weakened later by the resignations of Dominic Raab and Esther McVey. However, none of them had publicly signed up to these policies in advance. If ministers say in public that they back leaving on 31 October come what may, it will be harder for them to say later that they have changed their minds and want to resign. Johnson should learn two lessons from May when it comes to appointing his cabinet. First, she appointed people

who were loyal to her — but who were not, really, up to the job. He must avoid having his own version of Karen Bradley, May's other problem was that even at her zenith she was fearful of being upstaged by members of her cabinet. This meant she'd undermine them, blocking them from bringing in the advisers they wanted. She used No. 10 to keep her ministers on the tightest of leashes and did her best to make sure no one else would shine. One of Johnson's great political strengths is that he is not afraid of talent or ambition. It is not a coincidence that two of his deputy mayors — Kit Malthouse and James Cleverly — threw their hats into the ring in this Tory leadership contest. He must continue this approach in Downing Street and be happy to let ministers have their own triumphs: their successes will reflect well on him. He can be confident that his political persona and the challenges he'll face as soon as he takes office means he won't be overshadowed by any member of his ministry. Perhaps the most important appointment will be the chief Brexit negotiator. I understand that Geoffrey Cox, the Attorney General, is currently leading the work on how to negotiate with the EU — and handle parliament. When he went to Brussels to try to salvage May's deal, he argued for a change to the backstop that would see it cease to apply if trade talks between the United Kingdom and the European Union irrevocably broke down. Had he succeeded, parliament

may well have passed May's deal. Those close to Cox believe that he was making some progress with Michel Barnier over this demand until No. 10 decided this part of the deal was non-negotiable and ordered Cox to back off. But if Cox is redeployed this time, and finishes what he started, might we end up with a tweaked version of May's deal? Johnson sometimes speaks as if he wants to abandon the Withdrawal Agreement entirely. (It is, as they say in Brussels, caduque.) However, even he voted for this deal the third time it was brought to parliament. His logic, then, was that it would do for now, and could be replaced later with a very different deal negotiated by a new PM. This logic remains sound. When we asked him last week if he would accept a modified version of May's deal, he replied it was essential that Britain is not locked in either the customs union or the single market. A Cox compromise would mean we would not be permanently stuck in anything. Once Brexit is legally completed, much of the air would go out of Nigel Farage and the Brexit party's balloon. A general election would then be on the cards; especially if Johnson wants to be free of the constraints of a hung parliament. A no-deal Brexit would be a massive gamble for everyone involved. But a Brexit deal, perhaps achieved by a Cox compromise, could offer the easiest and safest route out of the current mess. By arrangement with the Spectator



Dominic Emmanuel

Gold of character must pass test of fire

Most people buying gold ornaments spend much time selecting fine designs but they rarely pause to find out how pure that gold is and how it is purified. Though not one for wearing any gold myself, while doing minor research on "how" gold is purified, I came across two different descriptions: one, a complicated scientific terms and the other, a simpler one. It speaks of three steps: pulverising the ore, along with dirt and rock minerals; washing and sifting that powder several times and finally putting it through the furnace. Gold or the golden colour, besides being used for ornaments, is also used to create something outstanding and shining. No wonder then that gold is used in temples, mosques, churches, viharas, and gurdwaras. Obviously, we want our places of worship to be the best, having possibly the purest and most expensive metal available. One of the metaphors used in the Bible, as also elsewhere, for purifying one's character and bring-

ing out one's best qualities, is that of gold being refined and purified in fire. The Christian belief is that God, who has made us for himself, tries to draw the best out of us by cleansing us, using the three steps employed in purifying gold. But only if we let him! Like the ore covered with dirt and rock material, the gold in us collects dross or rubbish along life's journey. God sometimes uses tough means on us to grind such negativities in us. While these may appear as problems to us, it is the first step God uses to make us like pure gold. God then finds ways of washing and sifting us as thoroughly as possible by providing us His Word and teachings through our scriptures. The final step, often the most painful one, is to put us through furnace. "I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities", is what God does, as recorded in the Bible. God leaves the choice entirely to us, to let him accomplish his purifying action in us." The writer is a founder-member of the Parliament of Religions



Despite space race, moonwalk a feat of mankind



Mahir Ali

I can't pay no doctor's bill/ (But Whitey's on the moon)/ Ten years from now I'll be payin' still/ (while Whitey's on the moon)," declared the American performance poet Gil Scott-Heron. In the run-up to this week's 50th anniversary of the first human steps on the heavenly body nearest to our earthly abode, it may seem churlish to recall the context of that undoubtedly tremendous accomplishment. It tends to get short shrift in the plethora of documen-

taries, books and articles commemorating that signal achievement, which is hardly surprising. But there was a context. The nation that mesmerised the world by putting men on the moon was not only riven by economic and racial disparities at home. Perhaps most egregiously of all, it was devoting a lot more billions of dollars to creating craters in Vietnam than it was to investigating them on the moon. And, of course, there was another crucial context: the Cold War. The first Sputnik in 1957 had both shocked and fascinated America. Shortly after John F. Kennedy's presidential inauguration, the Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human being to orbit Earth in April 1961. America's Alan Shepard was blasted into

If the Soviets were reaching for the moon, the Americans were determined to beat them to it. And they did, after being beaten in the race to the first satellite, the first man in space, the first woman in space (Valentina Tereshkova), and the first spacewalk.

space the following month, but his 15 minutes of suborbital flight, compared with Gagarin's 108-minute orbit, tended to confirm the impression that the Soviets were far ahead. Yet when Kennedy, to his credit, broached the subject of space collaboration, including

a possible joint moon mission, with Nikita Khrushchev later that year, the latter balked at the idea. Kennedy repeated his offer at the United Nations, after he had proposed landing a man on the moon by the end of the decade, but he was assassinated not long afterwards, and Khrushchev was deposed the following year. If Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson, was half-hearted about the idea, the Nasa rejected the notion out of hand. If the Soviets were reaching for the moon, the Americans were determined to beat them to it. And they did, after being beaten in the race to the first satellite, the first man in space, the first woman in space (Valentina Tereshkova), and the first spacewalk. The Soviets perhaps intended to upstage their rivals with an unmanned moon land-

ing whereby soil samples would robotically be obtained without risking any lives. But several of their Luna craft either crashed — including one disaster while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were actually on the surface — or shot past the moon. The mission was accomplished the following year. In their case, incidentally, the key rocket scientist was an ex-Nazi by the name of Wernher von Braun. The immensely powerful Saturn V rocket that propelled Apollo 11 into space was his brainchild, just like the V-2 rockets — the V stood for the German equivalent of vengeance — that failed to save Adolf Hitler's regime but wreaked havoc in London and elsewhere during the final phases of the Second World War. By arrangement with Dawn

Astronauts hurtle towards moon right on course

50 YEARS AGO IN
DECCAN Chronicle

HOUSTON, TEXAS, JULY 17. America's moon-bound astronauts hurtled towards their lunar goal today — on schedule, on course and with their spaceship rotating like a chicken on a spit to stop them getting sunburned. Apollo 11 crewmen Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin and Michael Collins settled down for a long sleep a few hours earlier than planned last night after a perfect blast off from Cape Kennedy set the scene for their attempt to conquer the moon. At 12 noon IST today the spacecraft was 77,720 nautical miles from earth, travelling at a speed of about 6,410 feet per second. The Apollo lunar ferry is due to touch down on the moon at 0149 IST on Monday July 21. The astronauts face an easy time in space today, allowing them to rest for the hazardous moon-landing attempt. They will spend most of the time star spotting as part of a series of navigational exercises.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
TRICHY (H) NABARD AND RURAL ROADS, CIRCLE
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.10/2019-20/SDO/Dated:12.07.2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu sealed percentage tender (Two Cover System) will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD and Rural Roads, Circle Plot No.372, Rajaram Salai, K.K.Nagar, Trichy-21 for the Bridge works under NABARD RIDF - XXIII / 2017-18/70 BRIDGE WORKS loan Assistance scheme for Reconstruction of Bridge at Km.45/2 of Mayladathurai - Thiruthuraiipoondi road across Pandavaiyar river (SH 23) work in respect of Nagapattinam (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Division, at this office up to 2.00 P.M. (as per office clock) on 21.08.2019.

Details of works, approximate value of work, EMD, Price of tender document, place and availability of tender document, receipt of tender, opening of tender and all other details are available in the website <http://www.tnhighways.org> (or) <http://tenders.tn.gov.in> if any changes / corrections etc to the tender, it will be published on the above website (s) only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H), NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, TRICHY

DIPR/2428/TENDER/2019





Long stretch

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu becomes longest-serving leader to hold the office



All suspects held in Easter attacks should be given death sentence

— Maitripala Sirisena, Sri Lankan President

BRIEF

El Chapo awaits life in US prison

New York: After a run as one of the world's most powerful criminals, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is expected to be sentenced to life in prison when he appears in a New York courtroom on Wednesday. Guzman, 62, former leader of the powerful Sinaloa drug cartel, was convicted in February of crimes spanning a quarter of a century, including trafficking hundreds of tons of drugs to the US. The charges also include money laundering and weapons-related offenses, carrying a mandatory life sentence. Last week, prosecutors asked US federal judge Brian Cogan to tack on a symbolic extra 30 years in prison for the use of firearms in his business.

EU probes Amazon merchant data use

Brussels: The EU's powerful anti-trust authority launched an in-depth probe into Amazon on Wednesday, amid suspicions the US-based online behemoth misuses merchant data hosted on its website. The formal probe opens a new chapter in the EU's campaign to curtail the dominance of US tech firms with Google, Facebook and Apple also regular targets of regulators in Brussels. "I have... decided to take a very close look at Amazon's business practices and its dual role as marketplace and retailer (and) to assess its compliance with EU competition rules," the EU's anti-trust commissioner Margrethe Vestager said.

UN peacekeeper, 5 civilians killed

United Nations: The UN said a peacekeeper and five civilians were killed in an attack on peacekeepers during a routine patrol at a market in a disputed region on the border of Sudan and South Sudan. UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said a second peacekeeper was wounded by gunfire in the attack by a group of unknown men in Abyei. The slain peacekeeper was from Ethiopia. The UN said the peacekeeping mission has deployed troops to enhance security and determine the circumstances behind the attack. The mission's acting commander called it unprovoked. Sudan and South Sudan claim ownership of the oil-rich Abyei area.

BOY SCOLDED FOR WATCHING VIDEOS ONLINE, MISSING

Dubai, July 17: A 15-year-old boy, who was scolded by his mother for watching YouTube late at night, is missing for two weeks after he ran away from home, according to a media report on Wednesday. Mohammad Perwez, who lives with his family in Sharjah, left his house early in the morning on July 4 after his mother scolded him and took away his phone. Sharjah police has intensified search for the boy, who hails from Bihar. On Tuesday, the police posted his picture and details on social media and sought help from the public to trace him, the Gulf News reported. We contacted his friends and people who had travelled with us during a recent Umrah trip. Many people are back home on vacation. But all those who are here said they have not seen him, the boy's father Mohammad Aftab Alam said. Alam on Sunday sought the help of India's consulate to help trace his son. His nephew Shams Tabrez said the boy was scolded and his phone taken away by around 1 am. When he woke up at 4 am to go for prayers, he didn't find him.

ACCESS CONTROL

House vote condemns Trump's 'racist' tweets

Rebuke has no legal repercussion, but embarrasses Prez

Washington, July 17: In a remarkable political repudiation, the Democratic-led US House voted to condemn President Donald Trump's "racist comments" against four congresswomen of colour, despite protestations by Trump's Republican congressional allies and his own insistence he hasn't "a racist bone in my body."



US Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi walks with reporters, before the House of Representatives passed a resolution condemning US President Donald Trump for his "racist comments" on four Democratic congresswomen at the Capitol. — AFP

Two days after Trump tweeted that four Democratic freshmen should "go back" to their home countries — though all are citizens and three were born in the US — Democrats muscled the resolution through the chamber by 240-187 over near-solid GOP opposition. The rebuke on Tuesday night was an embarrassing one for Trump even though it carries no legal repercussions, but if anything his latest harangues should help him with his die-hard conservative base.

Despite a lobbying effort by Trump and party leaders for a unified GOP front, four Republicans voted to condemn his remarks: moderate Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Fred Upton of Michigan, Will Hurd of Texas and Susan Brooks of Indiana, who is retiring. Also backing the measure was Michigan's independent Rep. Justin Amash, who left the GOP in July after becoming the party's sole member of Congress to back a Trump impeachment inquiry.

Senator and presidential candidate Kamala Harris says she's personally been told "go back to where you came from." The California Democrat, in Iowa, had an angry response to Trump's tweet about four Democratic congresswomen. Democrats saved one of the day's most passionate moments until near the end.

"I know racism when I see it," said Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, whose skull was fractured at the 1965 "Bloody Sunday" civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. "At the

5x rise for merit to immigrate to US

Washington, July 17: The Trump administration is proposing a nearly five-fold increase in merit-based legal immigration and half those based on family and humanitarian system, in an effort to overhaul the outdated system.

Senior presidential adviser Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of US President Trump, said having an immigration policy that will attract talented and meritorious people from across the world would create over \$500 billion in tax revenues over 10 years.

"It brings in a lot of people that are paying into the social safety nets. Not people who are coming in and then immediately taking from the social safety nets, which right now have to support Americans who are currently citizens,"

Merit-based immigration system allows the best and the brightest from throughout the world to compete based on objective criteria to become American citizens

— JARED KUSHNER, Senior prez adviser

Kushner told the cabinet during a meeting at the White House.

At the direction of Trump, Kushner is leading the immigration reform project, which he said was now into its final stages and expects to make it public soon.

Kushner rued that America's immigration system was a very outdated compared to some of the peer countries that it competes with for talent. — PTI

highest level of government, there's no room for racism."

Before the showdown roll call, Trump characteristically plunged forward with time-tested

insults. He accused his four outspoken critics of "spewing some of the most vile, hateful and disgusting things ever said by a politician" and added, "If you hate our

US BARS ENTRY OF MYANMAR ARMY CHIEF

Washington, July 17: The US slapped sanctions against Myanmar's chief of military and three other top officers for gross human rights violations, including killing of Rohingya Muslims and barred their entry into America.

Following the sanctions imposed on them on Tuesday, Com-mander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-chief Soe Win, Brigadier General Than Oo and Brigadier General Aung Aung along with their immediate family members have been banned from entering the US. With this announcement, the US is the first government to publicly take action with respect to the most senior leadership of the Burmese military," Mike Pompeo, US Secretary of State, said. — PTI

Trump pick commends Pak act on terror groups

Washington, July 17: US Defence Secretary nominee Mark Esper has said Pakistan had taken initial and promising steps against anti-Indian groups, adding that he would use all possible tools to promote a change in Islamabad's strategic approach to the region.

Esper said the president's South Asia Strategy recognises Pakistan as a key partner in advancing US interests in the region, including developing a political settlement in Afghanistan, defeating the Al-Qaeda and the IS, providing logistical access and enhancing regional stability.

"We have seen Pakistan take some constructive steps on Afghan reconciliation. Pakistan has also taken initial, promising steps against anti-Indian groups, such as Lashkar-e-Tayyabba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, which threaten regional stability," Esper told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday.

"It is difficult to assess whether the security assistance suspension itself has driven these constructive actions, or whether progress on Afghan reconciliation and the escalation following the Pulwama terrorist attack have also influenced Pakistan's calculations," Esper noted in a written response to questions submitted ahead of his confirmation hearing.

Esper said he will advocate for the Department of Defence to maintain the right set of tools and authorities to maintain decision space and flexibility in America's policy approach, in order to maintain a "bridge back" for Pakistan.

"If confirmed, I would aim to make use of all of the tools at our disposal to

US sees growth in ties with India

Washington, July 17: There is an "enormous potential" for growth in the India-US relationship, the Trump administration has said, exuding confidence that the ongoing trade issues could be worked through because of the friendship between the two nations.

US President Donald Trump has often termed India a "tariff king" and repeatedly pointed to 50 per cent tariffs it imposes on imports of Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

India imposed retaliatory tariffs on 28 US products, including almonds and apples from June 5 after Trump revoked its preferential trade privileges. India had been the biggest beneficiary of the Generalised System of Preferences, a programme designed to help developing countries sell to US consumers.

"As it relates to our trade relationship, the secre-

We talked quite a bit...you probably know this already how - the US is India's most important trading partner. I believe we're their top market for exports

— MORGAN ORTAGUS, State Department spokesperson

tary (of state) has said this as well when we were in India: that we see a lot of opportunity for growth in our relationship. We see enormous potential," State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus told reporters at a news conference on Tuesday.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was recently in New Delhi for talks with the new Indian government where he met with his counterpart (S. Jaishankar), had incredibly effective meetings, Ortagus said. — PTI

promote a change in Pakistan's strategic approach to the region," he said.

Assistance and operational reimbursements like Coalition Support Funds (CSF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET), which are currently suspended, may be useful to reinforce positive actions Pakistan takes in response to US requests related to terrorism, militant sanctuaries and nuclear programs.

"However, the 2018 suspension of security assistance remains in place,"

he said. "My objective would be to maintain decision space and preserve the defence relationship, including select military-to-military exchanges, between the United States and Pakistan, even as we urge Pakistan to take action on American requests."

Noting that the threat of terrorist attacks against the United States and its allies emanating from Afghanistan remains its primary challenge, he said the country had made great improvements in their capabilities. — PTI

UK eyes flights for 'forced weddings'

London, July 17: With summer holidays beginning in Britain this week, officials are redoubling efforts at the border to stop young people being dragged into forced marriages.

At a Heathrow Airport arrivals gate, officials from a special task force comprising police, immigration agents and charity workers intercepted a family disembarking a flight from Bengaluru.

A young woman in the group raised red flags because of bruises on her arm, while a 13-year-old girl appeared especially timid — both indicators of potential coercion.

After speaking to family members individually, officials were satisfied that the family was travelling to Britain for a funeral and the bruising was due to a traffic accident.

But the officials also learned that the young woman's parents had recently found her a fiancé in their home state of Kerala, and that he, too, may travel to Britain. Trained task force offi-

BRITAIN outlawed forced marriage in 2014, with a maximum jail term of 7 years.

REPORTED cases are said to be small

IRAN SAYS IT IS ASSISTING AILING FOREIGN TANKER

Tehran, July 17: Iran's foreign ministry spokesman has said that the Islamic republic was assisting a "foreign tanker that had encountered a technical problem" in the Gulf after receiving a distress call.

"According to international regulations... Iranian forces approached it and using a tugboat brought it into Iranian waters for necessary repairs," Abbas Mousavi said on Tuesday according to an official government Twitter account. He added that more details will be given later.

Earlier, TankerTrackers reported that the Panamanian-flagged tanker *Riah*, used in the strategic Strait of Hormuz "for fuelling other vessels" had crossed into Iranian waters on July 14 "for the first time as she slowed down".

According to online oil shipment tracking service, *Riah's* last known position was off Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz. — AFP



Sadam Abdusalam holds up a photo of his Uighur wife Nadila Wumaier and their son Lutifeier.

OZ ASKS CHINA TO FREE UIGHUR MOTHER, SON

Sydney, July 17: Australia's government on Wednesday called on China to allow an Australian child and his Uighur mother to leave the country, stepping up pressure on Beijing days after Canberra co-signed a letter denouncing its treatment of the Muslim minority.

China has rounded up an estimated one million Uighurs and other mostly Muslim Turkic-speaking minorities into re-education camps in the Xinjiang region.

Canberra had initially denied citizenship to baby Lutifeier, who was born in Xinjiang in August 2017 to an Australian father and a Uighur mother, but backtracked last year following a legal battle. The child's father, Sadam Abdusalam, was campaigning for months so his Uighur wife, Nadila Wumaier, and their son can come to Australia.

On Wednesday, foreign minister Marise Payne cautioned that "as Wumaier is not an Australian citizen we do not have an entitlement to consular access". — AFP



SKY SPECTACLE

The full moon rises above New York City skyline ahead of a partial lunar eclipse on Wednesday. The eclipse coincides with the 50th anniversary of the launch on July 16, 1969 of the Apollo 11 mission that landed the first men on moon. — AP

COVETED THRONE

Voters include *Schitt's Creek*, *When They See Us* in over dozen nominations

Emmys hail GoT, bets against Parsons

New York, July 17: Emmy Award nominations seemed like a lock: *Game of Thrones* was going to earn a haul. *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* would still charm voters. The final goodbye to *Veep* would surely end in nominations. But who would have bet against Jim Parsons? And who thought *Schitt's Creek* would finally get noticed by Emmy voters long after its cameras were turned off? And who thought the powerful *When They See Us*, which shined a light on a 30-year-old miscarriage of justice, would be hailed with over a dozen nominations?

Some of the snubs and surprises from the Emmy nominations. Parsons won't be able to make Emmy history this year. *The Big Bang Theory* star didn't earn a nomination for outstanding lead actor in a comedy series, meaning his fifth statuette is out of reach in 2019. Parsons is a six-time nominee and won his fourth statuette in 2014, tying Carroll O'Connor, Michael J. Fox and Kelsey Grammer's category record of four wins apiece. *The Big Bang Theory*, which ended its run after 12 seasons earlier this year, got little goodbye love from Emmy voters despite being a top-rated comedy. The show won 10 Emmy Awards during its life but earned just three nominations on Tuesday — for direction, technical direction and editing. For five seasons, there were Emmy crickets when

for stars Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara. The show is also up for outstanding comedy series. Co-creator and co-star Dan Levy — son of Eugene — tweeted out an emoji in tears. The show had been a sleeper hit among comedy fans. The series garnered its first Critics Choice Award nomination in 2018 and its arrival on Netflix helped spread the word. *Schitt's Creek* follows a family of newly broke millionaires arriving at their one remaining asset — a backwater town they bought for their son as a joke. The recent Emmy-less streak for *The Tonight Show* continues. The venerable show where Steve Allen, Jack Paar, Johnny Carson, Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien played host



Kit Harington who was nominated for an Emmy Award for outstanding lead actor in a drama series, in a scene from the *Game of Thrones*

it came to *Schitt's Creek*. Then, after its fifth and final season — respect.

Schitt's Creek earned four nominations on Tuesday, including acting ones

hasn't won an Emmy for outstanding variety talk show under Jimmy Fallon — and won't again in 2019.

There was no room for *The Tonight Show* this year as outstanding variety talk show. Spots instead went to *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*, *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, *The Late Late Show with James Corden* and *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Fallon, who has four Emmys, has gone without a statuette since 2015, when he won a social media award. Fallon did get an acting nomination on Tuesday for mocking presidential hopeful Beto O'Rourke on Facebook Live. — AP

Coal India
subsidiaries
may be
spun off &
listedPremji
helps create
newest tech
unicorn

Overleaf

quick
BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,215.64	+0.22
Nifty 50	11,687.50	+0.21
S&P 500	2,995.02	-0.30
Dollar (₹)	68.81	+0.15
Pound Sterling (₹)	85.41	+0.32
Euro (₹)	77.16	+0.29
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	35,500.70	-0.19
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	63.66	-1.07
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.345	+0.013
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	2.078	-0.042

* As of 10:30 pm IST

PSB reports
₹238-cr fraud by
Bhushan Power

Punjab & Sind Bank reported over Rs 238 crore fraud by Bhushan Power and Steel, a third such instance after similar disclosures made by PNB and Allahabad Bank. "On the basis of forensic audit investigation findings...a fraud of Rs 238.30 crore is being reported by bank to RBI...bank has already made provisions amounting to Rs 189.35 crore," PSB said.

Jalan for transfer
of surplus capital
over 3-5 years

The Bimal Jalan committee, set up to assess the optimum size of capital reserves that the RBI should hold, on Wednesday finalised its report, sources said. As per various estimates, the RBI has over Rs 9 lakh crore of surplus capital with it. Sources transfer, as suggested by the panel, would be periodic and would spread over three-five years.

Over 1.46 crore
income tax
returns filed

Over 1.46 crore income tax returns have been filed so far, of which 90.8 lakh have been filed by individuals with total income up to Rs 50 lakh. Revenue department data shows a total of over 7.94 lakh tax returns were alone filed on July 16, of which over 5.26 lakh was ITR-1 or Sahaj. ITR-1 can be filed by resident individuals having income of up to Rs 50 lakh.

Jaypee: IDBI told
to furnish fresh
bidding terms

The NCLAT directed IDBI Bank, the lead lender of Jaypee Infratech, to file an affidavit by Friday, listing out new terms and conditions if a fresh bidding process is conducted. The appellate tribunal has listed the matter for next hearing on Monday. In the second round of bidding, the CoC had first rejected the resolution plan of Suraksha Realty and then also voted against NBCC's offer.

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Strides shredded, dumped key documents: USFDA

CHANDINI MONNAPPA
BENGALURU, JULY 17

A US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigator discovered that Strides Pharma Science Ltd, which exports to the US market, was shredding drug production, quality and laboratory documents and dumping others in a scrap yard.

The "uncontrolled destruction" of manufacturing records and the lack of adequate documentation handling at the drugmak-

er's factory at Puducherry called into question the effectiveness of its quality unit and the integrity and accuracy of its records, the regulator said in a warning letter made public on Tuesday.

The investigator observed multiple bags of manufacturing documents awaiting shredding and a blue binder, including the records of batches of drugs produced for the US market, in a 55-gallon drum in the scrap yard, Francis Godwin, director

of the FDA's Office of Manufacturing Quality, said in the letter here dated July 1.

The potential importance of individual documents wasn't made clear by the FDA.

Strides, which also has factories in Italy, Kenya and Singapore, produces drugs that treat AIDS, malaria and hepatitis. Its revenue grew 6 per cent in the last fiscal year.

In the letter to Strides, the FDA didn't explain whether its inspectors often check scrap yards or shredding rooms for documents, or whether it was acting on some kind of tipoff to do so at the Strides plant.

In its initial response to the FDA's findings, Strides said the discarding of the binder was inadvertent.

The FDA said Strides response was "inadequate"

because it did not assess how poor documentation practices affected distributed drug product or how the manufacturer would strengthen its quality unit's oversight.

The agency said it found "significant violations" of current good manufacturing practice (CGMP) regulations at the facility.

Shares of the Bengaluru-based firm, which fell as much as 8 per cent to a near one-year low earlier on Wednesday, pared losses to 3.4 per cent at the close.

Last month, Aurobindo Pharma Ltd was warned here by the FDA for ignoring impurities in an active ingredient it produced. The Hyderabad-based drugmaker recalled contaminated valsartan in January and in March.

"CGMP documents in the binder were dated as recently as January 21, 2019: seven days before our inspection. Your quality unit did not review or check these documents prior to disposal," Godwin said in the letter, addressed

to Strides Chief Executive Officer Arun Kumar.

On July 2, Strides shares slumped after it said it received a warning letter from the US FDA, it did not disclose the content of the letter at that time.

A Strides spokesman said on Wednesday the company did not have any further comment.

Strides bought a unit of Vivimed Labs in January. Vivimed manufactures losartan, a drug that is part of a wider recall in the US.

— Reuters

Law amendments make resolution plan binding on all
330-day deadline for
insolvency resolutionFC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

In a move to fill up the critical gaps in the corporate insolvency resolution framework and ensure enhanced compliance by companies, the government on Wednesday approved a couple of important bills—the insolvency law and the amendment of the Companies Act, 2013.

For the insolvency law, the Narendra Modi government on Wednesday cleared seven amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to give more clarity on timelines for the rescue of companies and help resolve stressed assets and maximise the value of corporate debtor.

The amendments seek to put in place a 330-day deadline for the corporate resolution process, including litigation and other judicial processes. It also make the resolution plan binding on all stakeholders, including the central government, state government or local authority to whom a debt is owed.

Further, the committee of creditors (CoC) may take the decision to liquidate the corporate debtor, any

CLEARING ROADBLOCKS

- There would be more clarity on allowing comprehensive corporate restructuring schemes such as mergers and demergers as part of the resolution plan
- The amended code would also provide greater clarity on rights and duties of representatives of voters and manner of distribution of amounts amongst financial and operational creditors

time after constitution of the committee and before preparation of Information Memorandum for the resolution, sources said.

With the amendments, there would be more clarity on allowing comprehensive corporate restructuring schemes such as mergers and demergers as part of the resolution plan.

"The amended code would also provide greater clarity on permissibility of corporate restructuring processes would continue to remain delayed," said Abhishek Daffriya, Vice President and Co-Head, Corporate Ratings, Ica.

Cyril Shroff, Managing Partner at law firm Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas said the amendments would clear several roadblocks that are holding up resolution under the code.

Experts believe the latest set of amendments further demonstrates the government's intent to continue to strengthen the IBC. "The increase in maximum time allowed for the resolution process to 330 days from 270 days may not be much meaningful in the current scenario given that the tribunals are already overburdened with cases and until the infrastructure issues are resolved, a large portion of resolution processes would continue to remain delayed," said

Abhishek Daffriya, Vice President and Co-Head, Corporate Ratings, Ica.

Cyril Shroff, Managing Partner at law firm Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas said the amendments would clear several roadblocks that are holding up resolution under the code.

"Vesting with the CoC the ability to take into account commercial considerations in respect of distributions under the resolution plan; making the resolution plan binding on all stakeholders and comprehensive restructuring through schemes will help foster flagging investor confidence," Shroff said.

Uday Bhansali, President (Financial Advisory) at Deloitte India said dissenting creditors and operational creditors have to accept liquidation value or sum offered in the resolution plan, whichever is higher.

The Cabinet also approved a bill to amend the Companies Act, 2013. The bill would replace an ordinance issued in 2019. The proposed amendments will lead to further promotion of ease of doing business, de-clogging of NCLT and special courts, a government release said.

The focus would be on serious cases of violations of the Act and ensuring enhanced compliance by corporates. "The amendments will benefit law abiding corporates, while simultaneously plugging gaps in the corporate governance and compliance framework," the release said.

EV charging stations to
be set up in capital citiesMICHAEL GONSALVES
JUNE, JULY 17

In a bid to push for electric mobility, the government has proposed to set up electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in large cities, state capitals and smart cities.

Initially, there would be a total of 1,000 charging stations with a minimum of 6,000 chargers.

In an ambitious move, the government has mandated that all new three-wheelers sold in the country should be fully electric starting from April 1, 2023 and two-wheelers below 150 cc engine, from April 1, 2025.

At present, over 3.97 lakh EVs ply on the India roads.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries has invited proposals from urban local bodies, municipal corporations, PSUs (state/central) and public/private entities, who are interested in developing EV charging infrastructure in different states and cities.

The ministry has also invited proposals from satellite towns connected to major metros such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad and major cities of special category states/Union territories,



and the capital city of all states/Union territories not covered in these categories.

"Initially, 1,000 EV charging stations are earmarked for deployment through this expression of interest (EOI). These EV charging stations will be sanctioned to different states/cities/entities after evaluation of the proposals received under this EOI," the ministry said.

Wherever possible, EV charging stations should be connected with "grid-connected solar power plant" of required capacity as per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) guidelines so as to ensure grid stability and green energy for electric vehicles, it

said. The last date for submission of the proposals is August 20.

Earlier this year, the second phase of the FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric vehicle) was implemented in India from April 1, 2019 with an approved budget of Rs 10,000 crore.

The FAME II scheme, that will be implemented over three years, starting from 2019 to 2022, will also offer exemption from road tax and registration charge for hybrids and EVs.

The government wants to extend the capital grants with various organisations to promote the use of EVs in the country.

Yatra to merge
with Ebix armFC BUREAU
CHENNAI, JULY 17

US software firm Ebix will acquire Nasdaq-listed domestic travel service provider Yatra Online for an enterprise value of \$337.8 million, or around Rs 2,325 crore.

As per the definitive agreement signed by both entities, Yatra will become part of Ebix's Indian subsidiary EbixCash and its travel portfolio, which includes Via and Mumbai-based Mercury. But the merged entity will continue to deal with customers under the Yatra brand.

This is one of the biggest consolidations in India's online travel market after MakeMyTrip acquired competitor Goibibo.

Ebix had announced commencement of the due diligence process in March this year. The transaction is based on Yatra's closing share price on March 8, 2019, the last trading day prior to the public announcement.

Based on the trailing 15-day volume weighted average price of Ebix common stock of \$49.05 a share, each Yatra ordinary share convertible into Ebix common stock would be valued at \$4.90, representing about 32 per cent premium to Yatra's closing share price on March 8. The acquisition of Yatra would lend itself to significant synergies and the emergence of EbixCash as



India's largest and most profitable travel services company, said Ebix Chairman, President and CEO Robin Raina.

There are cross-selling opportunities as well. Yatra, which posted revenue of \$31.7 million in Q4 2018, has over 800 corporate clients. EbixCash posted an operating income of \$41.5 million in Q4 2018.

"We will provide more options and an enhanced experience for our joint customers and will be an even stronger partner to the airline, hotel, car rental and other businesses we work with," said Yatra Online Co-founder and CEO Dhruv Shringi.

Ebix had made a few acquisitions in the recent past. In 2017, it had acquired digital payments company ItzCash. In April 2018 it bought the forex card business of the Centrum Group—Centrum Direct—for around Rs 1,200 crore.

Cardamom soars as wild weather hits output

SUDARSHAN VARADHAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

Every year, tens of millions of Hindus flock to the Venkateswara Temple in Andhra Pradesh to pay tribute to the site's patron deity and pick up some of its famous sweets, the legendary "Tirupati laddu".

The traditional delicacy is baked with sugar, flour, ghee, nuts and raisins and studded with cardamom, which has surged in price this year as India's erratic weather ravages production of the pod, known as "the Queen of Spices".

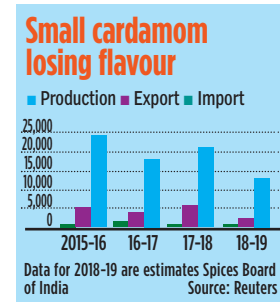
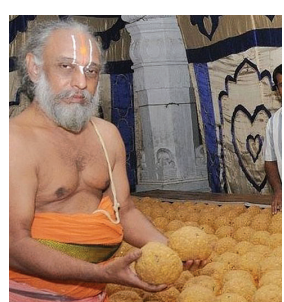
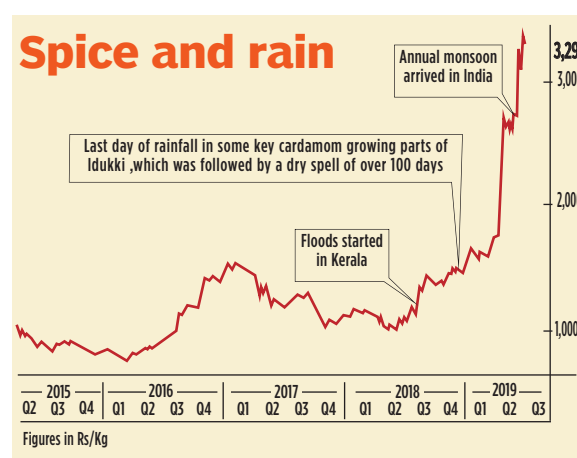
That spike has created new cost and supply pressures for buyers of the spice like the temple, which offers a limited number of complimentary laddus to visitors and charges for extras.

"We are already incurring a loss making laddus, and this makes it worse," a temple official told Reuters.

The temple typically buys 120 tonnes a year of high quality small cardamom pods, the most sought after kind, to meet demand. A year ago, it paid Rs 1,600 (\$23.31) per kg for the spice. This month, it paid Rs 4,400 per kg.

The production problems stem from erratic weather in the district of Idukki, which accounts for at least a sixth of the global production and about three-quarters of India's small cardamom output.

Last year, massive rains killed over 50 people and destroyed the district's farmlands. This year, a



weak monsoon season has wiped small cardamom production, threatening the livelihoods of thousands of producers.

That has hit both supply and quality, but more crucially, sent the spot prices of small cardamom, already among the world's priciest spices, to record highs on Mumbai's Multi Commodity Exchange this month.

That spike is good news for traders but depleted stocks mean farmers are unable to capitalise on the

rally, while the surge in costs has also hurt downstream demand.

Temples and state governments are among the largest buyers of cardamom, accounting for up to 35 per cent of the market, said Jojo George, Managing Director of KCPMC. "Somebody who was buying three tonnes or so earlier is now buying only one tonne," he said.

Cardamom's complex combination of flavours, including elements of mint, citrus and herbs,

make it a popular ingredient in a wide range of dishes, both sweet and savoury.

Koushik S., popularly known as the "Mad Chef", said the spice is essential to Indian cooking and supply issues affect his work.

"Next year, availability will be a problem and we might have to import from Guatemala, but then the quality is inferior," said Koushik, who is a well-known Indian TV chef and is also a consultant to restaurant chains.

Guatemala is the largest cardamom grower but supply to India from the Central American country is mixed with lower quality cardamom, according to research by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency.

Over the past three months, N. Sentharam Prasad, the chef at the four-star GRT hotel in Chennai, has complained five times about the low quality of his small cardamom supplies.

He uses the spice to make everything from biryani, a fragrant rice dish that enjoys a cult status in the country, to tea and sweets.

"I will never compromise on the quality of ingredients and will look to buy elsewhere if I don't get good cardamom," Prasad told Reuters.

Idukki, a small landlocked mountainous region of Kerala, has historically been ideal for cardamom, which demands heavy rains to thrive.

PC Matthew, a farmer who lives in India's cardamom capital of

Vandanmedu in Idukki, expects production to fall 50 per cent from a normal year due to lower rainfall, and for the harvest to be delayed to October from early August.

While overall rainfall at local and national levels has not varied significantly over time, analysis shows the incidence of short spells of intense rain and lengthy periods of little or no rain has increased.

India, in its economic survey last year, attributed this to climate change, and said revenue in areas entirely dependent on rains could fall by close to a sixth. The increasingly erratic weather patterns lift risks for the \$400 billion farm economy and its hundreds of millions of farmers, only a small fraction of whom have crop insurance.

Since the start of the century, Idukki's cardamom regions have had seven lengthy dry spells, defined as periods of 100 days or more of no rain, said Muthusamy Murugan, the officer in charge of the state-run Cardamom Research Station in Idukki.

That compares with 15 such spells for the entire 20th century. He expects the region's cardamom output to fall 40 per cent.

"Prices will continue to rise in the long-term and we have reached this point because of climate change," said Joychan Kannamunda, Secretary of the Cardamom Growers Association.

— Reuters

OPENING BELL
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Market to remain sideways

Markets gained for the third consecutive session with both Sensex and Nifty ending in the positive territory on Wednesday.

The Sensex gained 84 points to close at 39,215, while the Nifty closed 24.9 points or 0.21 per cent higher at 11,687.5.

The broad market indices like the BSE Mid-Cap and Small-Cap indices ended lower, underperforming the frontline indices and the market breadth was negative on both exchanges.

Financials (including Banks) and Aviation were back in favour. Sectorally, the top gainers were the BSE IT, FMCG and Bankex, while the top losers were Auto, Oil and Gas, Telecom and Power indices.

Technical View

"The sideways range movement continued in the market and the Nifty closed slightly higher. A small body positive candle was formed on Wednesday with minor upper and lower shadow. Technically, this pattern indicates a choppy trend with positive bias. The key overhead resistance of 11,650 (resistance as per the concept of change in polarity) was broken on the upside, but still there is no convincing upside breakout indication as of now," said Nagaraj Shetti, Technical Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Mustafa Nadeem, CEO, Epic Research said, "The Nifty edged up for the second consecutive day and touched the mark of 11,700 and was able to close above its 10 Day SMA. This is a very good indication but the overall breadth still looks weak as the overall cues are still mixed. The global cues have been negative as US markets are worried over lower interest rates while it may also hamper the earnings of banking space."

"Nifty closed in the positive territory in the last trading session and with that it has closed into positive territory for the third consecutive day. The Index continues to form higher tops and higher bottoms on the daily charts which is quite positive. Now, on the lower side, there is a good support at 11,600 levels and till those levels are held it is expected to bounce till 11,750 levels," said Jay Thakkar, CMT Head Technical and Derivatives Research - AVP Equity Research, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers.

"Most of the debt is of domestic origin, insulating the debt portfolio from currency risk," former Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, wrote in a paper on public debt in February last year.

— Reuters

Market View

Currently the Nifty trades with a resistance of 11,740 and if it crosses that level then it may trigger a long trade bullish trade. "We believe the Index is in a structural uptrend with meaningful dips providing a good buying opportunity for minimum target of 12,100 on the Index. Private banks and Cement stocks trade with a positive bias while Metal and Auto stocks trade near critical support levels," said Sahaj Agrawal, Head of Derivatives, Kotak Securities.

— Ashwin J. Punnen

International airfares likely to drop

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JULY 17

Airfares of Indian carriers to several destinations including the US and Europe are set to come down after the opening up of air space by Pakistan.

Air India, Indigo, SpiceJet and Go Air are expected to benefit from the move. Their operational cost would come down and the benefits are expected to be passed on to the customer.

"The Jet Airways was going through a crisis when Pakistan had closed the air space in February. So it was a double-whammy for the aviation sector. Between then and now airfares have gone up by 25 to 30 per cent," said Kapil Goswamy, MD, Big Breaks.com.

According to Air India, one-way operational cost of flights to the US might come down by Rs 20 lakh. The flying time for flights to the US had increased by 90 minutes after the air space was blocked. Flight operation costs to Europe would also reduce by Rs 5 lakh.

Renegotiation of PPAs to hit cash flows

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, JULY 17

The Andhra Pradesh government's latest move to renegotiate its agreements to purchase solar and wind power will affect generators' operating cash flows and is likely to face strong challenges from RE operators. Normally state-owned distribution companies in the state delay payments to generators and that may eventually lead to a significant drop in generators' operating cash flows, the latest report from Fitch Ratings has suggested.

Earlier this month, the state government had formed a negotiation committee to renegotiate wind and solar PPAs in the state, citing the high tariffs that state distribution firms pay under the contracts.

"We believe that the state government will need to appeal to state regulators and then seek consent from the courts to overturn the existing PPAs. The attempt to renegotiate or cancel PPAs previously approved by state regulators is likely to face legal challenge from renewable operators and the central government," the Fitch report said.

UMC teams up with Orah & Sangee BioChem

FC BUREAU
KOLKATA, JULY 17

Dubai-based UMC has teamed up with Orah from Mumbai and Sangee BioChem from Pune to bring to the markets around the world some unique, innovative products, promising to touch industries that affect the daily life-style of majority of the population - young and old, everywhere. They have also applied for global patents to protect IP for these unique products.

Consider Ecorich VFW, as starter. "Imagine a situation where one can use as much pesticide and insecticide as is required and then once the fruit or leaf is harvested, remove most of the objectionable stuff on the surface completely using a non-toxic and completely safe water based product. Sounds hyperbole? - Not really. Ecorich VFW actually does that," said Vinay Paranjpe, Director, UMC, UAE.

Freak weather a new risk to renewable energy units

ANINDYA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

India's ambitious plan to take the leadership position among nations as one of largest producers of renewable energy may have run into some unfavorable weather.

Freak climatic conditions are damaging renewable energy projects, threatening a business which survives on wafer-thin margins.

A storm in Rajasthan, known for its deserts and sunny days, tore through a solar park and blew away modules of developers. In the adjoining Madhya Pradesh, a

generator found sections of his project submerged in 10 feet of water due to unseasonal rains.

"We'd done a study of 50-year pattern of water-flow in the area and this time it exceeded that pattern," said Manu Srivastava, the Chairman of Rewa Ultra Mega Solar, a joint venture between state-owned Solar Energy Corp. and the Madhya Pradesh government. The project has installed capacity of 750 megawatts.

Extreme weather events seem to have become the latest risk to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's renewable energy goal to quadruple solar power generation to 100 gigawatts by 2022. India may further push it to 440 gigawatts of green power by 2030, the country said in its latest forecast this month.



The country has been witnessing a rise in unexpected weather events. About 400 people were killed in floods in Kerala last year after rains in the first fortnight of August were over 150 per cent higher than the average. Over 2,400 lives were lost in India due to cyclonic storms, flash floods, landslides and cloudburst in the year ended March, Babul Supriyo, Junior Environment Minister said earlier this month.

The World Bank-funded Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power park received exceptionally heavy rains and winds on the night of July 5 that flooded a nearby drainage, submerging parts of project under water, according to the state government.

Acme Cleantech Solutions, the producer of some of the cheapest clean power in the world, lost a 1,000 modules in a storm in May at its Rajasthan project.

Also, solar radiation in India can no longer be taken for granted. Over the last 6-8 months radiation has been lower by 4 per cent to 6 per cent, hurting power generation, said Vinay Rustagi, Managing Director Bridge to India Energy.

India has been classified as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and extreme weather events in several studies. — Bloomberg

**Mahanadi, SECL, Northern and Central Coalfields eyed
Coal India subsidiaries may be spun off & listed**

DEBJIT CHAKRABORTY, RAJESH KUMAR SINGH & SIDDHARTHA SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 17

India may spin off units of Coal India Ltd, the world's largest coal miner, into separate listed companies to boost competition and raise government funds, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The state-run company and the Coal Ministry are studying a proposal by the Finance Ministry's Department of Investment & Public Asset Management to list four of Coal India's biggest production units, as well as its exploration arm, said the people, who asked not to be named. The development is in an early stage and it was unclear how long it may take, the people added.

Niti Aayog had in 2017 suggested spinning off Coal India's subsidiaries into separate entities so that each can develop its strategy and business model.

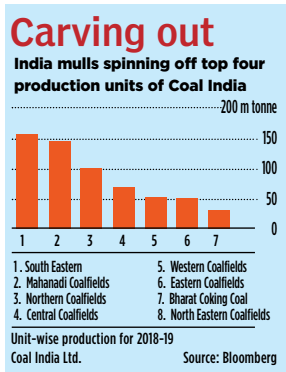
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has sought to sell some state assets to raise funds, and these investments will continue to remain a priority, Finance Minister Nirmala



Sitharaman said on July 5, setting a record target of raising Rs 1.05 lakh crore (\$15 billion) in the current fiscal year. Spinning off Coal India subsidiaries would also lead to greater competition in the domestic coal market and improve corporate governance, the people said.

A spokesman at Coal India didn't respond to requests seeking comment, while press officials at the Coal and Finance Ministries declined to comment.

The four units—Mahanadi Coalfields, South Eastern Coalfields, Northern Coalfields and Central Coalfields—account for more than three-fourths of the company's output, while constituting less than half of its workforce. The fifth unit would be Central Mine Planning and Design Institute.



Unit-wise production for 2018-19
Coal India Ltd. Source: Bloomberg

unable to meet growing demand despite abundant resources. Coal India produced a record 607 million metric tonnes in the last fiscal year to March, falling short by 22 per cent of a target proposed in 2017. The goal has been revised a few times since then, but output was still below a revised target. Meanwhile, imports of the fuel surged to a record over the same period.

Shares in the miner declined 1.2 per cent to Rs 230.00 in Mumbai. Kolkata-based Coal India has a market cap of about \$20.6 billion, with the government holding almost 71 per cent of the company.

India, the world's second-largest coal consumer after China, depends on Coal India for about 83 per cent of the domestic production. The miner has consistently fallen short of production targets, while an over-worked railway network has hampered transport of the fuel.

The NITI Aayog proposal to bifurcate Coal India was dismissed at that time by Coal Minister Piyush Goyal, who said the plan doesn't reflect government policy. — Bloomberg

Wipro feels heat of slowdown in BFSI

FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JULY 17

IT major Wipro seems to be having a slow start in the new financial year with the company reporting a sequential drop of 3.8 per cent in net profit from Rs 2,483.5 crore in March 2019 quarter, while revenue dropped 1.9 per cent from Rs 15,006.3 crore in the previous quarter.

Wipro's topline numbers lag behind those of larger rivals TCS and Infosys that announced their first quarter performance last week. TCS logged a revenue growth of 11.4 per cent to Rs

38,172 crore during the June quarter, while Infosys saw its topline rising 14 per cent to Rs 21,803 crore.

HCL Technologies, which overtook Wipro to become the third largest Indian IT services company, is yet to announce its quarterly results.

Wipro seems to be feeling the heat of slowdown in BFSI due to overall macro environment especially in the revenue from Europe, which degreed both sequentially and year-on-year at 2 per cent.

"We had a slower start to the year, we however remain focused on our operations

Analysis

and continue to invest in talent and capabilities for the future," Wipro CFO Jatinder Dalal said.

Wipro saw a sequential drop of 3.8 per cent in net profit from Rs 2,483.5 crore in March 2019 quarter, while revenue dropped 1.9 per cent from Rs 15,006.3 crore in the previous quarter.

"Our efforts on client mining have resulted in an addition of three customers in more than \$100 million bucket. We will continue to build differentiated capabilities

to drive business transformation for our customers by investing in our big bets," Wipro CEO and Executive Director Abidali Z Neemuchwala said.

Wipro's earnings per share for the June quarter was at Rs 3.97 per share, up 12.5 per cent from the previous year.

The firm said it will complete its Rs 10,500 crore buy-back proposal of up to 323.1 million shares (at Rs 325 apiece) after receiving approval from the Sebi.

BFSI business, which contributed 32 per cent to total IT services, fell 1.4 per cent sequentially to Rs 4,539.5 crore in the June quarter:

Yes Bank: Slippages to remain elevated

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, JULY 17

Private lender Yes Bank on Wednesday reported a 91 per cent drop in net profit on a yearly basis at Rs 114 crore for the three months ended June 30, 2019 due to high gross slippages of Rs 6,232 crore, lower other income and a one-off impact from mark to market provisions of Rs 1,109 crore. The Bank's asset quality continued to surprise negatively.

Earlier this month, L&T was classified as the new promoter of the IT firm after it acquired 60.06 per cent stake.

At Mindtree's AGM on Tuesday, L&T addressed the shareholders of the IT firm for the first time since the takeover.

the slippages elevated. The Bank will require to raise capital they said.

The private lender had reported a profit of Rs 1,260 crore in the same quarter last year.

Net interest income during the quarter grew 2.8 per cent year on year to Rs 2,281 crore with muted loan of 10.1 per cent. However on a sequential basis, NII and loan book degreed 9 per cent and 2.2 per cent in Q1. The interest reversal of Rs 223 crore on account of fresh slippages during the quarter impacted net interest income. Consequently the NIM contracted to 2.8 per cent in quarter ended June 2019 against 3.1 per cent in the

Analysis

March quarter and 3.3 per cent in the year-ago period.

Total provisions came in at Rs 1,784.1 crore, up three times over Rs 625.70 crore made in the same quarter last year. The bank had made Rs 3,661.70 crore provisions in the March quarter. PCR was unchanged at 43.1 per cent in Q1FY20 compared to Q4FY19. The bank said net provisions at Rs 1,784 crore for June quarter included one-off impact of Rs 1,109 crore of investment MTM provision led by rating downgrades of invest-

ments in companies of two financial services groups.

Gross non-performing assets for the quarter spiked to 5.01 per cent against 3.22 per cent in the March quarter and 1.31 per cent in the year-ago period. The Bank said it reported gross slippages at Rs 6,232 crore. "Net corporate slippages were entirely from the accounts classified as BB and below at end of Q4FY19."

"This was a 'quarter of consolidation' in which the bank has demonstrated strong resilience in revenues and asset quality. We believe that earnings trajectory should strengthen significantly from hereon," the bank's management said.

Dhanlaxmi Bank Q1 net up

New Delhi, July 17: Dhanlaxmi Bank on Wednesday reported a net profit of Rs 19.84 crore for the first quarter ended June 30 of the current financial year.

The bank had posted a net loss of Rs 45 crore in the same period of 2018-19. Total income was nearly flat at Rs 256.75 crore during April-June 2019-20, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

On the asset front, the

bank continued to witness pressure with gross non-performing assets (NPAs) remaining higher at 7.61 per cent of gross advances at end of June 2019. Gross NPAs were 8.94 per cent at the end of June 2018 and at 7.47 per cent at March-end 2019.

Net NPAs or bad loans were at 2.35 per cent of net advances, down from 3.79 per cent a year ago. It stood at 2.41 per cent by the end of March 2019.

Premji helps create newest tech unicorn

SARITHA RAI
BANGALORE, JULY 17

Billionaire Azim Premji has helped create India's latest tech unicorn: a fast-rising software startup that symbolizes the growing investor interest in the Asian nation's enterprise technology space.

Icertis, which competes with SAP SE and Oracle Corp. to help businesses manage contracts in the cloud, has raised \$115 million, propelling it to unicorn status as investors flock to enterprise software makers.



Azim Premji

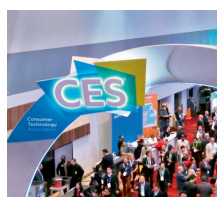
The advanced-stage funding round in Bellevue, Washington and Pune, India-based Icertis was co-led by Greycroft Partners LLC and

PremjInvest, the fund managed by the family office of Indian tech billionaire Premji. Existing investors including B Capital Group, Eight Roads Ventures and Cross Creek Advisors participated. With this, Icertis has raised over \$211 million.

The enterprise software segment is heating up as investors from Tiger Global Management to Sequoia and Accel scour the industry for India's next startup giants. Many are expected to be business-rather than consumer-focused, as the country's talent pool shifts from IT outsourcing services for global clients toward design-

ing and providing online software. Icertis said it now helps customers worldwide manage over 5.7 million contracts, from supply chain and procurement deals to employee agreements and nondisclosure pacts, that have a total value of more than \$1 trillion. "As contracts get converted from static documents to digital assets for the first time in history, every dollar in or out is governed by a contract, putting them at the heart of every enterprise," said Samir Bodas, Icertis's Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer.

— Bloomberg



new contestants

CTA will allow sex tech startups to compete for CES awards as part of the health and wellness category on a one-year trial basis

SHORT TAKES



MILITARY LIKE PHONE FOR ₹21,000

Doogee, a Chinese smartphone maker is soon to introduce its latest offering, the Doogee S90 Pro, a powerful smartphone that can not only deliver in terms of performance but also survive extreme conditions.

To begin with, the Doogee S90 Pro presents you with two Ingress Protection IP ratings, IP-68 and IP-69K, and comes with US military grade designed hardware.

The IP-68 rating means the smartphone can survive in water upto depths of 1.5 meters, and the company claims that due to the sturdy and rugged build, the Doogee S9 pro can stay underwater for up to two weeks and still survive. The IP-69 rating means that apart from the water, the phone can also survive in high temperatures and high pressures. The phone also comes with the MIL-STD-810G rating, which basically means the device is as sturdy as any equipment with same rating.



ASUS PHONE SET TO HAVE SNAPDRAGON

The ASUS ROG Phone 2 is all set to launch on July 23 and before its official launch, images of the phone have been leaked online. This gaming genius is also the first one to incorporate Qualcomm's Snapdragon 855 Plus chipset giving better GPU performance and slightly better clock speeds than the standard 855.

Qualcomm has already confirmed a 15 per cent improvement in graphical performance on the new 800 series Snapdragon chip, which makes the ROG Phone 2 best in the gaming industry. The 855 Plus chipset also offers a small VR and AR-focused upgrade.

As the launch date is nearing by, there's still not a lot of information available on the device but with recently leaked images we can confirm the phone looks similar to the original ROG Phone sporting stereo speakers flanking the 120Hz display.



SAMSUNG GALAXY TO HAVE 108MP CAMERA

Samsung's launch for the Galaxy Note 10 series is merely a few weeks away, with most of the details of the phone already available to the public via leaks. A source from the Korean brand, likely the same one who opened the doors for said leaks to surface online, has now hinted at new features on future Galaxy smartphones.

A tweet by the handle 'Ice Universe' shared says that the Galaxy Note 10 will be the last phone to feature the 1.4 micropixel sensor; further adding that the newer Samsung devices will have a 'new beginning'.

In another, later tweet, Ice Universe mentions that the next Galaxy device by Samsung will feature a 10x Optical Zoom and a 108MP camera sensor. The current limit on the biggest sensors on phone cameras stand at 48MPs and manufacturers are being handed 64MP sensors as well.

Musk's Neuralink plans brain reading threads

New tech could allow doctors to implant devices in paralysed humans, which let them operate computer

Neuralink, Tesla fame Elon Musk's secretive company, said it has developed new flexible "threads," which are less likely to damage the brain than the materials currently used in brain-machine interfaces. The company has been working on to develop brain-machine interfaces for quite sometime. The goal is to eventually begin implanting devices in paralysed humans, allowing them to control phones or computers. These threads also create the possibility of transferring a higher volume of data, according to a white paper credited to Elon Musk and Neuralink.

The abstract notes that the system could include "as many as 3,072 electrodes per array distributed across 96 threads."

The threads are 4 to 6 µm in width, which makes them considerably thinner than a human hair. In addition to developing the

threads, Neuralink's other big advance is a machine that automatically embeds them.

Musk gave a big presentation of Neuralink's research on Tuesday night, though he said that it wasn't simply for hype. "The main reason for doing this presentation is recruiting," Musk said, asking people to go apply to work there.

Max Hodak, president of Neuralink, also came on stage and admitted that he wasn't originally sure "this technology was a good idea," but that Musk convinced him it would be possible.

In the future, scientists from Neuralink hope to use a laser beam to get through the skull, rather than drilling holes, they said in interviews with The New York Times. Early experiments will be done with neuroscientists at Stanford University, according to that report. "We hope to have this in a

■ The threads will create better interface between brain and machines to help paralysed humans.

■ They will also create the possibility of transferring a higher volume of data to brain.

■ The threads are 4 to 6 µm in width, which makes them considerably thinner than a human hair.

"A monkey has been able to control a computer with its brain."

— ELON MUSK



human patient by the end of next year," Musk said.

During a Q&A at the end of the presentation, Musk revealed results that the rest of the team hadn't realised he would: "A monkey has been able to control a computer with its brain."

"It's not going to be suddenly Neuralink will have this neural lace and start taking over people's

brains," Musk said. "Ultimately" he wants "to achieve a symbiosis with artificial intelligence."

And that even in a "benign scenario," humans would be "left behind." Hence, he wants to create technology that allows a "merging with AI." He later added "we are a brain in a vat, and that vat is our skull," and so the goal is to read neural spikes from

that brain.

The first paralysed person to receive a brain implant that allowed him to control a computer cursor was Matthew Nagle. In 2006, Nagle, who had a spinal cord injury, played Pong using only his mind; the basic movement required took him only four days to master; he told *The New York Times*. Since then, paralysed

people with brain implants have also brought objects into focus and moved robotic arms in labs, as part of scientific research.

The system Nagle and others have used is called BrainGate and was developed initially at Brown University.

"Neuralink didn't come out of nowhere, there's a long history of academic research here," Hodak said at the presentation on Tuesday. "We're, in the greatest sense, building on the shoulders of giants." However, none of the existing technologies fit Neuralink's goal of directly reading neural spikes in a minimally invasive way.

The system presented today, if it's functional, may be a substantial advance over older technology. BrainGate relied on the Utah Array, a series of stiff needles that allows for up to 128 electrode channels. Not only is that fewer channels than

Neuralink is promising — meaning less data from the brain is being picked up — it's also stiffer than Neuralink's threads. That's a problem for long-term functionality: the brain shifts in the skull but the needles of the array don't, leading to damage. The thin polymers Neuralink is using may solve that problem.

However, Neuralink's technology is more difficult to implant than the Utah Array, precisely because it's so flexible. To combat that problem, the company has developed "a neurosurgical robot capable of inserting six threads (192 electrodes) per minute automatically," according to the white paper. In photos, it looks something like a cross between a microscope and a sewing machine. It also avoids blood vessels, which may lead to less of an inflammatory response in the brain, the paper says. — Agencies

Vibration-powered robots to turn docs

If the technology advances further, tiny robot could get into the body to fix health

Have you ever thought that robots could get into your body to fix health problems within? This would be possible — perhaps sometime in future — if the efforts of researchers at Georgia Tech succeed.

The researchers have developed minuscule "bristle-bots" that move by tapping vibration from a variety of sources, whether it's ultrasound or a nearby speaker. The trick was to mate a tiny piezoelectric actuator to a 3D-printed polymer body whose bristle-like legs are angled to move in specific directions in a resonant response to vibrations.

The bots are only 2mm long and weigh just 5mg, but they can move relatively briskly at about 8 mm per second. They are flexible too. The actuators are made out of lead zirconate titanate that can turn voltage into vibration for movement, or the reverse if they need to power sensors.

Georgia Tech's existing design wouldn't be much useful in its current form. It can only move in one direction, and there isn't a payload. If the technology continues to advance, though, you could see unintrusive bots that could fix health problems from within, or achieve simpler feats like tracking environmental conditions.



Tiny robot developed by Georgia Tech researchers

Drones too could wield firearms now

You can now easily build a flying flamethrower yourself. You're looking at a functional flamethrower attachment — the Throwflame TF-19 Wasp — for commercial-grade heavy lift drones that can hit targets up to 25 feet away, with a one-gallon fuel tank that can produce a stream of fire for 100 seconds.

The flamethrower would cost \$1,499. Apart from this, you need to shell for the drone too. Throwflame's video features include a DJI S1000 drone with an A2 flight controller, 6S 16,000mAh LiPo battery and a TBS

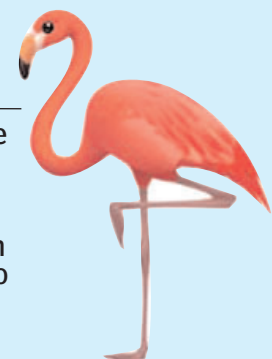
Tango R/C remote, which — checks notes — could easily add another \$2,600 to the cost. (You can also see a GoPro-like camera on top.) The company says it's also offering custom-built turnkey drones, though, ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and up, depending on how far and fast it needs to fly and what kind of image you expect it to beam home. Why would you genuinely need such a thing? Well, there was that one example where a flamethrower drone was used to clear power lines in China and it can be used for controlled grass burns, etc.

NEW EMOJIS FOR YOUR HANDSETS SOON

Apple and Google have unveiled dozens of new emojis, which include animals like a flamingo, orangutan and sloth, as well as foods such as waffles, falafel and garlic.

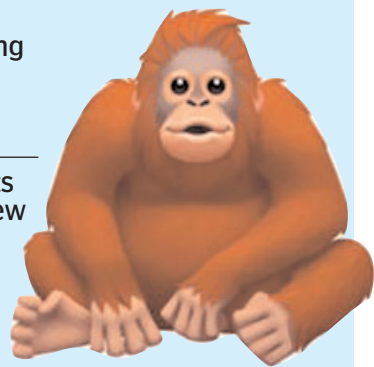


■ The companies are also planning to introduce new emoji depicting couples with a variety of skin tones. There will also be gender-neutral characters.



■ In addition, Apple and Google will launch disability-themed emoji, including a new guide dog, wheelchairs and ears with hearing aids. Apple also unveiled prosthetic arm and leg emoji.

■ Android Q, Google's next version of its mobile operating system, will add 65 new emoji. The Q beta program is currently available for certain devices. Apple will add 59 new emoji designs this fall as part of a software update for iPhone, iPad, Mac and Apple Watch.



Google bans yet another Chinese app for forced ads

New York, July 17: Google has banned yet another Chinese developer from the Playstore for violating its advertising policies.

CooTek, which is listed on the NYSE and is probably best known for its TouchPal keyboard replacement, will no longer have access to Google's ad platforms and has had dozens of apps removed.

The news was reported

by BuzzFeed following an investigation from Lookout that showed hundreds of CooTek apps using an invasive adware plugin called BeiTaAd.

This plugin reportedly sent aggressive ads to users even when the phone or the app wasn't in use, which Lookout researcher Kristina Balaam said could "render the phones nearly unusable."

CooTek said it would

remove BeiTaAd, but

BuzzFeed and Lookout subsequently discovered that many of the updated apps — which Google accepted into the Play Store — contained separate code that enabled the same ads.

"There was not any re-engagement on the ad activity pointed out by Lookout on any of the versions which we updated," CooTek spokesperson Mina Luo told BuzzFeed.

The second is how it allows you to pick photos without giving photo access to the app.

FACEAPP HAS GONE VIRAL YET AGAIN

FaceApp has gone viral again after first doing so two years ago or so. The effect has gotten better but these apps, like many other one-off viral apps, tend to come and go in waves driven by influencer networks or paid promotion. We first covered this particular AI photo editor from a team of Russian developers about two years ago.

It has gone viral again now due to some features that allow you to edit a person's face to make it appear older or younger. You may remember at one point it had an issue because it enabled what amounted to digital blackmail by changing a person from one ethnicity to another.

In this current wave of virality, some new questions are floating about FaceApp. The first is whether it uploads your camera roll in the background. We found no evidence of this and neither did security researcher and Guardian App CEO Will Strafach or researcher Baptiste Robert.

The second is how it allows you to pick photos without giving photo access to the app.

SONY UNVEILS MIRRORLESS CAMERA

Having seen what its competitors have offered up with the EOS R and Z6 / Z7 respectively, Sony announced the A7R IV, its latest and most advanced full-frame mirrorless camera yet. Sony says it delivers "medium-format image quality" with the help of a new 61-megapixel sensor.

This camera's predecessor, the A7R III, features a 42.4-megapixel sensor, so you can see that Sony has made some strides in how far it can push resolution. Naturally, Sony says the new sensor enables an extraordinary level of detail even when you zoom far into your images. The A7R Mark IV will be released in September for \$3,500.

Do most people need 61 megapixels worth of image data? No. Definitely not. But the pro users who crave more and more resolution to work with will be drawn to Sony's new camera. Going any higher basically requires buying into a medium-format system. The A7R IV has 15 stops of dynamic range, five-axis image stabilization, and burst shooting at 10 fps (with continuous AF / AE for every shot), according to Sony. Even when you drop it into an APS-C crop mode, it'll capture 26 megapixels, on par in pixel density with something like the Fujifilm X-T3. — Reuters

FB faces US Congress wall for cryptocurrency

Congressmen criticise Facebook for trying to play with people's hard earned money

Washington, July 17: US Democratic and Republican lawmakers said on Tuesday that Facebook Inc's track record of what they described as untrustworthiness should stand in the way of it launching a digital currency, labeling the plan "delusional" and "crazy" at a Senate hearing.

Facebook is fighting to get Washington outside after it shocked regulators and lawmakers with its announcement on June 18 that it was hoping to launch a cryptocurrency called Libra in 2020.

Since then the social media company has faced criticism from policymakers and financial watchdogs at home and abroad who fear widespread adoption of the digital currency by Facebook's 2.38 billion users could upend the financial system.

"Facebook has demonstrated through scandal after scandal that it doesn't deserve our trust," US Democratic senator Sherrod Brown, the ranking member of the Senate Banking Committee, said in his opening remarks. "We'd be crazy to give them a chance to let them

■ Facebook is fighting to get Washington outside after it shocked regulators and lawmakers with its announcement on June 18 that it was hoping to launch a cryptocurrency called Libra in 2020.



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■ Facebook was already facing a backlash over mishandling user data and not doing enough to prevent Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential election.

■ David Marcus, who heads the project, tried to assuage concerns by promising that Facebook will not begin offering Libra until regulatory issues are addressed.

■ The social media company tried to keep the project under wraps even internally.

Facebook has demonstrated through scandal after scandal that it doesn't deserve our trust. We'd be crazy to give them a chance to let them experiment with people's bank accounts. — SHERROD BROWN, US DEMOCRATIC SENATOR

experiment with people's bank accounts."

Brown added during questioning that he thought it was "delusional" to think individuals would trust the social media company with their "hard-earned" money.

Before announcing its Libra plans, Facebook was already facing a backlash over mishandling user data and not doing enough to prevent Russian interference in the 2016 US

presidential election.

David Marcus, the company's top executive overseeing the project, testified on issues ranging from how Libra could affect global monetary policy to how customer data will be handled.

He received a frosty welcome from Democratic lawmakers and several Republicans, who shared many of the same concerns. "I don't trust you guys,"

said Republican Senator Martha McSally. "Instead of cleaning up your house you are launching into a new business model."

Marcus, who was president of PayPal from 2012 to 2014, tried to assuage concerns by promising that Facebook will not begin offering Libra until regulatory issues are addressed.

"We know we need to take the time to get this right," Marcus, who is also

due to testify before the House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday, told lawmakers.

Lawmakers raised a range of concerns, including about how the company plans to prevent money laundering, how consumers' data and funds will be protected and how the Geneva-based association created to run the system will be regulated.

"I know we have to earn people's trust for a very



Back in business

Ravel Morrison, former Manchester United player, is back in the Premier League after signing for promoted team Sheffield United



The goal is one. #Tokyo2020. Keep fingers crossed.

— Anita Wlodarczyk, Polish Olympic hammer champion, posted in Instagram while announcing her withdrawal from this year's World Championship

SHORT TAKES

25k registrations for City marathon

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 17

More than 25,000 registrations have been received for the 9th edition of the Hyderabad Marathon scheduled to be held on August 24 and 25. As many as 1,632 entries have been received for the Full Marathon category, 5,052 for Half Marathon, 9,204 for the 10K Run and the rest for the 5k category. The Marathon — conducted by the Hyderabad Runners Society and Bharti Airtel along with support of the Telangana Government — supports multiple charitable organisations and urges people all over to purchase a charity bib, donate, run and make a difference. In a bid to raise more money for Charity, registrations via the charity portal will be open till July 22, the organisers said. Further details can be had on www.airtelhyderabadmarathon.com.

Cameroon sack coach Seedorf

Paris: The Cameroon Football Federation sacked coach Clarence Seedorf and assistant Patrick Kluivert on Wednesday, the pair paying the price for the defending champions' last 16 exit at the Africa Cup of Nations. Cameroon crashed out 3-2 to Nigeria last Saturday, an exit the federation described as "premature" in its statement. Former Dutch international Seedorf won just three of nine competitive games after taking over the Indomitable Lions alongside Kluivert last August. The federation are now hunting for a manager to prepare the national side for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations which they are hosting. With a haul of four Champions League wins, five national titles and a host of individuals awards, Seedorf, a former AC Milan and Real Madrid midfielder enjoyed a decorated career on the pitch. But his transition into management has come with a steep learning curve. — AFP

PSG sign Diallo from Dortmund

Paris: Paris Saint-Germain have signed France under-21 international defender Abdou Diallo from Borussia Dortmund on a five-year deal, the French champions announced on Wednesday. A German magazine reported PSG had paid 32 million euros (\$35.9 million) plus a further two million euros in bonuses for the 23-year-old centre-back. Diallo, who would have played for France at last month's under-21 European Championship but for an injury, has spent the last two seasons in Germany, joining Dortmund after a year at Mainz. Prior to that he started his career at Monaco and played five times in the principality club's run to the Ligue 1 title in 2017. Diallo is PSG's fifth summer signing. — AFP

SIMMONS SNUBS OZ CUP SQUAD

Melbourne: Ben Simmons' new contract extension with the Philadelphia 76ers came with bad news for Australian basketball fans: The Melbourne-born NBA All-star won't play for the Boomers at the World Cup. Hours after Simmons and the 76ers agreed to a \$170 million, five-year contract extension on Tuesday, Simmons said he preferred to spend time with his new teammates in September instead of travelling to China to participate in the World Cup scheduled to be held from August 31 to September 15. "I wanted to let everyone know that after consulting with my representation, I've made the difficult decision to forego playing in the World Cup in China," Simmons said in a statement. — AP

FAR FROM FINISHED

Sprinter Dutee vows to fight society, rivals

New Delhi, July 17: Ace sprinter Dutee Chand Wednesday declared that she is not finished yet and the gold she won at the World University Games last week would spur her to achieve more despite the negative vibes from some quarters after her recent admission of same-sex relationship.

The 23-year-old Dutee became the first Indian woman track and field athlete to clinch a gold medal in the World Universiade after she won the 100m dash event in Napoli, Italy on July 9.

Dutee said the gold was an answer to her critics, who had written her off after her admission of same-sex relationship.

"Many people have commented in bad languages. They said that Dutee is now focussed on her personal life and her athletics career will be over. I wanted to let them know that I am not finished yet," she said.

"Just like any other human being is concerned about his or her personal life, I also need to think about my personal life. That is why I came out and made everybody know about my relationship (with a girl of her village)."

"But that does not mean that I will neglect my athletics career. I have done (admitted the same-sex relationship) what I thought was needed and now I am focussing on my athletics more than ever before," she added.

After winning the yellow metal at the World Universiade, she had also tweeted: "Pull me down, I will come back stronger!" Dutee also described her



Dutee Chand

history-scripting gold in the World Universiade as the "highlight" of her career but wants to keep her feet rooted to focus on the "tougher" tasks of qualifying for the World Championships and Olympics.

She is yet to qualify for both the World Championships, to be held in Doha later this year, and next year's Olympics in

Tokyo. Dutee, who holds the 100m national record of 11.24 seconds, will have to be at her best if she is to qualify for the September 27-October 6 World Championships.

"The 100m gold was my first at World level, it is my career highlight so far. But it is a tough road ahead. My target is to qualify for the World Championships and then the Olympics,"

she said. "I am overwhelmed by the congratulatory messages from so many people including such important people. But I am not going to be carried away by this (historic 100m gold at World Universiade) and I have to focus on the important events ahead," said the Odisha runner.

The World Championships qualifica-

tion timing is 11.24, which is higher than the 2017 standard of 11.26, while the Tokyo Olympics 100m qualifying time is 11.15 which is a much tougher task. Dutee ran her season's best of 11.26 during the Asian Championships in Doha in April and she will have to at least repeat it in less than next two months' time.

"I have not qualified for either the World Championships or the Olympics and the qualifying timings have been made more difficult this time. I have asked the AFI (Athletics Federation of India) to arrange for some meets in Asia or Europe so that I can qualify for the World Championships," she added.

The AFI, on its part, said it's trying to give Dutee two or three meets in Asia or Europe so that she can try and qualify for the World Championships. The World Championships qualifying period ends on September 6. "Dutee and her coach (N Ramesh) have requested for some meets and we are trying to arrange two or three races in either Asia or Europe. She should get them," AFI Communication Manager Divesh Bhal said.

"Even otherwise, Dutee may get to run in the World Championships just like in the 2017 edition when she got the quota place after the total number of qualified athletes did not reach the stipulated number for the event," he added.

"Olympics is the ultimate target and I could not do well in 2016. So I want to do better in 2020," Dutee said. — PTI



Violent Riquna is out for 10 games

New York, July 17: Los Angeles Sparks guard Riquna Williams was suspended without pay by the WNBA on Wednesday for 10 games — nearly a third of the season — for a domestic violence incident.

Williams was arrested on April 29 and charged with two felony counts, one involving the assault of an individual with whom she was in a relationship and the other involving a threat to another person with a firearm. Her criminal case is ongoing.

The WNBA conducted its own investigation and consulted with a panel of experts in the field of domestic violence. Among other factors, the league said it took into account the nature and seriousness of the allegations, including the involvement of a gun. The WNBA also will require Williams to participate in counseling.

"As an organisation, we abhor violence of any kind and specifically take domestic violence allegations very seriously," the Sparks said in a statement. "We will provide whatever resources we are allowed to help Riquna learn and grow from this unfortunate situation," Sparks added.

The union said they would file a grievance on Williams' behalf.

"We are disappointed with the league's actions. There is an ongoing criminal proceeding and in fairness to the player, the league could have and

● The Los Angeles guard has been suspended without pay for 10 games. The suspension surpasses the seven games given to Brittney Griner and Glory Johnson in 2015.

● Riquna was arrested in April and charged with two felony counts. WNBA conducted its own investigation and consulted with a panel of experts in the field of domestic violence.

should have awaited its completion before taking any action," said Terri Jackson, executive director of the union.

"Riquna has not had a fair opportunity to fully defend herself. We are immediately filing a grievance and will seek the arbitrator's review," said Jackson.

The suspension, which surpassed the seven games given to Brittney Griner and Glory Johnson in 2015 for their domestic violence arrests, will begin Friday.

It's not the longest in league history: The WNBA dismissed Rhonda Mapp, who also played for Los Angeles, in 2003 for violating its drug policy. Mapp never returned after being suspended by the league for two years. — AP

Sindhu, Srikanth advance

Jakarta, July 17: Top Indian shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth made impressive starts to their campaign, progressing to the second round of the Indonesia Open with contrasting wins at the BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament here Wednesday.

Rejuvenated after a month-long break from a hectic BWF schedule, Sindhu and Srikanth prevailed over Japanese shuttlers Aya Ohori and Kenta Nishimoto in women's and men's singles respectively.

Fifth seed Sindhu, who is looking for her first title of the season, staved off a challenge from Ohori with a 11-21 21-15 21-15 win, while eighth seed Srikanth, who had entered the finals at India Open this year, beat Nishimoto 21-14 21-13 in 38 minutes.

While Sindhu extended her stranglehold over Ohori with seventh straight victory, it was Srikanth's fifth win over Nishimoto, who had defeated the Indian only once in their six meetings.

While World No. 5 Sindhu will face either Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt or Hong Kong's Yip Pui Yin next, World No 9 Srikanth meets the winner of the clash between France's Brice Leverdez and Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus.

H.S. Prannoy and B. Sai Praneeth bowed out of the singles event. — PTI



Subhankar, Rituparna in Russian Open pre-quarters

Vladivostok (Russia), July 17: Five Indian shuttlers, including top seed Subhankar Dey and former national champion Rituparna Das advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of their respective singles competition at the Russian Open BWF Tour Super 100 here Wednesday.

In the men's singles event, Subhankar, who had won the SaarLorLux Open last year, defeated England's Hin Shun Wong 21-10 21-6. Siril Verma saw off Sergey Sirant 21-15 21-11 and Rahul Yadav Chittaboina defeated Russian Anton Ivanov 21-9 in another match.

Subhankar will face Japan's Kodai Naraoka, Siril meets Slovenia's Miha Ivanic and Rahul will play sixth seed Pablo Abian of Spain.

In women's singles, Rituparna had a comfortable, 21-12 21-8, win against Singapore's Chua Hui Zhen Grace. — PTI

ANA MARCELA CLINCHES 5K WORLDS GOLD

Gwangju (China), July 17: Ana Marcela Cunha improved on her already impressive career in open-water swimming at the world championships with a win in the 5-kilometer race on Wednesday.

It was the 27-year-old Brazilian's fourth gold and 10th medal overall at the world championships since 2011.

Cunha, who was consistently in the top 10 throughout the race, pulled away in the final 300 meters to finish in 57 minutes, 56.00 seconds, a second ahead of Aurelie Muller of France. There was a tie for the bronze medal: American Hannah Moore and Leonie Beck of Germany both finished in 57:58, two seconds behind Cunha in the non-Olympic event.

Defending 5-kilometer world champion Ashley Twichell of the U.S. placed seventh.

Cunha has won the 25-kilometer race three times at the worlds, but this was her first gold at the 5-kilometer distance. Her previous best finishes over five kilometers were bronze medals at Barcelona in 2013 and at Budapest in 2017.

On Sunday, Cunha finished fifth in the 10-kilometer race to earn a Tokyo Olympics berth for 2020. — AP

Bodily harm puts Barton in trouble

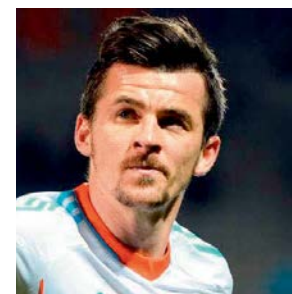
London, July 17: Fleetwood manager Joey Barton was charged with actual bodily harm on Wednesday following an alleged incident during a third tier match at Barnsley in April.

Former Manchester City and Marseille midfielder Barton has "emphatically denied" accusations that he confronted Barnsley manager Daniel Stendel in the Oakwell tunnel.

In a statement, South Yorkshire Police said: "A man has been charged following an incident at Barnsley Football Club in April 2019.

"Joseph Barton, 36, of Fox Bank Close, Widnes, has been charged with actual bodily harm contrary to section 47 assault and has been bailed to appear before Barnsley Magistrates Court on Wednesday 9 October 2019.

"On Saturday 13 April 2019, a man was left with facial injuries after an incident in the club tunnel around 5pm, following the conclusion of Barnsley's match against Fleetwood Town," the statement read.



● Former Manchester City and Marseille midfielder Barton has emphatically denied accusations that he confronted Barnsley manager Daniel Stendel in the Oakwell tunnel.

The force launched an investigation into the alleged incident in which Barton is said to have confronted Stendel.

Barton, who has a history of clashes on and off the field, was subsequently arrested on suspicion of racially aggravated offences. — AFP

Bhagath, Mickil, Mohul, Vaishnav hit centuries

Shravan, Ashish, Akash come good with the ball in HCA's top division league matches

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD JULY 17

Bhagath Varma, Mickil Jaiswal, Mohul Bhowmick and A. Vaishnav Reddy were the fab four batsmen on top of their game, scoring centuries, while M. S. Shravan, Ashish Srivastav and Akash Bhandari were among the wickets at the Hyderabad Cricket Association's three-day league championship matches played on Wednesday.

Shravan was star bowler for Evergreen. He took 5

wickets while conceding a miserly 14 runs as India Cements cracked against his spell to be all out for a paltry 82.

Bhagath Varma from R. Dayanand made 159 off 208 balls with 17 boundaries and five sixes to his credit against SBI, whose star bowler Akash Bhandari took 5 for 94.

MP Colts captain Mickil led the way for his team as he stroked an unbeaten 142 slamming 17 boundaries and two sixes while teammate A. Vaishnav Reddy chalked up 113 off 118 balls



Bhagath Varma



Mickil Jaiswal



Mohul Bhowmick



Vaishnav Reddy



Akash Bhandari

with 16 boundaries and two sixes.

Mohul Bhowmick from EMCC was the other centurion. He scored 125 off 220 balls whiling smashing 17 boundaries and one six. It was Mohul's second century of the season.

Ashish Srivastav also put

up a splendid show, taking 5 for 75 for Cambridge XI in their game against Ensonse, who made 259 for 7 by close of play.

Brief scores: THREE-DAY LEAGUE Group-1 (Pool-A), Day-1

● R. Dayanand 284/7 in 90 overs (Bhagath Varma 159 —

N Anirudh Reddy 72, K Sumanth 53, N Suya Teja 43, Divesh Singh 4/41 vs Sporting XI 38/1 in 14 overs.

● SCRSA 151 in 51.2 overs (L Hemant Singh 69, Hitesh Yadav 3/46, Amol Shinde 4/47) vs Andhra Bank 130/6 in 36 overs (Amol Shinde 35 batting)

● Deccan Chronicle 209/5 in 51 overs (Khusru Chisty 38, Varun Goud 95 batting, C. V. Milind 41 batting, Mudassar 4/66) vs BDL.

Pool-B

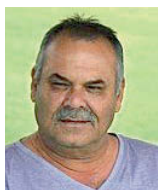
● India Cements 82 in 32 overs (Shreyas Vala 46, Vinay Kumar 4/41, M S Shravan 5/14 — 13.2-14.5) vs Evergreen 93/3 in 32 overs (Manoj Kumar 37 batting).

● MP Colts 399/4 in 90 overs (Mickil Jaiswal batting 142 — 191b, 17x4, 2x6, A. Vaishnav Reddy 113 — 118b, 16x4, 2x6, Akash A 63, Sireesh Goud batting 39, Ailim 3/116) vs Continental.

● Enconse 259/7 in 85 overs (Sairvath 32, Junaid Ali 52, Owais 84 batting, Askari 58, Ashish Srivastav 5/75) vs Cambridge XI.

TWO-DAY LEAGUE Group-1 (Pool-A), Day-2

● Khalsa 470/8 decl in 71 overs bt Jai Bhagwathi 141 in 34.2 overs (Vibhu 43, Amit Kumar Singh 5/57 — 13.2-3.57-6, Ankur Kumar 3/70). Points: Khalsa 4, Bhagwathi 0.



Even Stevens

Former Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore said the World Cup trophy could have been shared by England and New Zealand as it would have been a fair reflection of the two teams' "tenacity"

TEAM KAPIL TO PICK COACH

Members may get caught up in conflict of interest though



New Delhi, July 17: The Committee of Administrators (COA) running Indian cricket has tasked the Kapil Dev-led ad-hoc committee to pick the next national coach, a move that could again divide the Supreme Court-appointed panel.

With serious doubts over the future of Cricket Advisory Committee — comprising Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman — the COA thought it was prudent to hand the responsibility to the ad-hoc panel that has former India captain Kapil Dev, former opening batsman Anshuman Gaekwad and woman cricketer Shantha Rangaswamy.

She had asserted that only the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) was empowered to do so. COA is now a three-member body with the appointment of Lt General Ravi Thodde in February.

While Tendulkar has been cleared of conflict of interest charges, Ganguly and Laxman have been asked to choose one out of their multiple cricketing roles as per the BCCI constitution.

association as per the new BCCI constitution. The BCCI on Tuesday invited applications for the men's team support staff, including head coach who will need to be less than 60 years of age with a minimum international experience of two years.

Awed Shastri salutes Kane composure

New Delhi, July 17: India head coach Ravi Shastri has saluted New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson for showing remarkable composure during his team's heart-breaking loss to England in the World Cup final, where the winner was decided by boundary count rule at Lord's.

In a gut-wrenching final last Sunday, England were adjudged the World Cup winners on the basis of superior boundary count — 22 fours and two sixes as compared to New Zealand's 16 — after both the regulation match and ensuing Super Over ended in a tie.

Your composure and dignity viewing the sequence of events was remarkable. Your dignified grace and silence 48 hours since is simply remarkable. We know you have one hand on that WC. You not just Kane. You Kane and Able. God bless," Shastri wrote on his twitter handle.

Williamson displayed immaculate poise during the finals even though things didn't go New Zealand's way on multiple occasions, the most prominent being the overthrow which gave six runs to England during their tense chase of 241.

That throw in the final over tilted the game in England's favour, leading to a Super Over.

The current support staff comprising incumbent head coach Ravi Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun, batting coach Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R. Sridhar were given a 45-day extension following the World Cup, covering the West Indies tour from August 3 to September 3.



Captain Manish Pandey celebrates his century against West Indies 'A' in North Sound, Antigua.

Manish hits ton, India 'A' in lead

North Sound (Antigua), July 17: Skipper Manish Pandey struck an impressive century while Krunal Pandya took five wickets to guide India 'A' to a 148-run win over West Indies 'A' in the third unofficial ODI and take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series here.

Opting to bat, India 'A' put on a big total of 295 for 6 in their allotted 50 overs and then bowled out the hosts for 147 in 34.2 overs.

Although the visitors lost their opener Anmolpreet Singh for nought, the other opening batsman Shubman Gill (77 off 81 balls) and one-down Shreyas Iyer (47 off 69 balls) shared a valuable 109-run stand for the second wicket.

Thereafter, Pandey continued from where Gill had left, scoring a 100 off just 87 deliveries.

No.4 Pandey added a solid 110 runs with

Hanuma Vihari (29) for the fourth wicket.

Chasing 296 for a win, the home team got off to a decent start with John Campbell (21) and Sumil Ambris (30) putting on 51 runs together for the opening wicket.

But soon, Krunal (5/25) ran through their batting line-up with a five-for to bowl West Indies 'A' out for below 150 runs.

Lower down the order, Keemo Paul (34) tried to put up some resistance but at the end it was a comfortable victory for the Indians.

India 'A' had won the earlier two matches at Coolidge (by 65 runs) on July 11 and at North Sound (by 65 runs) on July 14.

The fourth and fifth unofficial ODIs between the two sides will be played at Coolidge on Friday and Sunday respectively.



You have to improve because other teams are also keeping an eye on you.

— Smriti Mandhana, India women's team opener

SHORT TAKES

Inzy steps down as chief selector

Karachi: Pakistan chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq stepped down as the chief selector on Wednesday but was open to taking up any new assignment from the cricket board. The under-fire chief selector told a press conference in Lahore that he would not seek an extension or renewal of his contract, which expires on July 31.

"After more than three years as chief selector, I have decided not to seek a renewal of my contract," the former skipper said.

"With the ICC World Test Championship due to get underway in September, the ICC T20 World Cup in 2020 and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, I believe it is the right time for the Pakistan Cricket Board to appoint a new chief selector who can bring in new ideas and fresh thinking," Inzamam said.

A veteran of 120 Tests came under severe criticism as the chief selector for being uncertain about some selection decisions and poor planning ahead of the World Cup, where Pakistan failed to qualify for the knockouts. — PTI

Waqar hits out at Pakistan seniors

Karachi: Senior Pakistan players are guilty of stretching their careers way after they are past their prime, said former captain Waqar Younis, urging the country's cricket board to make no compromises on fitness and form to avoid debacles like the just-concluded World Cup.

"Till the last moment, our World Cup squad was not final and clear. There is a big problem that senior players try to linger on in their careers and there is no one to tell them it is time for them to retire gracefully," Waqar said without taking any specifying any names.

"For the last so many years, we see the same thing. At the last moment, seniors are brought in as the authorities are scared to lose in a big tournament," he added.

Lashing out at those defending Pakistan's performance in the World Cup on the basis of the fact that the team won its last four matches, Waqar made it clear the team should never have been in such a position.

"The way we struggled to win against Afghanistan in the final over it should not be like that. Our biggest problem is we make compromises in selection on fitness issues, seniority, and other matters," he told the Daily Jang newspaper. — PTI

CONCUSSION SUBSTITUTES ON THE CARD

London: Bidding to make the sport safer, the ICC might introduce concussion substitutes in international cricket during next month's Ashes series before implementing it across all formats. Introducing concussion substitutes has been a major bone of contention for the International Cricket Council since the tragic death of Australian cricketer Phil Hughes, who was struck on the head by a ball during a Sheffield Shield match in November 2014.

According to an ESPNcricinfo report, the issue is on the agenda at the ongoing ICC annual conference in London and changes to playing conditions are likely to be approved and implemented quickly, so that all matches played in the World Test Championship, beginning Ashes series, will have the same safety protocols in place.

Hughes' untimely death prompted the ICC affiliates to work on raising awareness about the short and long-term effects of a concussion. In 2017, the ICC had started concussion substitutes in domestic cricket on a two-year trial basis. Cricket Australia introduced concussion substitutes for their domestic matches.

Anderson, who will be Stokes' Test teammate for the upcoming Ashes series against Australia, said that the England all-rounder, who apologised the moment the incident happened by raising his hands, had appealed to the umpires to overturn their decision.

Stokes asked umpires not to add freak 4

London, July 17: England World Cup hero Ben Stokes asked the umpires to take away the four overthrows that proved decisive during their summit clash win over New Zealand on Sunday, according to his Test teammate Jimmy Anderson.

A throw from Black Caps fielder Martin Guptill deflected off Stokes' bat while he was diving to reach his crease to complete the second run and the ball ran off to the boundary in the dying stages of the England run chase.

Having taken into account the two completed runs and the resultant boundary from the overthrow, Stokes was awarded six runs, though some experts have opined that he should only have got five, which would have left England a run short of New Zealand's total of 241 for 8.

If Stokes had his way, the match might have never reached a tie and gone to a Super Over, where both teams scored 15 runs and England eventually won the World Cup on boundary count.

Anderson, who will be Stokes' Test teammate for the upcoming Ashes series against Australia, said that the England all-rounder, who apologised the moment the incident happened by raising his hands, had appealed to the umpires to overturn their decision.

"The etiquette in cricket is if the ball is thrown at the stumps and it hits you

and goes into a gap in the field you don't run. But if it goes to the boundary, in the rules it's four and you can't do anything about it," Anderson told the BBC's Test podcast.

"I think, talking to Michael Vaughan who saw him (Stokes) after the game, Ben Stokes actually went to the umpires and said, 'Can you take that four runs off. We don't want it.' But it's in the rules and that's the way it is," added Anderson.

"It's been talked about for a while among the players, potentially that being a dead ball if it does hit the batsman and veer off somewhere."

Christchurch-born Stokes said after the summit clash that he might have to say sorry "for the rest of my life" for the extra runs which he labelled "fluke".

— PTI

Ben plays down talk of redemption post win

London, July 17: Ben Stokes admitted memories of the off-field incident that threatened his career triggered his tears after England's historic World Cup triumph. Stokes was found not guilty of affray following a street brawl during a night out in Bristol in 2017.

The all-rounder was banned

I won't look back and say I redeemed myself or anything like that — I'm an athlete and a cricketer and it's what we are paid to do, to win trophies. It (the night club brawl incident) was a stressful time for me, my wife, my family back home. I had amazing people around me, my teammates, friends, family. They have to take a lot of credit for helping me to get through that.

— BEN STOKES

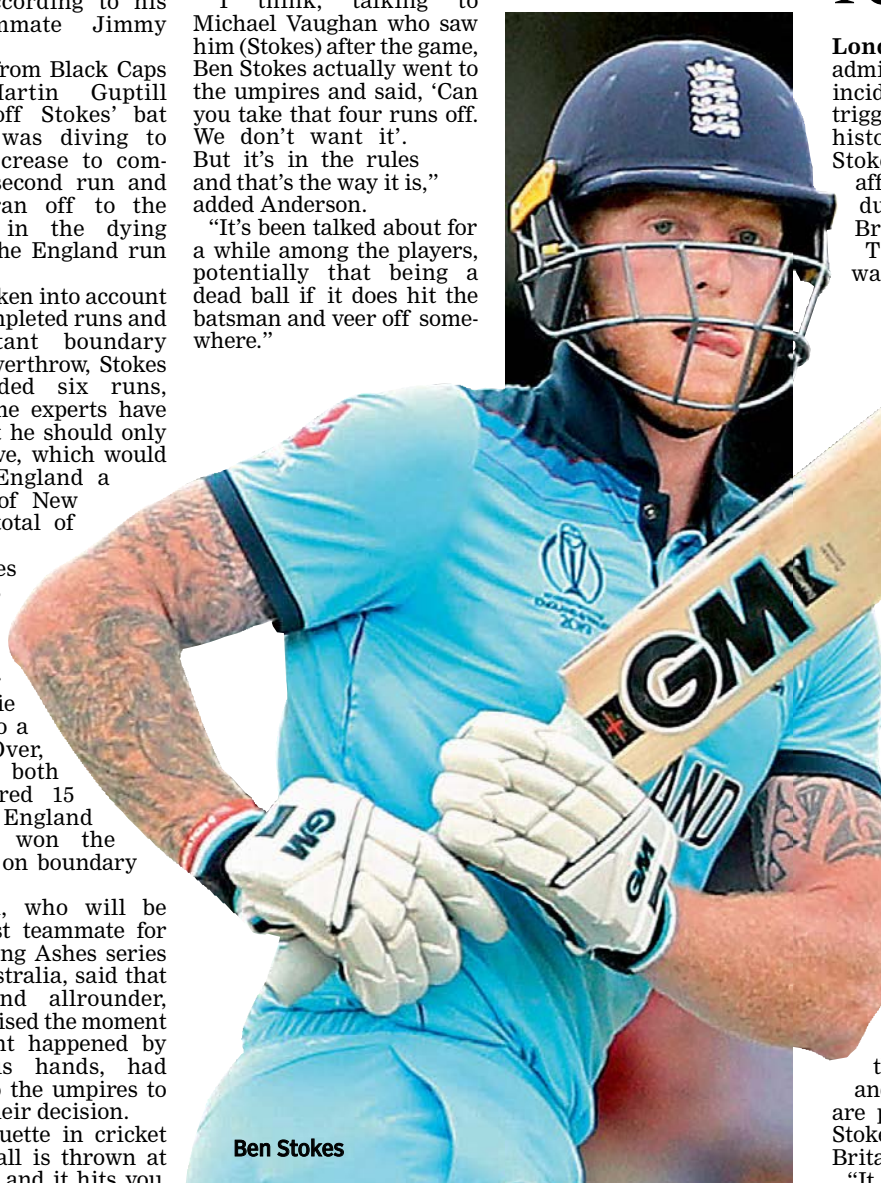
that, it was tough. Getting back into cricket obviously massively helped straight after that.

"It was a stressful time for me, my wife, my family back home. I had amazing people around me, my team-mates, friends, family. They have to take a lot of credit for helping me to get through that."

Stokes wept tears of joy on the Lord's pitch immediately after England won the World Cup and he revealed thoughts of his past had come flooding back. "I got emotional there, at the end, and that was probably a culmination of lots of things, happiness that we won it and subconsciously thinking and remembering back to what I went through," he said.

Despite the team's euphoric celebrations, Stokes insisted the team must start preparing for the Ashes Test series against Australia. "We've achieved half of what we wanted to do, which is winning the World Cup," Stokes said.

"Everyone who is involved in the Test team as well as the one-day team has sort of had to get their heads around the fact that we have an Ashes series coming up and we still have a serious amount of work to do," he said.



Ben Stokes



Kane Williamson



Jason Roy

Cup hero Roy gets a call-up to Test team

London, July 17: England have given Jason Roy his first Test call-up to face Ireland after the Surrey opener played a key role in his country's historic World Cup triumph, but pace bowler Mark Wood will be sidelined for between four and six weeks.

Roy was a crucial part of England's first World Cup-winning campaign, with his return after missing three matches with a torn hamstring coinciding with the winning streak that carried them to the title.

South Africa-born Roy scored 443 runs in the World Cup, but England's selectors were keen to get him red-ball practice ahead of the Ashes series against old rivals Australia, which starts on August 1 at Edgbaston.

However, Durham's Wood, who has a side strain, and Sussex pacesman Jofra Archer, suffering from the same injury, were not selected for the Ireland clash. Wood is expected to be out of action for four to six weeks following the injury he sustained in Sunday's final, leaving him certain to miss the start of the five-Test Ashes.

Roy's aggressive approach set the tone for England's World Cup run.

THE TEAM

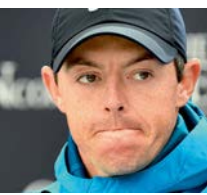
Joe Root (captain), Moeen Ali, Jimmy Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Sam Curran, Joe Denly, Lewis Gregory, Jack Leach, Jason Roy, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes.





Fight on

British boxer Amir Khan claims he will fight Filipino professional Manny Pacquiao in Saudi Arabia in November



If home crowds can't help you, nothing can.

— Rory McIlroy, Northern Ireland's former world No. 1 golfer on his chances at the British Open championship beginning in Portrush on Thursday

SHORT TAKES

Mane out to press Ballon D'Or case

Cairo: After a Champions League title with Liverpool, Sadio Mane is out to conquer a second continent in as many months as Senegal attempt to capture a first Africa Cup of Nations title against Algeria in Friday's final in Cairo. A calf injury ruined Mane's 2015 Cup of Nations, while his missed penalty knocked the team out in a quarter-final shootout two years ago, and he has already twice failed from the spot in Egypt. Mirroring the fortunes of the Teranga Lions, often favourites but never champions, the 27-year-old has sometimes disappointed, although he likely holds the key to Senegal erasing 60 years of hurt in African football. — AFP

Iran's Atrachali to lead U Mumba

Mumbai: The Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) franchise U Mumba on Wednesday announced Iranian player Fazel Atrachali as their skipper for the seventh season. The franchise also named Sandeep Narwal as the vice-captain for the season, beginning on July 20 in Hyderabad. "I am quite motivated to be selected to lead the U Mumba Kabaddi team. I aim to lead the team towards victory," Atrachali was quoted as saying in a media release issued here. "Strategy and discipline are very important and I know that all the players are motivated to give in their best on field and make a mark for themselves and eventually win the league," he said. — PTI

Surjeet Singh to captain Paltan

Pune: Pro Kabaddi League franchise Purneri Paltan on Wednesday announced Surjeet Singh as captain for the upcoming season 7. Singh, a defender, was part of the Paltan in Season 3. Head coach Anup Kumar said Surjeet will drive the team to glory. "Surjeet is a valuable asset to the team and he will definitely drive the team towards glory. He has an experience of leading the team and I have faith that his leadership capabilities will take us a long way in this season," Kumar was quoted as saying in media release. "With the current squad and a leader like Surjeet, I am confident that this season we will put up a stellar show," he said. — PTI

BENGALURU SIGN SPANISH FORWARD

Bengaluru: Indian Super League champions Bengaluru FC completed the signing of Spanish striker Manuel Onwu Villafranca ahead of the 2019-20 season, the club announced on Wednesday. The 31-year-old striker who becomes the 13th Spaniard to sign for the Blues, has put pen to paper on a one-year deal with the club having an option to extend it for another year. "Having spent a fair bit of time playing in Spain, I was looking for a different experience. However, I wanted to join a strong project where we fight for ambitious goals. That's the reason I'm very excited to join Bengaluru FC," said Manuel. Welcoming him to the Blues fold, Coach Carles Cuadrat said, adding "Manuel comes in after a long playing career in Spain." — PTI

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NOT JUST GOLF

British Open's return offers sporting relief to North Ireland

Portrush, July 17: The British Open's return to Northern Irish soil for the first time in 68 years this week brings some blessed sporting relief for a region in uncertain political times. Not since 1951 has golf's oldest tournament been held outside Scotland or England.

But the eyes of the world will be on the small seaside town of Portrush, with a population of just over 7,000, from Thursday as the likes of Tiger Woods and local hero Rory McIlroy battle for the Claret Jug.

A return to Northern Ireland was ruled out for many years by "The Troubles" - a 30-year period of politically and religiously motivated violence.

However, The Good Friday agreement, a peace deal reached in 1998, paved the way for a brighter future for the region.

"As a kid, I started playing golf in Dungannon and Dungannon was probably the most bombed clubhouse in Northern Ireland," 2011 British Open champion Darren Clarke, who will hit the first shot of this year's championship, told the Daily Mail.

"That was growing up in Northern Ireland. I had friends and relatives who were murdered, all sorts of bits and pieces. It just happened."

As the peace process flourished, the possibility for Portrush to return to the Open Championship rotation was also aided by a golden generation for Irish golf that followed.

Padraig Harrington led the way with British Open wins in 2007 and 2008. Portrush native Graeme McDowell won the US Open in 2010. A year later, McIlroy succeeded his countryman as US Open champion with the first of



Jordan Spieth plays his shot at the during a practice round ahead of the start of the British Open. — AP

his four major triumphs. The next month, Clarke capped a fine career with his only major: Portrush's chance to

prove itself as a venue came on the wave of that success, by hosting the Irish Open for the first time since 1947 in 2012.

FIVE DARK HORSES

■ Xander Schauffele (USA)
Age: 25
World ranking: 11
Previous British Open best: Tied-second (2018)

■ Gary Woodland (USA)
Age: 35
World ranking: 12
Previous British Open best: Tied-12th (2016)

■ Adam Scott (AUS)
Age: 39
World ranking: 16
Previous British Open best: Second (2012)

■ Tommy Fleetwood (ENG)
Age: 28
World ranking: 20
Previous British Open best: Tied-12th (2018)

■ Louis Oosthuizen (RSA)
Age: 36
World ranking: 22
Previous British Open best: Champion (2010)

Despite inclement weather, record crowds turned out in numbers normally reserved for the Open Championship itself.

That enthusiasm has been surpassed this week as for the first time tickets have been completely sold out before a ball is struck.

"It says a lot about the country and a lot about the times that we are able to hold such a big event

here," McIlroy told the BBC.

Work still needed to be done to fully convince tournament organisers the R&A. Two new holes, the sixth and seventh, have been constructed using an adjoining course and opening up the space required for the capacity needed to host spectators, sponsors and the world's media.

Leaving legacy

Government support was also needed to ensure the necessary infrastructure improvement would be funded.

Royal Portrush's club secretary Wilma Erskine made her case to Democratic Unionist Leader Arlene Foster.

"We managed to get a meeting with her and explain how positive this would be for Northern Ireland in economic terms," said Erskine.

"This is not for the week of the Open it is the legacy it is going to leave. The legacy is house prices go up, more hotels will want to come to this area."

The economic benefit of golf tourism is welcome as the region braces itself from another political cloud.

Northern Ireland has been without a devolved government for over two years since talks between the two major parties collapsed in January 2017.

There are also fears for the peace process should the United Kingdom leave the European Union without an agreement on how to avoid the return of a hard border between the north and Republic of Ireland.

The next few days offer some respite as Northern Ireland showcases one of its premier courses and its passion for golf to the world. — AFP

Deepika clinches silver in Tokyo



Recently, I changed my technique. I'm catching up. That's why the different score. I learnt a lot of things from here. I will improve. When I lose a match, I totally forget my shooting. I've to work on that.

— DEEPIKA KUMARI
Archer

Tokyo, July 17: India's top-ranked woman archer Deepika Kumari Wednesday clinched a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games test event after going down to 18-year-old Korean An San in straight sets here.

Ranked fourth in the qualification round, Deepika found the going tough against the second seed, who produced fine shooting including a flawless third set to clinch the match 6-0 in her favour.

A double gold medalist at the recently-concluded fourth stage of the World Cup in Berlin, San took the first set narrowly when she pipped the Indian by one point.

The Korean then won the second set 29-25, before three perfect 10s won her the gold.

"I was doing it perfectly but in the final I couldn't really catch up with my shooting," Deepika said after her loss in the final.

"Recently, I changed my technique. I'm catching up. That's why the different score," the 25-year-old said.

"I learnt a lot of things from here. I will improve. When I lose a match, I totally forget my shooting. I've to work on that."

The Indian women's team are yet to qualify for the next year's Olympics but Deepika said the exposure will help.

"We saw the place. Hopefully we qualify for the Olympics if we perform the same," the former world number one said about the event at the Yumenoshima Archery Field, which is hosting its first international competition ahead of Tokyo Olympics.

This was Deepika's first individual final in a world event since she won a gold at the third stage of the World Cup in Salt Lake City in June, 2018.

The silver medal for Deepika will definitely boost the sagging morale of Indian women's archery contingent, who missed the Olympic quota places

for Tokyo Games.

"I'm improving myself. We don't have any Olympic medal. We will try our best for next year and hopefully we win the medal. We have to qualify for next year. Our team is confident," said Deepika, targeting Olympic qualifications through the Asian Championships in Bangkok from November 21-29.

In the semifinal, she thrashed China's eighth seed Zheng Yichai 6-0, but Deepika was at her best in the quarterfinal against Italy's Tatiana Andreoli as she bounce back from a 0-4 deficit to win 6-5 in the tiebreaker.

Earlier, Deepika defeated Lee Shuk Kwan of Hong Kong (6-0) in the first round, before ousting Anastasia Pavlova (6-4) of Ukraine and Sonoda Waka of Japan (6-0).

Deepika's experienced teammate Laishram Bhamayala Devi lost in the second round to Malaysia's Nur Aliya Gharap 5-6 in a thrilling tiebreaker that was decided on who shot nearest to the bull's eye. Komalika Bari was thrashed by Inna Stepanova 4-6 in the first round. — PTI

PRE-SEASON FOOTBALL

Wolves thrash Newcastle 4-0

Nanjing, China, July 17: The scale of the task facing new head coach Steve Bruce was laid bare as Newcastle United were thrashed 4-0 by Premier League rivals Wolverhampton Wanderers in China on Wednesday.

Former Manchester United defender Bruce, whose appointment was confirmed just hours before kick-off, will jet over to take charge of Newcastle's next friendly, in Shanghai on Saturday.

It was only a low-key exhibition match, but the heavy defeat to Nuno Espirito Santo's Wolves in Nanjing was more evidence that Newcastle are likely to be battling relegation this season.

Diogo Jota struck twice in the first half as demoralised Newcastle wilted alarmingly in the heat.



Newcastle United's Achraf Lazaar reacts while playing against Wolverhampton Wanderers. — AFP

The Portuguese forward rifled one in via a slight deflection on 15 minutes.

Morgan Gibbs-White, the promising England midfielder, scored a neat second from outside the box shortly after 30 minutes to affirm Chinese-owned Wolves' vast superiority.

It was 3-0 when Jota grabbed his second, robbing Isaac Hayden in the box before firing past Karl Darlow in the Newcastle goal.

Nanjing's Olympic stadium was about two-thirds full for the first match of a double-header in the Premier League Asia Trophy.

Wolves and Newcastle, under the interim stewardship of Ben Dawson, fielded something close to their full-strength sides, but Wolves were comfortable throughout.

They made it 4-0 with five minutes left through a headed own goal by Thomas Allan. — AFP

Durand Cup set for grand return

Kolkata, July 17: Heavyweights Mohun Bagan will kick off the historic Durand Cup at the Saltlake Stadium here on August 2 after the third oldest competition football tournament of the world has been shifted out its traditional venue, New Delhi for the first time.

Returning after a three-year hiatus, the 129th edition of the tournament will feature six I-League and five Indian Super League teams, including defending champions of the respective tournaments — Chennai City FC and Bengaluru FC.

"We took a three-year gap to make it more attractive. Kolkata is the mecca of Indian football.

So, it's an effort to revamp the tournament and make it a pan-India affair," Lt Gen RP Kalita, Chief of Staff, HQ Eastern Command, said.

Former I-League champions Minerva Punjab, however, will be missed from the 16-team tournament which will also feature second division I-League team Mohammedan Sporting.

"I spoke to (Minerva) owner Ranjit Bajaj. They were 10th in the I-League table. We were initially planning to get top six teams from the I-League," he said.

Kerala Blasters too will not be taking part and will be replaced by Gokulam Kerala. — PTI

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

India clubbed with 2022 hosts in easy draw

Kuala Lumpur, July 17: The Indian football team was Wednesday handed a comparatively easy draw for the 2022 World Cup second round Asian qualifiers, being clubbed with Qatar, Oman, Afghanistan and Bangladesh in Group E.

The 40 Asian countries were divided into eight groups of five teams each in the draw held at the Asian Football Confederation headquarters here. All the teams in each group will play home-and-away round-robin matches starting from September 5.

The eight group winners and four best runners-up will advance to the final round of 2022 World Cup qualifiers and the 2023 AFC Asian Cup Finals, to be held in China. The next best 24 teams from the second round of the joint qualifiers will compete in a separate competition for the remaining 12 slots in the 24-team AFC Asian Cup.



India are in Group 'E' with Qatar, Oman, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. — AIFF

India avoided the big guns from Pot 1 like Iran, Japan, Korea, Australia and Saudi Arabia, but drew Asian Cup champions Qatar. India were also not drawn alongside bigger teams from Pot 2 like Iraq and Uzbekistan.

India can beat the likes of Afghanistan and Bangladesh and will hope to play their best against

Oman, as well as World Cup hosts Qatar, if they have to advance to the final round of the qualifiers.

Interestingly, India were also drawn along with Oman in the second round qualifiers of the 2018 World Cup. The Arab nation beat India 2-1 (in Bengaluru) and 3-0 (in Muscat) in 2015.

But the latest clash between the two sides, just before the 2019 Asian Cup, had ended in a goal-less draw in Abu Dhabi last December.

India head coach Igor Stimac termed the draw "a very tough challenge". "It will be an enormous challenge for your young team. We have been drawn into a very tough group."

NORTH & SOUTH KOREAS DRAWN IN SAME GROUP

Kuala Lumpur, July 17: North and South Korea will face off in politically-charged World Cup qualifiers after being drawn in the same group (H) Wednesday, while arch-rivals Iran and Iraq will also meet.

Heavyweights Iran, Japan, South Korea, Australia and Saudi Arabia — who all played in the 2018 World Cup in Russia — were drawn in different groups for the Asian qualifiers of the 2022 edition of the tournament in Qatar.

China, who are seeking to qualify for the World Cup for only the second time, look to have a promising fixture against lower-ranked opponents including war-torn Syria and tiny Guam.

The country and its 73rd-ranked team have grand ambitions to host and win a World Cup under football-fan President Xi Jinping.

South Korea is one of Asia's best sides and should easily beat the North, but the matches between the neighbours on the divided Korean peninsula promise to be bitter. Sides play each other twice during the qualifiers running from September to June. — AFP

Without singling out any team, Stimac said that "we need to respect every opposition". "We need to respect everyone, not only teams from Pot 1, and Pot

2, but even teams from Pot 3, and Pot 4. The Intercontinental Cup showed to all how strange a game of football is," he said. — PTI