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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019

DELHI
CITY EDITION
22 pages • ₹10.00

Death toll in Mumbai building collapse rises to 13, search called off
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Netanyahu makes history as Israel's longest-serving leader
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India gets an easy draw for 2022 World Cup Asian qualifiers
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Review Jadhav sentence, grant consular access, ICJ tells Pak.

World court rejects claim that the Vienna Convention doesn't apply in a 'spy case'

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

In a major verdict that accepted India's plea that former Indian naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav's trial under espionage and terror charges in Pakistan violated international law, the International Court of Justice on Wednesday ruled that Pakistan should "review and reconsider" his conviction and death sentence. The court, based at The Hague in the Netherlands, also ruled that Pakistan should give the Indian government consular access to Mr. Jadhav, something Pakistan has failed to do in the three years since his arrest and to stay the execution of his sentence, pending the review process.

The ICJ held that the denial of consular access constituted a "breach" of article 36 para 1(b) of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963) which Pakistan is a signatory to, which stipulates that all foreign nationals arrested must be given access to their government or local embassy, and rejected Pakistan's counter-claim that the Vienna convention didn't apply in a case of espionage.

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KIN HAIL GOVERNMENT ▸ PAGE 13

Long fight for justice

India wanted ICJ to say that:	*The court order said:*
▪ Pakistan acted in breach of Vienna Convention by failing to inform India of the detention, failing to inform Jadhav of his rights, and declining access by consular officers	▪ by not informing Jadhav of his rights and by not informing India, Pakistan breached the obligations incumbent upon it
▪ the sentence by the military court is violative of international law	▪ reparation consists in Pakistan providing effective review of the conviction and sentence of Jadhav
▪ Pakistan annul the court decision and restrain it from giving effect to the sentence or the conviction	▪ a stay of execution constitutes an indispensable condition for review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence of Jadhav

'Indian stand vindicated'

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday said the ICJ verdict in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case vindicated its position that Pakistan had violated the Vienna Convention. "The court has directed that Pakistan is under an obligation to inform Shri Jadhav without further delay of his rights and to provide Indian consular officers access to him in accordance with the Vienna Convention," the MEA said.

'TRUTH PREVAILED' ▸ PAGE 13
TAKEAWAYS FROM THE JADHAV CASE RULING ▸ PAGE 10

NEARBY

Nine gunned down in U.P. over land dispute

LUCKNOW
Nine persons, including three women, have been gunned down by a village head and his associates in Sonbhadra district of U.P. over a land dispute, police said on Wednesday.
NATION ▸ PAGE 7

'Withdraw non-bureaucrat nominees to DMRC board'

NEW DELHI
The Centre has asked the Delhi government to withdraw its nomination of "four private individuals" to the DMRC board of directors.
CITY ▸ PAGE 2

GS TEST SERIES-2020 21st Starts July
PRELIMS 44 TEST
MAINS 46 TEST
SOCIOLOGY
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51/6, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-60

Karnataka's rebel MLAs need not attend House: SC

Says Speaker can decide on resignations 'when appropriate'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave the 15 dissident MLAs from Karnataka complete freedom to opt out of the ongoing Assembly session even as it acknowledged the Speaker's discretion to decide on their resignations as and when he considers it appropriate.

A five-page order pronounced by a Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, gave a clear indication to the 15 rebel Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) legislators, led by Pratap Gouda Patil, that they could bail out of the trust vote scheduled for July 18.

"Until further orders, the 15 members of the Assembly ought not to be compelled to participate in the proceedings of the ongoing session of the House and an option should be given to them that they can take part in the said proceedings or to opt to remain out of the same," the interim order said.

The free run given by the Supreme Court to the dissident legislators means they can defy a party whip without fear of disqualification for defection under clause 2 (b) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. Clause 2 (b) mandates that a legislator is liable for defection if he or she "votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by the political party to which he belongs or by any person or authority authorised by it in this behalf..."

Gearing for a fight: Congress leader Siddaramaiah going to meet the Speaker on Wednesday. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12
BALANCE AND TILT ▸ EDITORIAL

Hafiz Saeed held in terror financing case

Sent to prison on judicial remand, to face trial in Anti-Terrorism Court

MEHMAL SARFRAZ
LAHORE

Pakistan on Wednesday arrested Hafiz Saeed, the alleged mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack that killed 166 people.

An FIR against Saeed, who has been declared a global terrorist by the U.S. and the UN, and four others – Abdul Ghaffar, Hafiz Masood, Ameer Hamza and Malik Zafar Iqbal – was registered at the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) police station in Gujranwala, Punjab, on July 1 on charges of terror financing. According to a statement from the CTD Punjab spokesperson, Saeed "has been sent to prison on judicial remand... He will face trial in the ATC [Anti-terrorism Court] Gujranwala in the said case."

Hafiz Saeed

A spokesman for Saeed's group, Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), a wing of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, confirmed the arrest to the news agency AFP.

Lahore bureau chief of *Geo News* Raees Ansari said Saeed was arrested on his way from Lahore to a court in Gujranwala to seek anticipatory bail. "Saeed got interim bail from an anti-terrorism court in Lahore earlier this week. The CTD, anticipating another interim bail – which is a norm in such cases – arrested him before he could reach the Gujranwala ATC," said Mr. Ansari.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Bill to revamp medical education cleared

National Exit Test must for practice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a move to bring sweeping changes to the medical education sector, the Centre plans to introduce the National Medical Commission Bill in this session of Parliament and repeal the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

The Union Cabinet approved a revised version of the Bill on Wednesday, almost two years after the original version was introduced in Parliament in December 2017. The 2017 Bill, which had provoked widespread protests over a proposal for bridge courses to allow AYUSH practitioners to prescribe allopathic medicines, was referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee and amended to remove that contentious initiative. However, it lapsed with the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.

The current Bill proposes to convert the final year MBBS examination into a licentiate exam, which will be a requirement for doctors to practise medicine. The examination, to be called the National Exit Test (NEXT), will also be used for entrance into post-graduate medical courses, and act as a screening test for foreign medical graduates.

AIIMS, JIPMER TO COME UNDER NEET ▸ PAGE 12

All illegal immigrants will be deported: Shah

Says govt. will identify infiltrators

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Answering a question on the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Home Minister Amit Shah told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that his government will ensure that all illegal immigrants are identified and deported.

Mr. Shah was replying to a supplementary question from Samajwadi Party MP Javed Ali Khan on whether the government intended to carry out an exercise on the lines of the NRC in Assam across the country.

Mr. Shah said the BJP manifesto, on the basis of which his government had been elected, had clearly said the government would identify "illegal immigrants" and "infiltrators" from every "inch" of the country and "they will be deported in accordance to prevailing international laws".

His statement drew loud applause from the treasury benches.

The original question on the NRC was raised by BJP MP Amar Shankar Sable who questioned the inordinate delay in publishing the final list in Assam.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

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IN BRIEF

Meghalaya Minister visits 'happiness class'

NEW DELHI

Meghalaya Education Minister Lahkmen Rymbui visited the Delhi government's Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Rouse Avenue on Wednesday to experience a happiness class session and interact with students.

Mr. Rymbui said that he had come to study how he could replicate the initiative in Meghalaya.

Pedestrianisation: traders protest in Karol Bagh

NEW DELHI

Months after the pedestrianisation of Ajmal Khan Road in central Delhi, a section of traders belonging to Karol Bagh market on Wednesday held a protest alleging that not allowing cars in the street has severely affected their business.

The disgruntled group of traders downed their shutters from morning till 2 p.m.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	73	Gurugram	64
Ghaziabad	150	Faridabad	45
Noida	120	Greater Noida	84

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

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

DELHI TODAY

Book Launch and Talk: Release of book titled, Indo-Pak Relations: Beyond Pulwama and Balakot, authored by Dr. U. V. Singh. This book deals with the fundamental causes of the Indo-Pak conflict– why it's difficult, if not impossible, to have peace between the two neighbours. Followed by the release, the author will be in discussion with K. Natwar Singh, Lt. Gen. Ata Hussain and Wajahat Habibulla at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Music: The Raza Foundation presents a musical evening titled, "Singing Gandhi: Kumar Gandharva's 'Gandhi Malhar' and other music". This will be performed by Kalaapini Komkali and S.N. Subba Rao. The event is organised as part of Gandhi Matter series, at Seminar Rooms II-III, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Dance: India International Rural Cultural Centre (IRCEN) presents a Kathak dance recital by Tabasmi Paul Majumdar from Hooghly in Govt. Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Jaffarpur, 9 a.m. and Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Chhawla, 11 a.m.

Dance: A solo Bharatanatyam recital by Priya Srinivasan, at The Stein Auditorium, IHC, 7 p.m.

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

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

'Withdraw non-bureaucrat nominees to DMRC board'

Centre tells AAP government to name officials who have domain knowledge

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked the Delhi government to withdraw its recent nomination of "four private individuals" to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) board of directors and instead appoint government officials with domain expertise, as has been the case so far.

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot had on July 13 nominated Aam Aadmi Party leaders Atishi and Raghav Chadha, vice-chairperson of the Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission Jasmine Shah; and Naveen Gupta, son of Rajya Sabha MP and AAP treasurer N.D. Gupta, as the Delhi government's nominees to the board.

Five members each

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) wrote to the Delhi government on Tuesday asking it to "withdraw" the nomination of the private individuals. Of the 13 directors on the board of the DMRC, which is owned by the Union and Delhi governments 50-50, the Centre and State nominate 5 members each.

In his letter to Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Dev, MoHUA Additional Secretary K. Sanjay Murthy said the DMRC was required to adopt Department of Public Enterprises guidelines "to strengthen corporate governance".

Mr. Murthy wrote that DPE guidelines issued on March 16, 1992, said that directors should be "officers dealing with the enterprise concerned or handling the issues of the sector", which is why the Centre's nominees were the MoHUA Secretary and Additional Secretary; Delhi Development Authority vice-chairperson; National Capital Region Planning Board Member Secretary; and Railway Board Additional Member.

Similarly, he added, the Delhi government's nominees had been the Chief Secretary, the Finance Secretary, the Transport Secretary, a former Finance Secretary and the DMRC managing director. He added that all metro rail companies in the country had nominated officials associated with infrastructure, finance and urban development. "This is to ensure that individuals conversant with functional, financial and managerial aspects are represented on the Board and contribute to effective decision-making... It is pertinent to mention that government nominee directors bring not only domain knowledge and expertise, but are also accountable... for ensuring time-bound implementation of the project," he wrote.

'Advise to top official'

He then "advised" the Chief Secretary that the Delhi government should "withdraw the nominations" in question and "nominate, as earlier, such officials of the State government who deal with the subject and have domain knowledge, expertise and accountability to drive the DMRC into a world-class transport service provider".

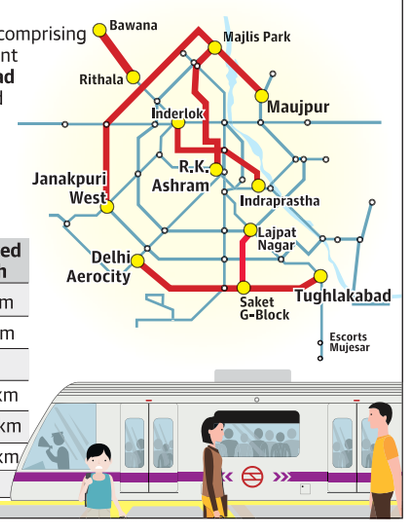
An AAP government source said the NDA government had nominated BJP leader and former Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana as the chairperson of the Board in 2003.

ON TRACK

• Under **Phase-IV** of Delhi Metro, three priority corridors comprising **61.7 km** have been approved by both the Delhi government and the Centre. These sections are **– Aerocity-Tughlakabad (20.20 km)**, **Janakpuri West-R.K. Ashram (28.92 km)** and **Majlis Park-Maujpur (12.55 km)**

• The corridors which have not been approved by the Centre are **Rithala-Bawana**, **Inderlok-Indraprastha** and **Lajpat Nagar-Saket G Block.**

Corridor	Underground Length	Elevated Length
Aerocity to Tughlakabad	14.62 km	5.58 km
Lajpat Nagar to Saket G Block	2.07 km	5.89 km
Inderlok to Indraprastha	12.58 km	-
Janakpuri West to R.K. Ashram	7.74 km	21.18 km
Maujpur to Majlis Park	-	12.54 km
Rithala to Bawana	-	21.73 km
Total	**103.93 km**	



Work on Phase-IV has started: Puri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Work on the delayed Delhi Metro Phase-IV project has started, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister of State (Independent charge) Hardeep Puri told Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Answering a question by BJP MP Vijay Goel, the Minister said the Centre had approved three priority corridors of Phase-IV totalling 61.7 km in March this year, but the Delhi government had told the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) not to start construction till the Ministry revised its approval "in tune" with the State government's.

Hardeep Puri

While the Centre had approved three corridors, the State government had approved all six proposed corridors under Phase-IV.

"The DMRC has informed that it has started preparatory work. The project is scheduled to be completed in five years from the date of start of work," the Minister said.

According to sources, the first tender of the Phase-IV project was floated last week for construction of 10 elevated stations and a viaduct on the Janakpuri West-R.K. Ashram corridor. Sources said the tender for the Maujpur-Majlis Park corridor of eight stations would be floated next week.

Protests over DU syllabus continue

Study material sent for review

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The right-wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad as well as a collective of Left-leaning student organisations held protests on campus on Wednesday against the syllabus-revision exercises being carried out by the university.

Critical thinking

The Left-wing students alleged that the ABVP was being "intolerant" by opposing certain texts in the English syllabus and that critical thinking at the university needed to be kept alive by protecting universities and textbooks from "communal forces".

The ABVP at its protest claimed that young minds were being being brainwashed through the new syllabus. The Student Federation of India (SFI) claimed that over the last week, the right-wing communal forces, working amongst the teacher and student community of Delhi University, was on a fit of rage over the progressive content taught in some undergraduate courses in the university that relates to a story offered in a paper in the B.A. Programme course, and two courses offered to students of English (Hons.). The ABVP said that students should have a say in academic matters of the university.

Meanwhile, Professor Rasal Singh, a member of the academic council, who had raised objections over the syllabus, said that the study material of four departments including English, history, political science and sociology had been sent for review.

At the meeting on Monday he had raised issue with the inclusion of text in the English syllabus which dealt with references to the Bajrang Dal and the RSS, which he said was being represented in a bad light.

HC rejects plea over St. Stephen's admissions

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea alleging discrepancies in the cut-off marks notified by St. Stephen's College for Christian students of reserved categories in various undergraduate courses.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar rejected the petition filed by Nandita Narain, Associate Professor of the college saying, "The autonomy of educational institutions to administer their affairs, as they deem most appropriate, necessarily requires to be respected".

The plea alleged that the college called far less number of students for written test and interview than those who were required to be called against the quota reserved for various categories. She alleged the cut-off was artificially raised.

Give details of matters kept pending by officials awaiting L-G approval: HC

350 notifications hanging fire, says govt. counsel

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the city government to give details of all the policy matters or notifications which have been kept pending by bureaucrats awaiting approval of the Lieutenant-Governor.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar gave the direction after Delhi government standing counsel Rahul Mehra said around 350 notifications ordered to be issued by various Ministers have been kept pending by department officials for approval of the L-G. "Find out how many files are like this,"

the Bench said.

Mr. Mehra made the submission during the hearing of a plea seeking appointment of administrative directors, including the chairperson, in the Board of Indraprastha Medical Corporation Ltd – a joint venture (JV) between the Delhi government and the Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals Enterprises Ltd.

The court was informed that the Health Minister had in September last year decided to appoint the directors and had on several occasions directed the Principal Secretary of the Health Department and other senior officials to issue a notification in that regard.

Mr. Mehra said the officials were not issuing the notification for the reason that the decision taken by the Minister has not been put before the L-G for his approval. He added that around 350 similar decisions have been kept pending by various departments.

e-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The **Executive Engineer Seraj Division HP.PWD Janjehli Distt. Mandi** on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on morth, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible Class of Contractor
1.	Improvement and strengthening of Thalout Panjain Thachi Narain GalluSheta Dhar Chet Chiuni Lamba Thach road Km. 0/000 to 75/000 Section Thachi to Lamba Thach Km.25/000 to 75/000 (SH;- ROFD/ Formation cutting, Matalling and Tarring R/Wall, B/Wall, C D work, V- Shape drain and Parapets, Road Furnished crash barrier and Sign board) under CRF Job No. HP-2018-19-169	70,00,00,000/-	1,40,00,000/-	12000/-	Class A
2.	Improvement and strengthening of Lamathach Shilibagi Kalhani Kashoud Pandli Bakhli Pandoh Km. 0/000 to 68/000 Section Thachi to Lamba Thach Km 25/000 to 75/000 (SH;- ROFD/ Formation cutting, Matalling and Tarring R/Wall, B/Wall, C D work, V- Shape drain and Parapets, Road Furnished crash barrier and Sign board) under CRF Job No. HP-2018-19-168	46,00,00,000/-	92,00,000/-	12000/-	Class A

2. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:** The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website:https://hptenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
3. **Key Dates:**

1.	Date of Online Publication	
2.	Document Download Start and End Date	05.08.2019 1130 HRS upto 21.08.2019 05.00 HRS
3.	Bid Submission Start and End Date	05.08.2019 1130HRS upto 21.08.2019 05.00 HRS
4.	Date of pre bid meeting in the office of Chief Engineer HP PWD Mandi	09.08.2019 11.30 HRS
5.	Physical Submission of EMD Cost of Tender Document and original technical document	22.08.2019, 1030 HRS
6.	Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	22.08.2019 1100 HRS

4. ***TENDER DETAILS:***
The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:
i) **Cover 1**: shall contain scanned copies of all "**Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".**
ii) **Cover2**: shall contain "**BOQ/Financial Bid"**, where contractor will quote his offer for each item.
5. **SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:** The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in **O/o Chief Engineer MZ HP PWD Mandi** as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.
6. **BID OPENING DETAILS:** The bids shall be opened on **22.08.2019 at1100 HRS** in the office **Chief Engineer MZ HP PWD Mandi H.P** by the authorised officer. In their interest the tender are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than **120 days** after the deadline date for bid submission.
8. The Bidder are advised to quote rates inclusive of GST as applicable. GST shall not be paid extra
9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Sd/-
(Er. K. K. Kaushal)
Executive Engineer
Seraj Division HP.PWD
Janjehli Distt Mandi H.P

HP/1032/19-20

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer-(M)-II

Near Sindhi Park, Old Rajinder Nagar, Karol Bagh Zone : New Delhi-110060

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. : 07/EE-(M)-II/TC/KBZ/2019-20 Dated : 15.07.2019

Executive Engineer (M-II), Karol Bagh Zone, invites on behalf of the Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation, sealed percentage rates tender from the approved and eligible contractors registered with the MCD (General Wing) as per following schedule :

Start Date of Sale of Tender Documents : 16.07.2019 from 17:00 PM
Last Date of Bid Submission : 29.07.2019 upto 15:00 PM
Opening of Financial Bid : 30.07.2019 at 15:01 PM

S.No. 1. Name of Work : Strengthening and improvement of Roads by Dense Carpeting from House No. 26/65 to 26/74 & 26/8 to 26/1 and H.No. 24/110 to Dhalao opposite to Patel Park and H.No. 24/1 to H.No. 24/81-82 West Patel Nagar and from H. No. 46/23 East Patel Nagar in Ward No. C-95N/KBZ to 48/1 & H.No. 26/1 to H. No. 25/5 in East Patel Nagar in Ward No. 95 N/Karol Bagh Zone. 19/66/XL-VIII-S/P-854; **Head of Account :** XL-VIII-S; **Tender Amt. :** Rs. 45,46,558/-; **E.M. :** Rs. 90,950/-; **Time of Comp.** : 4 Months; **Rate Hold Good for :** 6 Months; **Tender Cost :** Rs. 500/-.

EMD and tenders cost to pay through online mode only. You can opt for Challan no. in mode of payment for paying form fee details through E-Payment/NEFT/RTGS.

All the circulars issued from time to time by MCD up to the date of issue of this NIT shall be applicable. The detail of the tender can be seen at **http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER.**

R.O. No. 38/DPI/North/2019-20 **Executive Engineer-(M)-II Karol Bagh Zone**

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Chg., Northern Railway, New Delhi invites e-tender for the Provision of Deluxe Pay & Use Toilets on ROMT basis at various Railway stations of Delhi Division for a period of Ten years. The details of locations, reserve price, EMD & tender cost etc are given below:

S N	Station/ location	Approx area in sq ft.	RP (in Rs.)	Contract value for 10 years (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender cost (incl. of GST@18%)
1.	Karnal (near general class waiting hall on PF1)	1375.40	1,72,000	23,76,429	93,000	3,540
2.	Ghaziabad (CA City side, PF1/2 TDL end, PF3/4 DLI end)	1343.38	3,36,000	46,42,327	48,000	3,540
3.	Gurgaon (Circulating area)	1225.47	3,07,000	42,41,650	85,000	3,540
4.	Gurgaon (Waiting hall)	1047.86	2,62,000	36,19,909	72,000	3,540
5.	Bahadurgarh (PF1 ROK end)	519.00	33,000	4,55,943	9,000	1,180
6.	Nangloi (PF1 ROK end)	315.00	20,000	2,76,329	6,000	1,180
7.	Palwal (PF3/4)	237.04	44,000	6,07,924	12,000	2,360
8.	Jind (PF 1)	926.00	58,000	8,01,354	16,000	2,360
9.	Jind (Adjacent to Waiting hall of PF1)	360.00	23,000	3,17,778	6,000	1,180
10.	Jakhal (PF1 DLI end)	1242.00	78,000	10,77,683	22,000	2,360
11.	Jind City (PF 1 PNP end)	346.50	22,000	3,03,962	6,000	1,180

Interested bidders may please visit official web site for E-tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for further details and submitting tender. Date of bidding close on 09.08.2019 at 11:00 hrs.

Important Note :

1. Bidders who wish to participate in the e-tendering will have to procure class-3 valid Digital Security Certificate (DSC) as per information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can procure this certificate from any of the certifying authority of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA), Government of India. Details of certifying authorities can be obtained from **www.cca.gov.in. 2.** The bidder has to register, if not registered earlier, with **www.ireps.gov.in** using DSC to participate in tender process. Detailed procedure for registration, system requirements and bidding are also available on **www.ireps.gov.in**

File No.: 7PUB/TN/Deluxe Pay & Use/ROMT/2018 **2295/19**

Serving Customers With A Smile

Kejriwal has not sanctioned any new flyover, claims BJP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed that several similar infrastructural were in the offing for the citizens of the Capital, at the inauguration of the Rao Tula Ram flyover, the BJP accused him of "misleading" the people.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, on the basis of a reply to a Right to Information (RTI) query received by Harish Khurana, a BJP spokesperson from the Delhi government, argued that Mr. Kejriwal had neither sanctioned any new flyover nor had work been started on such project.

Since February 15, 2015, when the AAP government took office, till date, Mr. Kejriwal neither sanctioned any new flyover, nor started work on them, alleged Mr. Tiwari.

"This fact is based upon an information received through and RTI. But he is wasting crores of hard-earned money of the people on advertisements and trying to get appreciation from the people. The truth is quite contrary to it. He should apologise to the people of Delhi for misleading the people by taking credit for the works done by other agencies," Mr. Tiwari said. Mr. Khurana, who had filed the RTI, had taken to Twitter earlier on Wednesday accusing Mr. Kejriwal of taking credit for others' achievements.

Civic bodies get ₹109 cr. to tackle vector-borne diseases

CM asks dept. to take preventive steps

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has released ₹109 crore to all the three municipal corporations of the Capital to deal with vector-borne diseases such as dengue and chikungunya during the ongoing monsoon season, it said in a statement here on Wednesday.

According to the government, the funds were released following Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's directions to this effect issued to the Urban Development Department.

House visits

Mr. Kejriwal directed the department to tell the BJP-led three municipal corporations – South, North and East – that there should be no excuse in tackling these diseases.

The Chief Minister had directed the department to take all necessary steps to ensure proper utilisation of funds so that preventive steps, like house-to-house visits of civic bodies' staff to check spread of mosquitoes, are carried out.

While the North and East Corporations have been given ₹57.15 crore and ₹28.4 crore respectively, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation got ₹23.57 crore under the health head.

At loggerheads

In the past, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and the BJP-led municipal corporations have been at loggerheads on a range of issues, especially the issue of funds which triggered strikes by sanitation workers on many occasions.

Apart from the funds ordered to be released on Wednesday, under the education head, the Delhi government has released a total of around ₹46.75 crore to the East, North and South Corporations.

Funds granted

Of the total amount released, the North and the East Corporations will get ₹12.5 crore and ₹22.5 crore respectively, while the South body has been granted ₹11.75 crore under same head.

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Four arrested after midnight chase, encounter in Gurugram

Accused are wanted in several cases of heinous crimes, including murder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

An hours-long chase that started around midnight on Tuesday ended in a brief encounter and the arrest of four notorious criminals on the outskirts of Gurugram.

Three of the accused suffered bullet injuries and are undergoing treatment at a hospital in Delhi.

Police Commissioner Muhammad Akil said the accused planned to murder an arms dealer in Gurugram but were arrested by the Palam Vihar Crime Branch before they could carry out the plan. Four pistols, 25 live cartridges and a stolen Sports Utility Vehicle were seized from the men.

Accused Lokesh had a bounty of ₹1 lakh on his head. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The accused are involved in several cases of heinous crime, including murder, attempt to murder, and robbery. They all carried cash rewards on their arrest.

The chase began when police spotted an SUV without a registration number in Sector 40. The police had received a tip-off that a gang of wanted criminals was in the area. When the police team tried to flag down the vehicle, the driver accelerated.

The pursuit went through Sector 4-7 dividing road, Daulatabad flyover, and Dhanwapur Chowk. The accused were trying to get to the Dwarka Expressway.

Stuck in a pit

The chase ended when the SUV got stuck in a pit near Tek Chand Nagar.

The driver of the SUV then allegedly opened fire at the police. He was hit during retaliatory fire by Inspector Brijender Hooda. The other accused also opened fire in a bid to escape but were quickly overpowered.

Lokesh alias Surya, Pradeep alias Sonu and Neeraj alias Sanju suffered bullet injuries. Their fourth accomplice was identified as Jagbir alias Kashmir. A case has been registered at Rajindra Nagar police station.

While Lokesh carried ₹1 lakh cash reward on his head, the Delhi Police had announced ₹50,000 cash reward each on the arrest of Pradeep and Neeraj.

Seven cases of murder, robbery and snatching are pending against the four in Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan. Lokesh is a resident of Najafgarh in Delhi whereas Pardeep and Jagbir are residents of Jassaur Kheri village in Jhajjar. Neeraj is from to Sonipat.

Bus driver thrashes passenger with iron rod, arrested

Victim had asked driver to stop bus after he realised he had boarded the wrong one

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A cluster bus driver has been arrested for allegedly thrashing a passenger with an iron rod after he requested that the vehicle be stopped as he had boarded the wrong bus.

The incident took place in south Delhi's Lodhi Colony, said the police.

DCP (South) Vijay Kumar said that the bus driver, Ravi Kumar, was arrested within a few hours of the incident, which took place on Monday.

"The accused was taken for medical examination to ascertain whether he was drunk during the incident. The victim, Deepak Sharma, has suffered injuries and suffered a fracture in his hand," said Mr Kumar.

Deepak Sharma

Deepak is pursuing graduation from an open college and works at a restaurant in Khan Market.

In his police complaint, Deepak said he was waiting for a bus at Dayal Singh College bus stand at around 9.30 pm on July 15. A cluster bus arrived around 10.30 p.m.

"The display board on the bus said 'break down'. Since the bus driver stopped at the stand and I was getting late, I boarded the bus thinking that I would board another one at the next stand," said Mr. Sharma. He was the only passenger on the bus.

When the driver took a left turn from Sai Temple on Lodhi Road, Deepak asked the driver to stop as he needed to go straight. Instead of stopping, the driver allegedly started abusing Deepak.

"I managed to get off the bus, but the driver followed me with an iron rod and attacked me. He hit me on the head, leg, chest and hand," said the victim.

A couple passing through the area intervened and informed the police. The driver managed to flee in the bus but the couple had noted down the registration number, which helped the police trace the accused.

CM meets kin of rape survivor

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday met the family of a six-year-old rape survivor, who was allegedly sexually assaulted by a rickshaw-puller in west Delhi's Janakpuri on Monday.

In addition to assuring her family the "best legal help", Mr. Kejriwal also announced ₹10 lakh as financial assistance for the girl. "I am horrified after seeing the condition of the girl in hospital. Met her father. What society do we live in? The Delhi government will provide ₹10 lakh financial assistance and best legal help," he said in a tweet.

He was accompanied by Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal. "Mr. Kejriwal has announced compensation for the girl and has assured best lawyer to ensure death penalty for the rapist," Ms. Maliwal said in a tweet.

WALK-IN INTERVIEW

WALK-IN INTERVIEW

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Two held for manhandling policemen

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A couple was arrested on Tuesday for manhandling and misbehaving with traffic police officers in west Delhi's Mayapuri after they were stopped for a traffic violation.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Monika Bhardwaj said the accused, Madhuri (49) and her partner Anil Pandey (59), are residents of Mayapuri. The duo was heavily drunk at the time of the incident.

In a video of the incident, the woman can be heard abusing a traffic police officer, is seen manhandling policemen, and tries to snatch the phone of the person who was taking the video. The incident took place around 6.30 p.m.

The couple was stopped because they were not wearing helmets and crossed the stop line at a red light. "Police officers made efforts to pacify the couple but they remained aggressive and manhandled the staff. Medical examination of the accused confirmed that they were drunk," Ms. Bhardwaj said.

The man also allegedly lied to the police that they were rushing because of a death in the family. A case has been lodged.

On Sunday evening, another video of two men abusing and manhandling traffic police officers in northwest Delhi's Netaji Subhash Place went viral after which the two were arrested.

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Woman HRD official jumps to death

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 52-year-old woman who worked with the Ministry of Human Resource Development jumped to death from an office building in Lodhi Colony, the police said.

A senior police officer said that the deceased was a resident of Karol Bagh.

"The woman jumped from the fourth floor of the office building. Employees rushed her to a hospital where she was declared brought dead," the officer said.

The police said that a note has been recovered in which the deceased wrote that she felt lonely after her husband died of cancer in December. She used to stay with her sons.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday (10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

DDA to launch e-auction of plots for commercial development

Urban body collected around ₹2,500 crore from previous e-auction

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority will soon be launching an e-auction scheme for multi-use commercial development across the national capital, senior DDA officials said on Wednesday.

The urban body is currently in the process of scanning various presentations being made by interested parties for the development work, said officials while adding that the DDA is aiming to create "iconic structures" in the Capital which will include shopping arenas as well as multiplexes.

"As of now, certain plots in Peeragarhi, Karkarduma, Mayur Vihar and Rohini, among others have been identified. These are vacant plots that cover huge areas measuring approximately 30-35 acres each," said Commissioner Land Disposal, Subu R.

> **The expression of interest has already been launched and the inputs from various players are being taken**
>
> SUBU R
> Commissioner Land Disposal

"The aim is to provide arenas where a family can go for entertainment purposes and we are looking forward for such developments. They will be iconic structures in Delhi for shopping as well as entertainment for people," he added.

Proximity to metro

While selecting the areas, the land-owning agency has also kept in consideration proximity to metro stations.

"The expression of interest has already been launched and the inputs from various players are being taken. The areas selected are also close to metro stations which will facilitate general public to be able to access these commercial hubs, once developed," said Mr. Subu.

Meanwhile, in the four phases of e-auctions conducted by the urban body, approximately ₹2,500 crore was collected, said senior officials.

Currently, the fifth phase of the e-auction is under way, for which rates for institutional plots was reduced by 33%. The move came after the DDA failed to receive bids for institutional plots. While in the first and third phase, no bids were received for these plots, in the second and fourth phases, the DDA received three bids for a total of 65 institutional plots that were put on offer.

"The rates for the institutional plots have been reduced to make the offers more attractive. The reduced rates are applicable for the fifth phase which is currently on," said an official.

The first phase of e-auction of vacant residential, commercial, industrial and institutional plots were conducted by the DDA in January. After having received over ₹900 crore through the first phase, the land owning agency has conducted subsequent phases where plots, including for small shops, kiosks and mobile towers, have been offered for auctions.

In the fourth phase that was conducted last month, the urban body received 72 bids for 80 residential plots which were on offer.

Draw of lots for 18,000 flats to be conducted on July 23

Exercise will begin at noon and will be broadcast live

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority will conduct draw of lots for the housing scheme 2019 on July 23, senior officials of the DDA said on Wednesday.

The housing scheme which was launched in March this year offered around 18,000 flats across Vasant Kunj and Narela.

The draw of lots which will begin at noon will be broadcast live, the official said.

"Three external members, including a retired High Court judge, will be invited to conduct the draws. After the process is complete, homebuyers who get selected will be sent allotment letters by the DDA. The entire process, including sending of the demand letters, will be online and homebuyers need to complete the process on the portal itself," said a senior DDA official.

DDA's high-income group flats at Rohini Sector-29. ▪ FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

All the flats offered under this scheme were newly constructed ones and included approximately 450 HIG (high-income group) flats and 1,550 MIG (middle-income group) flats. Additionally, around 8,300 LIG (low-income group) and 7,700 EWS (economically weaker section) flats were offered under this scheme.

Delhi Congress distributes work among its working presidents

Haroon Yusuf, Devender Yadav to oversee university polls

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit on Wednesday allocated responsibilities to the three working presidents of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee. Haroon Yusuf and Devender Yadav were given the responsibility of overseeing the preparation for the upcoming Delhi University and other elections that the student-wing of the Congress and the National Student Union of India would contest that are usually held in early September.

Responsibilities

Rajesh Lilothia, who fought the Lok Sabha election from the North West Delhi constituency, has been made incharge of North Delhi Municipal Corporation, South Delhi Municipal Corporation, and Youth Congress Cells of the Delhi Congress.

The three working presidents were appointed on January 18 by Ms. Dikshit after taking over as Delhi Congress president. The three

Sheila Dikshit

presidents had at that time.

Chacko's letter

The move comes after AICC in-charge of Delhi P.C. Chacko wrote to Ms. Dikshit on July 16 telling her that the working presidents has been appointed to look after organisational affairs in the areas allotted to them but no working arrangement was in place. He said that it was "disturbing that no working arrangement was in place". He added that Assembly elections were only a few months away and the working of the PCC had to be streamlined as early as possible.

A division within the Delhi Congress came to light last week when the three working presidents had written to Ms. Dikshit saying that several decisions that she had taken like setting up a fact finding committee to look into the results of the Lok Sabha election, dissolution of all 280 Block Congress Committees and appointment of district and block observes has been taken without consultation with them. In the letter to Ms. Dikshit, the three working chiefs had written "As be the directions of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, the PCC was designed to work under your leadership along with the three working presidents and it was intended to take collective decisions in consultation with each other for strengthening the party."

Mr. Chacko had also written to Ms. Dikshit asking her not to take any decisions regarding organisation of the party without consulting the working presidents and informing the general secretary in-charge.

Woman killed, 4 injured as fire engulfs shanty

Three-year-old girl suffers over 90% burns and is battling for life, say police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A woman died and four others, including a minor girl, suffered injuries when a 'jhuggi' caught fire in west Delhi's Moti Nagar on Wednesday morning. Condition of one of them is critical, the police said.

The deceased has been identified as Shahnaz Begum while her husband Mohd. Chhote, grand daughter Muskan (3), Adil (25) and Sadik (26) sustained injuries. The police said that both Shahnaz and Muskan suffered over 90% burns and were rushed to Safdarjung Hospital where the woman died and the girl is battling for life.

Gas leak, spark from wire

Shahnaz's son Razik (18) said that the incident occurred around 8.30 a.m. when his mother rushed to help their neighbour Adil and Sadik after a fire broke out in their *jhuggi*. "It was raining and a lot of wires were jutting out in the *jhuggi* cluster. Adil and Sadik were transferring gas from a big cylinder to smaller ones due to which there was a gas leak. A spark from the wires led to the fire," he claimed.

The jhuggi in Moti Nagar where the fire broke out on Wednesday morning. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As the fire spread, the brothers shouted for help and Shahnaz ran to help them. Her granddaughter Muskan too followed her.

"The fire spread quickly and the four of them got trapped. My father then rushed to help them. Meanwhile, all of us tried to douse the blaze. As it was raining, the fire was doused soon but all the five suffered severe burn injuries," Razik said.

Razik alleged that the fire tenders reached half an hour late. He admitted that it was tough for the fire tenders to reach the narrow lanes. "We doused the fire by the time fire tenders reached," he said.

A fire official said that the call was received at 8.20 a.m. after which six fire tenders were pressed into service.

DCP (West) Monika Bhardwaj said that a case under Section 336 (Act endangering life or personal safety of others), 337 (causing hurt), 338 (causing grievous hurt) and 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and further investigation is under way.

Adil and Sadik are labourers, who drive corporation garbage pick-up truck, Chhote works in a factory and Shahnaz is a house help.

Fire breaks out at SBI building

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A fire broke out on the sixth floor of the State Bank of India (SBI) building on Sansad Marg on Wednesday morning. No injuries were reported in the incident.

A fire service official said that a call was received at 8.10 a.m. after which seven fire tenders were pressed into service.

"The fire was brought under control by 8.30 a.m. after which cooling off operation continued for the next few hours," the official said. He added that the cause of fire is yet to be ascertained.

Meanwhile, Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg said that the firefighting equipment in the building were not in working condition.

26-year-old man wanted in several criminal cases lands in police net

Pistol, cartridges recovered from his possession

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old man involved in several cases of murder and attempt to murder was arrested from north Delhi's Maurice Nagar, the police said on Wednesday.

Parvinder Singh, carrying a reward of ₹25,000 was nabbed on Tuesday from near Delhi University's Kirori Mal College area, where he came to meet his accomplice on a stolen bike, they said.

A pistol and cartridges were recovered from his possession, the police said.

During interrogation, Parvinder disclosed that in November 2018, he along with his accomplice attacked one Chanpreet, a resident of Hari Nagar, due to personal enmity, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), Manishi Chandra said.

He was absconding since the incident and a case was registered against him, the officer said.

Later, Parvinder came in contact with his old friend Mani, also a resident of Harinagar. Mani used to supply illegal firearms to criminals in the city. Eventually, the two developed enmity as Parvinder suspected Mani of working as a police informer and felt that Mani would get him arrested, the officer added.

Hence, Parvinder along with his accomplice Kimat Singh shot him dead near Ashok Nagar on June 10, the officer said. Kimat was arrested in this case while Parvinder was absconding, the DCP said.

Bail of two cancelled over fake torture charges

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has cancelled the bail of two accused for faking torture at the hands of police officials while being brought to court in south-west Delhi.

Additional Sessions Judge Sonu Agnihotri cancelled the bail of accused Vikas and Vikas Puri.

When the two appeared before the court, one bare-chested and the other with torn vest, the Judge enquired about their appearance. In reply, they blamed the officials accompanying them. But in a video shown by the lock-up in-charge to the court, the accused were seen trying to harm themselves. "...From today onwards, they are in custody in the present case," the Judge said.

Watery drive

A motorist drives through a waterlogged road after heavy rain lashed the city on Wednesday morning. The maximum temperature was recorded at 31.7 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal. Light rain is expected today. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

Deposit ₹250 crore for bioremediation of landfills: NGT

Warns municipal officials that they will not get salaries if civic bodies fail to deposit amount

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday directed the Delhi government and civic bodies to deposit an amount of ₹250 crore to an escrow account for a bioremediation and biomining project that is to be undertaken to deal with the Okhla, Ghazipur and Bhalswa landfill sites.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel specified that out of the total amount, the Delhi government is liable to pay ₹125 crore while the

other half of the amount is to be borne by the civic bodies, which will also include a cost of ₹20 crore each from the New Delhi Municipal Council and the Delhi Cantonment Board.

Stating that in case the civic bodies fail to deposit the amounts no corporation officer will get their salaries, the Bench observed, "At Bhalswa, Ghazipur and Okhla, leachate is contaminating the groundwater which is turning yellow and orange. The leachate is also reaching the Yamuna. There are traces of heavy metals in the groundwater and other parameters are several times beyond the permissible range."

Directing authorities to begin work from October 1, the Bench said, "We are giving you a scientific solution. All this indecisiveness and putting blame on one another needs to stop. This [bioremediation] is already being followed in Ahmedabad. We will follow it for the entire country. It is a scientific model and cost effective. All that you have to do is temporarily hire machines and labour. No tender is needed either."

The green panel also came down heavily on the north municipal corporation for providing an estimated cost of ₹1,200 crore to remediate the landfill.

"Have you studied the Indore model? Why can't that model be copied? It will create havoc somewhere else if you cap it. In the short-term it is okay, but long-term there will be plenty of problems, both in terms of human health and environment in unquantifiable terms," the Bench said.

Referring to a recent order the NGT had passed pertaining to the Pirana landfill site in Ahmedabad, the Bench suggested that once the land is reclaimed, a biodiversity park or a waste processing plant can be set up.

Over 200 posts created to strengthen forest dept., govt. tells green panel

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea seeking directions to strengthen the State's Forest Department, the Delhi government, on Wednesday, informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that 242 additional posts were created recently to enhance the functioning of the department.

Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Dev told a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel that the Lieutenant-Governor had already approved the posts and the process of recruitment is expected to begin soon.

Ground-level staff

"The forest department had said that they need more ground-level monitoring. So the posts are mostly for increasing ground-level staff, including rangers and security guards. Now, we have also authorised the forest department to conduct interviews as well. So issues pertaining to that will also be resolved," said Mr. Dev.

During the hearing, the Bench also suggested that the total area which one guard is responsible for, be reduced so that there is better monitoring against encroachments.

"For one guard to look after an area with a 15 kilometre radius is not humanly possible...why not reduce the areas and make smaller divisions?" the Bench asked to which the Chief Secretary said that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests can look into the matter.

While posting the matter next for November 19, the NGT directed authorities to furnish an updated status report to the tribunal.

DELHI Timings

THURSDAY, JULY 18			
RISE	05:35	SET	19:20
RISE	20:32	SET	06:36
FRIDAY, JULY 19			
RISE	05:35	SET	19:20
RISE	21:11	SET	07:30
SATURDAY, JULY 20			
RISE	05:36	SET	19:19
RISE	21:46	SET	08:23

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	32	24
Safdarjang	32	24
Palam	32	23

Delhi Palam Today
32°C A cloudy and comfortable morning. Day will be warm with cloudy sky. Spell of rain thundershower will occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C A hazy and comfortable morning. Day will be warm and humid with cloudy sky. Short spell of light rain may occur.

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THE HINDU
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'Housing project' for stray cows

1,000 shelters to come up in Madhya Pradesh to accommodate 7 lakh animals

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Stray cows will soon have 1,000 shelters to call their homes in Madhya Pradesh.

As part of 'Project Gaushala', the State government plans to move 7 lakh stray cows and bulls to shelters close to villages.

"First, let's not call them *awara* (wandering)," said R.K. Rokde, Director, State Animal Husbandry Department, "Instead, *nirashrit* (stray) sounds much more dignified."

Land donated

Each *gaushala* (cow shelter) is being developed at a cost of ₹30 lakh on an acre or more of land donated by temples, individuals and informal groups. Each of the 100 cows in a shelter would have at least 27 sq. ft. under the shed to itself, and at least an extra 50 sq. ft. to roam. Newborn calves would be tended to in special, intensive-care sheds; cow urine and dung would be stocked in tanks for use later as ingredients in different products; vermicompost pits and biogas units would be set up in the compound.

Each cow will be provided not less than ₹20 worth sawdust and fodder from deep mangers every day. For this, the State government in this year's budget has set aside ₹132 crore.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme workers have been roped in to build the *gaushala*s at a cost of ₹300 crore, being drawn from the scheme. Under the watch of gram panchayats, self-help groups and NGOs working for the welfare of cows will manage the shelters, once their bid to operate them is approved by Zila Gaupalan Samitis headed by District Collectors. Mr. Rokdesaid, "We will transfer funds for the feed to managers in four instalments in a year."

Not all stray

Not all the cattle on the streets, however, are stray, he said. "As many as 13 lakh cattle have breeders and are left to roam streets and graze fields during the day. They won't be moved to the shelters."

Over the years, admitted Mr. Rokde, with stricter implementation of the Madhya Pradesh Gauvansh Vadh Pratishedh Adhiniyam, the State's cow slaughter prevention law, especially close to the State's porous borders to catch those transporting cattle illegally, the numbers of stray cattle has shot up.

Bill to deal with cow vigilantism tabled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL

The Congress government in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday tabled a Bill in the Assembly that seeks to amend a BJP-era law to prescribe jail terms for violence in the name of cow vigilantism and ease bovine transportation.

Animal Husbandry Minister Lakhan Singh Yadav tabled the Madhya Pradesh Cow Progeny Slaughter Prevention (Amendment) Bill, 2019, in the Assembly.

U.P. ATS arrests Maoist in Bareilly

Kheem Singh carried a bounty of ₹50,000 on his head

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad on Wednesday arrested a suspected Maoist who carried a reward of ₹50,000 on his head from outside the Bareilly railway station, a senior police officer said.

'Inputs from activist'

The ATS claimed that the suspect, Kheem Singh Bora, was nabbed on the inputs of Manish Srivastava, an activist and professional translator, who, along with his wife Anita Srivastava, was recently arrested from Bhopal for alleged Maoist links.

Bora was arrested while travelling to Dhanbad to meet his associates, said Additional Director General, ATS, Aseem Arun.

A .315-bore countrymade pistol with five live cartridges, literature (yet to be legally examined), a pen drive and a jungle survival kit, including a folding knife, wire cutter, mosquito repellent cream, lighter, umbrella and a hand fan, were recovered from him, said the police.

Bora is allegedly known by several other aliases – Krishna, Prakash, Rajan, Prabhakar and Vijayprahrum.

A resident of Almora district of Uttarakhand, Bora was an active member of the banned Maoist Communist Centre of India since 2003 and even participated in a weapons training camp in the forests of Nainital in 2004, the police said.

Charges under UAPA

Bora faces four FIRs in Uttarakhand, including sedition, criminal conspiracy and under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. From 1983 to 2003, he was active in various farmers' and students' movements before becoming the secretary of the zonal committee of the 3 USAC (Uttar Bihar-Uttar Pradesh-Uttarakhand Special Area Committee) of CPI (Maoist) in 2006.

Mr. Arun said Bora's task was to propagate the Maoist ideology and recruit members from among farmers, youths, students and labourers.

Other charges against him include defacing walls in Uttarakhand with writings and posters on prohibition, jobs and migration, as well as his call for boycott of the State Assembly elections in 2012 and Lok Sabha election in 2014.

Bhopal arrests

The Srivastavas were arrested from their residence in Shahpur area of Bhopal earlier this month.

They were accused of living in the city "using false identities and documents". The police are examining the literature and other materials recovered from them.

2 children die after drinking pump water

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALIGARH (U.P.)

Two children died and 52 others were taken ill allegedly after drinking contaminated water in their village school in the district.

The incident occurred on Tuesday afternoon in Salgawan village where two children died and 52 others were taken ill after drinking "contaminated water" from a hand pump, Aligarh's CMO M.L. Agarwal said Wednesday.

Sukhbir shedding crocodile tears, says Amarinder

Cong., AAP hit out at Akali Dal chief for politicising CBI closure report in Bargari sacrilege case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The ruling Congress and Aam Aadmi Party have both hit out at the Shiromani Akali Dal, accusing its chief Sukhbir Singh Badal of trying to fool the people on the CBI closure report in the Bargari sacrilege case of 2015 and politicising the matter.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Wednesday that Mr. Badal was shedding "crocodile tears" on the Bargari issue, and made it clear that his government will follow the cases through to their logical conclusion.

Reacting to the SAD's decision to challenge the CBI closure in the Bargari cases, the Chief Minister said that Mr. Badal was pretending concern about the issue.

"Instead of probing the matter himself, Sukhbir Badal, then Deputy Chief Minister of the State, was responsible for sending the first three cases related to the Bargari issue to the CBI," the Chief Minister pointed out. "Now that the CBI has completed its probe and filed a closure report, Sukhbir is getting the jitters, indicating complicity at some level in the entire affair".

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh

"How else can the SAD decision to challenge the CBI closure report in court be explained," asked Capt. Amarinder, accusing Mr. Badal of seeking to politicise the sensitive issue possibly to sidestep the issue of his own responsibility in ensuring a fair probe into the matter under the SAD-BJP rule.

The Chief Minister said that Mr. Badal should not forget the fact that even now, when the CBI has filed the closure report which the State government wants to challenge, it is the NDA government that is in power at the Centre and the Akali Dal is a part of it.

'Political stunt'

AAP's Harpal Singh Cheema, the Leader of the Opposition, said the Akali Dal's stance of rejecting the CBI's closure report was nothing but a "political stunt".

"Mr. Badal is a master of theatrics and knows how to leverage a given situation to earn brownie points," said Mr. Cheema.

Address ownership issue first: SAD on SYL canal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

After the Supreme Court asked both Punjab and Haryana to resolve the issue of Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal with the Centre's help by September 3, the Akali Dal has demanded that any authority should first address the issue of constitutional ownership through the internationally accepted "riparian principle".

Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal said Punjab does not have a single drop of river water to spare for other States.

'Inalienable right'

"Legally, constitutionally and historically, Punjab has exclusive, total and inalienable right over the waters of its rivers. Any authority set up to look into the optimisation of river water usage must first of all address the issue of constitutional ownership through the nationally and internationally accepted riparian principle," he said.

Ranchi court modifies 'donate Koran' order

Allows college girl regular bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RANCHI

A court here on Wednesday modified its order asking a college girl, arrested for an offensive Facebook post, to donate copies of the Koran as a pre-condition for bail.

The court changing its order allowed her regular bail by furnishing bail bond of ₹7,000 and two sureties of like amount each.

Judicial Magistrate Manish Kumar Singh modifying his Tuesday's order, said the court has granted a petition filed by the investigating officer cum-officer-in- charge of Pithoria police station praying for doing away with the condition of donating copies of the Koran because of the difficulties in its implementation.

Condition retained

The court retained its condition that one of the bailers should be a local resident of Ranchi district and another must be a relative of the of petitioner. Lawyers of the civil court on Wednesday boycotted the court in protest against the order asking the girl to distribute copies of the holy book.

Police officers meet to tackle drug menace in northern States

Quarterly joint meeting of police chiefs proposed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

In an attempt to tackle the drug menace in country's northern region, senior police officers from Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Delhi and the Union Territory of Chandigarh met here at a joint meeting on Wednesday.

The joint meeting of the northern region police coordination committee was hosted by Punjab Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta. A decision was made to set up a common police and drug secretariat to share information among different police forces regarding drug smugglers and gangsters operating in the region.

An official statement said that Mr. Gupta proposed quarterly joint meetings of police chiefs of the northern States and that senior police officers heading Anti-Terrorism Squad, Special Operations Group, Special Task Force and Special Cells should hold bi-monthly meetings for sharing vital information related to drugs and gangsters.

It was also decided to develop and implement a common IT-based platform of member States for quick sharing of information to achieve better coordination and results in the drive against drugs and gangsters.

MCOCA sought

Chandigarh's DGP Sanjay Beniwal advocated introduction of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) to deal effectively with gangsters and criminals.

Kathua rape: HC to hear father's plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court will on Thursday hear plea of the father of the girl who was raped and murdered in Kathua last year, seeking enhancement of the sentence pronounced by a trial court.

Office of the Director General of Police Uttarakhand
12, Subhash Road, Dehradun
RE-Tender
Tender Identification no. DG-III-304/2019

1- Name of Item: CCTV Camera with other accessories for police stations.
2- Date of Issue of Tender- 15-07-2019
3- Last Date of Receipt of Tender- 26-07-2019, 05:00 PM
4- Date of opening of Tender - 27-07-2019, 11:00 AM
Further Details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in

IG P/M
Chairman
Purchase Committee,
Police H.Q., Uttarakhand
Dehradun.

DIPR UK 8545

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN No. U40108JH2013SGC001702
Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004,
Email:- coml.rev@rediffmail.com/chiefengineercr@gmail.com, **Telephone:- 0651-2400826 &Fax: 0651-2400799**

PR No.209115 **1st TIME EXTENSION NOTICE**

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No. & Description of Item	Extended Online Bid Uploading/ Submission End Date	Last Date of Physical Submission of Tender Fee and EMD	Technical Bid Opening Date and Time
1	21 /PR/JBVNL/2019-20 Procurement of Power procurement cost optimization solutionDesign, Supply and Installation	06/08/2019 upto 12:30 Hrs.	06/08/2019 upto 01:30 Hrs	06/08/2019 at 16.00 Hrs.

Note: (i) Submission of tender fee/ EMD will not be accepted by courier/ Regd. Post.
(ii) Further detailscan be seen on website http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9431708984. NIC Helpline No. 0651 – 2400178

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (C&R)

PR 211760 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(19-20)D

जिसे अबतक ना समझे,वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हूँ मैं।

Rajasthan considering policy on M-sand as substitute for 'bajri'

In view of the SC ban on mining of the latter in the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Congress government in Rajasthan is considering formulating a policy on manufactured sand (M-sand) as a substitute of 'bajri' (riverbed sand) used for construction of buildings, in view of the Supreme Court's ban on mining of the latter in the State. The State government has issued a limited number of mining leases for 'bajri' at private land.

The riverbed sand, which is mixed with cement for construction, has not been legally available in the State since November 2017, when the Supreme Court imposed a ban on its mining. The non-availability of sand has had an adverse impact on the construction of houses and stalled several government and private projects, besides leading to illegal mining.

Though the halt to construction activities rendered a large number of workers and labourers unemployed, the Supreme Court later came down heavily on the State government for sanctioning leases for sand mining without environmental clearances, while staying as many as 82 such licences.

> **We will appoint a senior lawyer for representing the State government in the cases pending in the apex court and try for their early disposal**
> Pramod Bhaya
> Mines Minister

The complete ban on riverbed sand mining came following the failure of the previous BJP regime and miners to get environmental clearances on time. The apex court had in May this year also stayed the auction of sand mining blocks for which Letters of Intent (LoIs) were issued without getting clearance from the Environment Ministry.

Mines Minister Pramod Bhaya said in the State Assembly on Tuesday that 97 mining leases for 'bajri' were at present operative in the State, while 216 LoIs had been issued since January 8 this year. "We will appoint a senior lawyer for representing the State government in the cases pending in the apex court and try for their early disposal," he said.

Mr. Bhaya said the State government was issuing mining leases to the owners of private land measuring between 1 hectare and 4 hectares, while short-term licence could be issued to the contractors of government projects for land measuring up to 1 hectare. After a Supreme Court judgment of 2012, such a lease could be sanctioned only after obtaining environmental clearance, he added.

Congress charge

The Congress had earlier accused the previous BJP government of being "hand in glove with the sand mafia", which was even taken note of by the Supreme Court. The ruling party said the BJP regime's negligence had resulted in unemployment of 25 lakh people, including construction labourers, 'bajri' truck drivers, truck owners, contractors and skilled workers trained in the construction sector.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER
NOTICE NO.19-CECNMS-19-20-TTN-317-II DATED 12-07-2019
NOTICE NO.20-CECNMS-19-20-TTN-318-II DATED 12-07-2019
NOTICE NO.21-CECNMS-19-20-TTN-319-II DATED 12-07-2019
NOTICE NO.22-CECNMS-19-20-TTN-320-II DATED 12-07-2019
NOTICE NO.23-CECNMS-19-20-A-SUR-112-III DATED 12-07-2019
NOTICE NO.24-CECNMS-19-20-TBMCGL-13 DATED 16-07-2019

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender(NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and **only online tenders will be accepted.** The Cost of the tender form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of multiple bank's net-banking, debit card and credit card.

NAME OF THE WORK
Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur-Nagore. Gauge conversion with extension to Nagore-Karaikkal NEW BG line between Nagapattinam-Tiruturaipundi and New line Peralam-Karaikkal. Earthwork in forming bank, Construction of Minor Bridges and Limited use subway from Ch.0.0 to 6000.0 (Reach-I) in between Peralam and Karaikkal. (Two Packet system)
Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur-Nagore. Gauge conversion with extension to Nagore-Karaikkal NEW BG line between Nagapattinam-Tiruturaipundi and New line Peralam-Karaikkal. Earthwork in forming bank, Construction of Minor Bridges and Limited use subway from Ch.6000.0 to 12000.0 (Reach-II) in between Peralam and Karaikkal. (Two Packet system)
Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur-Nagore. Gauge conversion with extension to Nagore-Karaikkal NEW BG line between Nagapattinam-Tiruturaipundi and New line Peralam-Karaikkal. Earthwork in forming bank, Construction of Minor Bridges and Limited use subway from Ch.12000.0 to 18000.0 (Reach-III) in between Peralam and Karaikkal. (Two Packet system)
Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur-Nagore. Gauge conversion with extension to Nagore-Karaikkal NEW BG line between Nagapattinam-Tiruturaipundi and New line Peralam-Karaikkal. Earthwork in forming bank, Construction of Minor Bridges and Limited use subway from Ch.18000.0 to 23100.0 (Reach-IV) in between Peralam and Karaikkal. (Two Packet system)
Proposed construction of New BG line from Chennai Perungudi to Cuddalore via Mamallapuram and Puducherry stations:- Conducting Final Location Survey and preparation of Working plan, Working section, Bridge plan, Yard plan, Level crossing plans and conducting Sub-soil investigations etc., between Puducherry and Cuddalore stations.
Proposed Third line between TAMBARAM and CHENGALPATTU - Proposed construction of additional pit lines, stabling lines, watering and drainage arrangements and other related works in the existing coaching terminal at Tambaram Yard.

Approximate Cash Value ₹	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Cost of Tender Form ₹	Period of Completion	Closing Date @ 15.30 hrs
292979157.56	1614900	10000	TWELVE	13-08-2019
298531543.72	1642700	10000	TWELVE	13-08-2019
310012967.72	1700100	10000	TWELVE	13-08-2019
279092243.37	1545500	10000	TWELVE	13-08-2019
5941188.65	118830	5000	FOUR	06-08-2019
92562050.46	612800	10000	TWELVE	08-08-2019

For further details, please refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
Chief Engineer(Construction), Egmore, Chennai-600008

RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Kutchury, Ranchi-834001
Contact No. :0651-2211215, Fax: 0651-2211777,
email: support@ranchimunicipal.com,
website: www.ranchimunicipal.com

e-TENDER NOTICE **Letter No: 1790 Date: 15-07-2019**

Ranchi Municipal Corporation invites e-tender in Two cover system from interested Advertisement Agencies for the work of **"Installation of Kiosks on Electric poles of Ranchi"** The bidder must have necessary portal enrolment with their own digital signature certificate.

Any tender document without the tender fee shall be summarily rejected.

::Schedule::

S.NO	PROCEEDINGS	Date & Time
1.	Name of the Work	" Kiosks at All Electric poles in Ranchi Town."
2.	Time of Completion	30 Days from date of agreement
3.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	16-07-2019
4.	Date & Time of Pre Bid Meeting	27-07-2019 at 3:00 PM at RMC office
5.	Bid Submission Date	09-08-2019 till 3.00 pm
6.	Date & Time of Opening Bid	10-08-2019 at 4.00 pm
7.	Name & address of office inviting tender	Municipal Commissioner, Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Kutchary road, Ranchi-834001
8.	Helpline number of e-procurement	0651-2211777
9.	Last date of receipt of tender fee and security	09-08-2019 till 3.00 pm
10	Opening Of Financial Bid	To be announced Letter

जिसे अबतक न समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं ,मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हूँ मैं।

Sd/-
Municipal Commissioner,
Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Ranchi

P.R. 211786 Ranchi Municipal Corporation(19-20)-D

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 9 • No. 170

HC quashes no-confidence motion notice against Salt Lake Mayor

Directs that a meeting be held in the next two days to prevent horse-trading

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday set aside a notice for no-confidence proceedings against the Mayor of the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation [Salt Lake] which was scheduled on Thursday.

Sabyasachi Dutta ▪ FILE PHOTO

Fresh notice

Justice Samapti Chattopadhyay directed that a fresh notice for no-confidence motion against Mayor Sabyasachi Dutta be issued within the next two days. The court observed that in order to prevent horse-trading, the meeting will have to be held within two days.

A notice was issued to Mr. Dutta on July 9 by the BMC Commissioner. The BMC is one of the biggest civic bodies after the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and is run by West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress. Mr. Dutta has allegedly defied the TMC on a number of occasions and the party wants him removed from the post.

The no-confidence notice was challenged by Mr. Dutta on the grounds that it was not issued properly by the BMC chairperson. The Calcutta High Court has ordered that the notice be brought by the chairperson of the civic body.

Meanwhile, the issue of no-confidence motion of the Bongaon Municipality, where violence had erupted on Tuesday, was also raised before the court.

Justice Chattopadhyay blamed the head of the civic body and observed that the police did not act to prevent the disturbance. Trinamool Congress MP and advocate Kalyan Banerjee raised questions over other irregularities before the judge which led to an argument in the court. The court observed that it has been doing its work honestly and without any fear or favour.

Oppn. stalls proceedings in Odisha

Over the absence of BJD Ministers, MLAs from the House

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

The MLAs of the Opposition – the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party – stalled the proceedings of the Odisha Assembly during the zero hour on Wednesday over the absence of Ministers and Biju Janata Dal MLAs as they were allegedly busy campaigning in the Patkura Assembly seat.

The Congress and BJP members rushed to the well of the House and disrupted the proceedings leading to repeated adjournments.

Leader of the Opposition Pradipta Kumar Naik told the House that out of the total 21 Ministers, only eight were present in the House and of the 111 BJD MLAs, as many as 61 were absent.

Campaigning in Patkura

While skipping the Assembly proceedings, the Ministers and MLAs of the ruling party were seen in TV channels campaigning in the Patkura constituency, Mr. Naik pointed out.

Government Chief Whip Pramila Mallick, however, said that required number of Ministers and MLAs was present in the House.

The campaigning in Patkura is scheduled to come to an end on Thursday evening. The seat is going to the polls on July 20.

Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik also campaigned in Patkura on Wednesday seeking votes for his party nominee Sabitri Agarwalla. He took out a roadshow and addressed large gatherings at several places.

Ms. Agarwalla is facing the challenge posed by BJP nominee Bijoy Mohapatra and Congress candidate Jayanta Kumar Mohanty.

Postponed twice

Polling was initially scheduled to be held in Patkura in the fourth and last phase of the general election in April. But polling was postponed twice – first due to the death of the BJD candidate and then due to Cyclone Fani.

Lal Thanhawla stays chief of Mizoram Cong.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AIZAWL

Former Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla would continue as the president of the Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee as no other candidate filed nomination papers for the post till Tuesday, party sources said.

The MPCC elections were scheduled for July 24 and Tuesday was the last date for filing nominations.

Later Mr. Lal Thanhawla appointed H. Liansailova as vice-president and the leader of the Congress Legislature Party, Zodintluanga, as treasurer.

Four killed in car-truck collision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOWRAH

Four persons from Khurda and Bhadrak districts of Odisha were killed when their car hit a container truck in Howrah district of West Bengal on Wednesday, the police said.

The deceased were identified as Manoj Kumar Mohanty (38), P. Tejeswar Rao (37), Dilip Kumar Nayak (37) and Digvijay Ray (40).

ED quizzes suspended TMC leader

Kunal Ghosh was earlier interrogated in October 2013

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate, which has been probing the money laundering aspect of the multi-crore Saradha ponzi scheme, on Wednesday interrogated suspended Trinamool Congress leader Kunal Ghosh for the second time.

Mr. Ghosh, who visited the agency's office here at the CGO Complex, was questioned for nearly two hours.

ED sources said that Mr. Ghosh had allegedly received funds from the Saradha group to head its media unit.

"We are probing the flow of funds which Mr. Ghosh had allegedly received from the Saradha group and also the money laundering angle," sources said.

Mr. Ghosh was earlier interrogated by the agency in connection with the case in October 2013.

The Saradha group owned the dailies *Bengal Post* and *Sakalbela*, which had ceased publication after the scam broke out in April 2013. Mr. Ghosh was initially arrested by a SIT of the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate in November 2013 in connection with the case and later the Central Bureau of Investigation took over the investigation on the Supreme Court orders. He was granted interim bail in 2016.

81 life convicts likely to taste freedom this I-Day

Odisha's Sentence Review Board clears their case for premature release

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Sentence Review Board has recommended premature release of 81 life convicts who have completed "a minimum of 14 years of imprisonment".

The board under the chairmanship of Home Secretary Asit Tripathy was provided a list of 257 life convicts for consideration of their premature release.

It examined a total 139 cases during its meeting on June 24 and agreed to release 81 prisoners, while the proposals of 58 convicts were rejected given the heinousness of the crimes committed by them.

28 years in jail

Sources said that the prisoners whose names have been cleared by the board could be released on the eve of Independence Day.

The board will take up the remaining 118 cases in its next meeting.

Of the 81 convicts chosen for release, three prisoners – Giridhari Parida, lodged in Ranpur Sub-jail; Manoj Kumar Padhy in Biju Patnaik Open Air Ashram, Jamujhari; and Dhruba Majhi in District Jail, Sundargarh – have already spent 28 years in jail and crossed the age of 60. The district administration had also recommended their release. The list included names of many convicts who have been in prison for 20 to 26 years.

Those whose cases were not considered were involved in heinous crimes such as multiple murders, child rape and murder, and pre-planned murders. Some prisoners had attempted escape from jail for which the board decided against their release. The district authorities had also given adverse reports on them.

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Revision of electoral rolls begins, to go on till July 30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Chief Electoral Office in the State has started the process of revising electoral rolls, which will continue till July 30, according to an official statement released here.

Applications for inclusion as well as change of address or other corrections would be accepted in the respective Assembly segments at designated offices, the office of the chief electoral officer said in the statement.

The office has fixed the deadline of August 13 for clearing the applications. The data will be updated till August 16 and the final list of voters will be out on August 19.

Special camps will be organised on public holidays, such as July 20, 21, 27 and 28, for voters to submit their applications with the electoral officials, the statement added.

Nigerian held for possessing cocaine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

A Nigerian national was arrested for allegedly possessing cocaine worth ₹88 lakh here, police said on Wednesday.

Sholadoye Samuel Joy, 44, was in India on a business visa and lived in Undri, a suburb of Pune, police said, and was involved in selling cocaine to people in posh residential societies.

Have done in five years what others failed to do in 15: CM

My priority is to make the State 'Congress-mukt', says Chandrakant Patil

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will get a bigger voter share in the Assembly elections than it did in the general elections this year, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said here on Wednesday while welcoming the new State and city unit BJP chiefs.

Speaking at a function to mark the formal induction of Chandrakant Patil as the Maharashtra BJP president and Mangal Prabhat Lodha as the Mumbai unit president, Mr. Fadnavis said his government has done in five years what previous governments failed to do in 15 years. This, he added, was enough to ensure a second term for the BJP-Shiv Sena coalition.

"We have shown in the last five years we do not want power for the sake of power. It is to change the life of the common man. The aim of this government when it will come back to power will be to make Maharashtra the number one State. We have achieved significant growth in the past five years inindustry, health and education. We want to do the same for the next five years," he said at the party's head office at Nariman Point.

Both Mr. Patil and Mr. Lodha on Wednesday gave a clarion call to party workers to oust Congress from Mumbai and the State. Mr. Lodha said the party must make the most of the golden phase in its expansion and eliminate the Congress from the financial capital. "Simple workers like me have got a big responsibility. We want to rid Mumbai of the Congress in the next one year," he said.

Confident trio: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis with State unit BJP president Chandrakant Patil (centre) and Mumbai president Mangal Prabhat Lodha at the party headquarters in Mumbai on Wednesday. ▪ VIVEK BENDRE

Considered number two in the Devendra Fadnavis-led cabinet, Mr. Patil replaces Raosaheb Danve, who resigned as the state BJP chief after his induction into the Union cabinet.

Mr. Patil said making the State "Congress-mukt" was his priority and added that BJP will look to secure over 51% of the vote share along with ally Sena. He was confident of making inroads into the strongholds of Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

When asked if the party would breach Baramati – NCP's stronghold – he said the party would do what senior leader Smriti Irani did to win Amethi. "She kept going there (Amethi) day after day. On the same lines, we will win Baramati by 2024 and eliminate Congress and the NCP from State," he said.

He, however, admitted that defeating NCP leader Ajit Pawar in Baramati would be like day- dreaming.

"NCP won got a lead of 1.20 lakh votes in the Lok Sabha elections in Baramati. It is difficult to cover it in this Assembly elections. But I have set the target of winning Baramati LS seat in 2024," Mr. Patil said.

"The BJP-Sena and allied parties should win 220 seats," he said in response to a question over how many seats the saffron alliance is eyeing to win.

He, however, dodged a question whether he himself would contest the Assembly elections or not.

A few months back, the minister had said that the BJP and the Sena would contest 135 seats each, leaving the rest for the allies. When reminded of that comment, Mr. Patil said, "The small allies of BJP and Shiv Sena also have some mass base. If we want that base to vote for us, we need to give them some seats." *(With PTI inputs)*

Sena sets ultimatum for insurance companies to clear farmers' claims

Uddhav Thackeray seeks disposal of loan waiver applications

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday asked crop insurance companies to clear farmers' claims within 15 days.

He was addressing protesters who marched to the office of a crop insurance company in Bandra-Kurla Complex over non- payment of farmers' claims. Mr. Thackeray demanded that farmers' loan waiver applications and crop damage claims pending with insurers be cleared within a fortnight.

Shiv Sena workers, led by party chief Uddhav Thackeray, stage a protest march at Bandra Kurla Complex demanding crop insurance for farmers, on Wednesday. ▪ VIJAY BATE

"We eat food grown by these farmers. The rally is to support their cause and find a solution to it," he said. The Sena is an ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in Maharashtra and at the Centre. A Sena delegation met officials of Bharti Axa General Insurance company and submitted a memorandum of demands.

"I am committed to every voter of this State. Big fraudsters have left the country and run away, but our farmers are left to die. We want no more fake promises. All banks should paste the list of farmers whose loans were waived within 15 days on their offices. Don't force us to be aggressive," he said.

Hitting out at the opposition Congress and Nationalist Congress Party, he said, "Some criticised this rally as a farce. They are the one who are useless as they did not resolve farmers' issues."

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar last Saturday termed the Sena's announcement of holding a protest march against crop insurance companies as "nautanki" (farce) ahead of the State Assembly polls, due later this year. On Wednesday, Mr. Vadettiwar said, "The Sena should show the courage to protest in front of the Chief Minister's residence. How can the Sena protest when they are part of the government?".

The opposition parties criticised the Sena for pulling up this 'stunt'.

"The people of the State and farmers know that the Sena pulls up stunts before the elections. It has done nothing but perform such stunts ever since it joined the government," said former chief minister Ashok Chavan, reminding Mr. Thackeray that he had promised to farmers he would ensure every one of them would get loan waiver benefits.

Cabinet reviews insurance scheme, will resolve complaints

Framework in the offing to tackle non-payment of claims

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government will put in place a framework to resolve all complaints related to non-payment of insurance claims to farmers. The Cabinet on Tuesday reviewed the financial situation of private insurance companies and their pending claims following the announcement by ally Shiv Sena to protest against them. Senior ministers said a payment of more than ₹15,000 crore has been made to farmers who have paid over ₹2,300 crore in premiums in the past four years.

"During the the previous government's tenure, the compensation amount never exceeded ₹300 crore a year. But the expenditure of companies this year alone is over ₹3,200 crore," said a senior minister the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena government.

Confirming that the Cabinet reviewed the insurance scheme and held a presentation, new State BJP chief Chandrakant Patil said the party had no problem with the Sena's stand. "The companies will only pay farmers who have suffered losses. We understand the Sena's stand and are fine even if our own party workers will hold a protest. If by holding protests the issue can be resolved, then everyone is more than welcome to do so," he said.

Earlier, the government set up a 10-member committee to scrutinise complaints from farmers and public representatives against the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, a government-sponsored crop insurance scheme, at the taluka level. "The government has been receiving a slew of complaints from villages and districts. We have set up the committee, headed by the local tehsildar, among nine other members, to look into complaints of mismanagement in the scheme," said a government directive.

AIMIM gears up for Assembly polls, eyes key constituencies

Is keen on playing to its strength, contesting at least 100 seats

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

With Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) hinting at contesting all 288 seats in the upcoming Assembly polls, the Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), which is Mr. Ambedkar's major ally, is keen on contesting at least 100 seats and has begun preparations for the same.

The AIMIM has identified four Assembly segments in Pune city, and is believed to have staked its claim to put up candidates on grounds that these areas had a sizeable minority population.

Senior AIMIM leader Anjum Inamdar, told *The Hindu*."With the Congress and the NCP fighting for their political existence, it is the VBA that has emerged as a potent and credible opposition to the BJP, and the AIMIM has played a major role in that. While we may not have numbers, we have a formidable base and are confident of making significant gains in the State, and in Pune city."

Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM is confident that though short on numbers, they have a formidable base. ▪ FILE PHOTO

The party currently has one MP Imtiaz Jaleel (Aurangabad), one MLA Waris Pathan (Byculla, in Mumbai) and 137 corporators and councillors in civic bodies and municipal councils across the State, with a strong base in the Auranagabad, Solapur, Nanded and Yavatmal districts.

In this year's general elections, the VBA and the AIMIM cornered the traditional Dalit-Muslim votebank in at least eight-nine Lok Sabha segments, leading to several major upsets, including that of Swabhimani Paksha leader Raju Shetti in Hatkanangale (Kolhapur), and veteran Congressman Sushilkumar Shinde in Solapur.

Of the eight Assembly segments in Pune city, Mr. Inamdar claimed that AIMIM had a significant presence in four – Kasba Peth, Hadapsar, Vadgaon Sheri and Pune Cantonment segments.

"It is not our intention to come across as a Muslim-centric party. We will be taking into consideration all sections of society aligned with the VBA. The four segments in Pune city also have a significant number of voters from the backward segments and the Maratha community," he said, and added that both parties have met twice in the past fortnight to discuss sharing of seats.

Mr. Inamdar and other leaders claimed that AIMIM is poised to snatch the votes traditionally held by NCP and Congress in the city and the State.

"With talks on pre-election alliances among the opposition parties still in a fluid state, we have already begun preliminary talks with like-minded parties, notably the Sambhaji Brigade," he said.

"Being ideologically opposed to the BJP, our first preference will be the VBA. The Brigade's work at the grassroots level and the community work of its parent body, the Maratha Seva Sangh will certainly prove of great help to the VBA-AIMIM front if we do ally with them," said Santosh Shinde, district president of Sambhaji Brigade.

Mr. Shinde expressed confidence that the momentum of the Maratha quota agitation – and the pivotal role essayed by the Brigade in it – would also yield rich dividends.

"Our [Sambhaji Brigade's] base is strong in Marathwada and Vidarbha. While we are generous enough to laud Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's efforts in ensuring the Maratha quota, it must be remembered that the foot soldiers in the agitation were from the Brigade," he said, claiming that they still had widespread support at the ground level despite the BJP government's 'triumph' in fulfilling the Maratha community's demand on the quota.

At the same time, Mr. Shinde said that the Brigade had no wish to overreach itself and would play only to its strengths.

"If we ally with the VBA, we will only be demanding a couple of seats in Pune where we are in a strong position like the Parvati Assembly segment. The objective will be to pool in our collective resources to overthrow the BJP government," he said.

No court relief for trio who shared video after lynching

Defence wants FIR against owners of TikTok app

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

A court here on Wednesday rejected the anticipatory bail plea of three men accused of uploading an inflammatory video on TikTok after a lynching incident in Jharkhand.

Cyber police registered a first information report (FIR) against Hasnain Khan (21), Mudassir Shaikh (23) and Shadan Farooqui (23) earlier this month for allegedly indulging in hate-mongering by uploading the video.

The FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by a Twitter user. Fearing arrest, the trio filed a pre-arrest bail application before additional sessions judge D.S. Deshmukh last week.

The police opposed the plea saying that with the ubiquity of the Internet, the video could have fallen into anyone's hands and could have been misused.

Defence lawyer Ali Kaashif Khan argued that if the video hurt somebody's sentiments, then the FIR should have been registered against owners of the TikTok app.

The accused had in the past shared several videos on communal harmony, a fact that has been suppressed by the police, Mr. Khan said.

The short video surfaced soon after the death of Tabrez Ansari in Jharkhand in June.

It purportedly showed some youths saying, "You may have killed that innocent Tabrez Ansari, but tomorrow if his son takes revenge, do not say that all Muslims are terrorists."

The police has charged the three men, who were said to have a large following on TikTok, under IPC Section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion).

Ansari was brutally thrashed by a mob for alleged theft in Seraikela-Kharsawan district in Jharkhand on June 19. He was also allegedly forced to chant *"Jai Shri Ram"*. He died three days later.

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IN BRIEF

Kerala school scripting a record with Big Pen

MALAPPURAM

Panthalloor Higher Secondary School near Manjeri in Kerala is on a mission to enter the Guinness Book of World Records. The school has made a giant pen using more than 5,000 throwaway plastic pens collected by students. Taking inspiration from the hugely popular Big Ben bell of the clock at London's Elizabeth Tower, the school has named the art piece Big Pen. The 7 m long pen weighs 68 kg and has a diameter of 30 cm.

Snag grounds SpiceJet flight at Renigunta

TIRUPATI

The Hyderabad-bound flight belonging to SpiceJet was grounded at the Renigunta airport reportedly owing to a technical snag on Wednesday. The aircraft from Hyderabad, that was scheduled to land here at 6.30 a.m. and start by 7.30 a.m., landed at 8.20 a.m. and took off by 8.50 a.m.. However, it returned within 10 minutes citing technical snag.

Monsoon in Kerala turning active after a lull

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Active to vigorous monsoon conditions can be expected over Kerala from Thursday to Saturday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday. Red alerts, signifying extremely heavy rainfall, have been issued for Idukki and Malappuram for Thursday, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Idukki for Friday, and Ernakulam and Idukki for Saturday.

What about our right to issue a whip, ask Congress, JD(S) leaders

SC direction indirectly infringes on our rights: Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Hours after the Supreme Court on Wednesday gave rebel MLAs of Karnataka freedom to opt out of the ongoing Legislative Assembly session, leaders of the Janata Dal (Secular) and Congress knocked on the door of the Speaker to seek a clarification on whether a whip could be issued and if it would hold water.

"The direction indirectly infringes on our rights," Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told reporters after a meeting with Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar here. "Parties have the right to issue a whip, and by allowing the choice to attend the session, it [the order] indirectly restricts rights given to the legislative parties in the Tenth Schedule."

He said that no opportunity was given to them to argue their case and they were not made respondents. Mr. Gowda said both the Congress and the JD(S) had sought clarification from the Speaker on this issue. However, the Speaker had refused to provide any at this point of time, added the Minister.

"The Speaker said if the parties, using their rights, issue a whip and if it is violated, we could approach him as per the Tenth Schedule. He said he will inquire about it and that he will give his decision," said the Minister.

Karnataka CM H.D. Kumaraswamy arriving at Vidhana Soudha to meet Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

Leaders meet Speaker

Mr. Gowda said the two parties would take a decision on issuing the whip by Thursday and indicated that they were in favour of it. On Wednesday, top leadership of the coalition, including Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and chairman of the coordination committee Siddaramaiah, met the Speaker, seeking clarification on and to discuss the consequence of the Supreme Court order.

The parties also wanted to know whether a member could be absent without seeking leave of absence. Mr. Gowda said the Speaker clarified that as per the Karnataka Legislative Assembly rules, members have to seek leave of absence. "While they are exempt from participating from the House proceedings, if they choose to stay away from the House, they have to adhere to the rules," he said.

'SC order a moral victory'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Expressing happiness over the interim judgment of the Supreme Court on the issue related to resignations of MLAs and petitions seeking their disqualification, Karnataka BJP president B.S. Yeddyurappa on Wednesday described it as a "moral victory for rebel MLAs".

In a press release, Mr. Yeddyurappa said it was a "victory of the Constitution and democracy" and maintained that it would set a new trend in parliamentary democracy.

Pointing out that it was just an interim order, he said the Supreme Court in future would ponder over the powers of the Speaker.

Trust vote: odds stacked against coalition govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Supreme Court order giving relief to 15 dissident Congress and Janata Dal (S) MLAs from participating in the confidence motion in the Karnataka Assembly on Thursday may have made the collapse of the 14-month-old coalition government imminent.

This will be the third motion on trust vote moved in the Assembly after the fractured mandate in the 2018 elections.

The ruling coalition can count on 100 MLAs against the 107 reportedly commanded by the Opposition BJP. The Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy-headed government has seen 13 Congress and 3 JD(S) MLAs submit resignation letters to the Speaker, while two Independents, who quit the Ministry, too have withdrawn support to the government.

The BJP had made at least half a dozen attempts earlier to topple the coalition by luring ruling party MLAs, but this time it seems confident of crossing the finish line.

Ramalinga Reddy, a former Minister and seven-time MLA, who also submitted his resignation, is expected to withdraw it and vote in favour of the Congress. With his inclusion, the coalition will still have just 101 votes, including the Speaker's. The vote of N. Mahesh, BSP MLA, who had a pre-poll alliance with the JD(S), is uncertain.

The hopes of the government's survival received a jolt when rebel MLAs refused to meet Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who has assumed the role of a trouble-shooter for the Congress.

Journey stalled: ISRO's GSLV carrying Chandrayaan-2 stands at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota after the mission was aborted on July 15. ▪ AP

Moon mission awaits new date with destiny

ISRO studying hitch that halted launch

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

There is no clarity yet on when Chandrayaan-2 may be launched, three days after the launch of the moon mission was halted on the launchpad less than an hour before lift-off.

Fresh alerts to aircraft pilots and officials speaking on condition of anonymity indicate a broad period between July 20-31. But a spokesman for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said it was part of a wide window indicated earlier and cautioned against assuming any finality. "A date will be known only when those working on the job get some clarity," he said.

ISRO is yet to publicly share any details on the hitch that was noticed just an hour before the scheduled launch at 2.51 a.m. on July 15. Asked if the glitch related to the GSLV-MkIII launch vehicle, ISRO's spokesman declined to comment, citing the 'classified' nature of expert committee findings.

A NOTAM (notice to airmen) is routinely issued ahead of all rocket and missile launches to notify aircraft pilots [and ships] to enable them to avoid using that route during the specified period.

A third NOTAM for the GSLV-MkIII/M1 indicated an imminent launch during July 20-31 between 2 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. IST. But ISRO's spokesman said he would not endorse the information to avoid 'causing any confusion'.

Earth phase may shrink

Chandrayaan-2 is to be India's first lander-rover mission to the Moon as a sequel to the first orbiting mission of 2008. India also hopes to be the first country to land at the lunar south pole.

With the delay in the launch, ISRO may shrink the original 17-day period that the spacecraft was set to go around the Earth in increasingly higher orbits before being put on course to the Moon. A senior scientist said there was enough cushion in the mission to reduce the number of Earth orbits.

Telangana Cabinet nod for draft municipal bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cabinet on Wednesday approved the draft municipal bill to be introduced by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao in the Assembly on Thursday.

Thereafter, both Assembly and Legislative Council would debate the bill.

The marathon Cabinet meeting, presided over by Mr. Rao, decided to supply to beneficiaries proceedings of the hiked social security pensions Assembly constituency-wise on July 20. The government had already decided to hike the pensions for aged persons, widows, beedi workers, toddy-tappers, handloom weavers, single women, elephantiasis-affected persons and AIDS victims from ₹1,000 to ₹2,016 a month. The hike was from ₹1,500 to ₹3,016 for physically challenged persons and aged artists. The hike was made effective from June and payable this month

A release said the Collectors were asked to organise programmes in constituency headquarters to hand over the proceedings of hike to beneficiaries on July 20. Immediately after the programmes, the money would be deposited in bank accounts of beneficiaries. Ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and Zilla Parishad chairpersons would participate in the programmes.

The hike in pensions would entail an additional burden on exchequer to the tune of ₹12,000 crore, of which the State government would bear ₹11,800 crore and the Centre ₹200 crore.

Kerala's University College in 'detox' mode

Full-time Principal posted; publicity material removed from campus

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Directorate of Collegiate Education in Kerala has began virtual cleansing of the University College by setting in motion a host of remedial measures.

The college will have a full-time Principal after a brief hiatus. C.C. Babu, who was transferred from Government College, Thrissur, has been posted as Principal. The post remained vacant since the retirement of J. Anil Kumar on March 31 with senior faculty members undertaking the responsibilities in the intervening period.

Despite classes being suspended, the campus was buzzing with activity on Wednesday with the college authorities removing several publicity materials installed by the Students Federation of India (SFI) college unit, including banners, flags and posters. Graffito were washed under the supervision of the faculty. The clean-up was in adherence to a decision taken at the college council meeting convened by Additional Director of Collegiate Education K.K. Suma a day ago.

Acting tough: Police using water cannons to disperse agitating MSF workers who tried to enter the University College in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. ▪ S. MAHINSHA

SFI panel

Meanwhile, the SFI constituted an ad hoc 25-member unit committee in place of the panel dissolved in the aftermath of last week's violent incidents. The committee, chaired by Kerala University union chairman Riyas A.R., a second-year B.A. Malayalam student, includes final-year student Akhil Chandran, who was allegedly stabbed by former SFI leaders on the campus.

The SFI district committee has sought to project a picture of unity by including a few activists who had questioned the high-handedness of the previous panel. The committee also ensures greater participation for women.

Spontaneous protest

Earlier, the attack on Mr. Akhil Chandran had triggered spontaneous protest by University College students against the 'tyranny' of the SFI. At least two rival outfits took to the streets to put the heat on the government to order a judicial probe into the "University College-centred widespread examination fraud" by SFI leaders.

The high point of the protest was an attempt by a lone Kerala Students Union activist, Shilpa, to storm the Secretariat block housing the office of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Women police officers overpowered her and hustled her away in a van to the nearby Cantonment police station.

Rock bottom

Cause for concern: Due to the poor monsoon, the Himayatsagar reservoir, which has been meeting the drinking water needs of Hyderabad for close to 100 years, is now left with storage that will suffice only for a few days. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board is thinking of alternative arrangements to supply water to the city. ▪ NAGARA GOPAL

TTD to scrap 'classifications' in VIP darshan system

More importance for ordinary pilgrims, says chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUMALA

As a first step towards revamping the administration under the new dispensation, the TTD on Wednesday resolved to scrap the "classifications" in the VIP break darshan system with immediate effect.

TTD Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy said the decision was taken to weed out corruption and at the same time attach more importance to ordinary pilgrims.

There would be no scope for any discrimination with equal treatment to the VIPs except for those who fall under the protocol category.

A decade back, the VIPs were extended a uniform treatment which is now revived with modifications to suit the present day requirements.

It will come into force in a couple of days after updating the software.

'No limit'

Presently, no limit of any kind had been imposed on the issuance of VIP tickets which was left to the discretion of the TTD officers concerned, who would take decisions on a day-to-day basis based on the pilgrim turnout.

This apart, the management was also open to new ideas such as introduction of alternative systems, provided they contributed to a faster darshan to common pilgrims, Mr. Subba Reddy said.

About two and half to three hours were wasted in facilitating 3,500 to 5,000 people with VIP letters every day.

Unless the time was tweaked down to at least half, no justice could be done to the ordinary pilgrim, he said.

Mr. Subba Reddy also ruled out setting up a camp office at the capital city of Amaravati. "As I have never asked for any camp office, how can anybody sanction it?" he asked.

Team from Kerala college finds Iron Age tools

Implements were recovered from the Malampuzha dam's catchment area

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA
PALAKKAD

A team of explorers from the Government Victoria College in Kerala have stumbled upon iron implements belonging to the Iron Age, from the catchment area of the Malampuzha dam.

K. Rajan, a former head of the History department at the college who led the exploration, said the find had immense potential to throw light on the life of people in the centuries immediately before the beginning of the Christian era.

V. Selvakumar, an archaeologist from Tamil University, Thanjavur, has corroborated the finding. An expert in Stone Age and Iron Age archaeology, Dr. Selvakumar will examine the site next week.

The findings

The iron implements found include a nail, a chisel, a wedge, a knife and a dagger. The broken pieces of the dagger were recovered from a cist found at the location.

Mr. Rajan said that while the knife was found beside another cist, the nail, chisel, wedge and two other tools were recovered from the top of a broken urn at South Malampuzha. He said the tools that could not be identified might be a spearhead and the top portion of a sickle. The iron implements were spotted during a survey of Iron Age sites and burials as part of a University Grants Commission-aided project that began in 2014. "The region has many varieties of Iron Age burials, including cairn circles, stone circles, cist burials, dolmens, urn burials, and menhirs," said Mr. Rajan.

Rare find: The implements can throw light on the life of people who lived during the Iron Age.

Earlier exploration

An exploration conducted by M.G. Sasibhooshan in 1980s had found burial sites within the catchment areas of Malampuzha. Archaeological Survey of India director M. Nandiraju has asked the Victoria team to survey the region thoroughly and to document their findings in detail.

The survey is expected to continue for a few more weeks. Mr. Rajan said that deeper studies were required to find the exact period of the implements recovered from Malampuzha.

IN BRIEF

Robert Vadra seeks time to submit reply

NEW DELHI

Robert Vadra on Wednesday sought additional time from the Delhi High Court to submit his reply to the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) petition for the cancellation of his anticipatory bail.

Clear salary dues, says Air India Pilots' union

NEW DELHI

An Air India pilots' union has written to the airline's Chairman and Managing Director, Ashwani Lohani, demanding they either pay the pending salaries or waive the mandatory notice period. They have also appealed to the airline to allow them to explore better jobs.

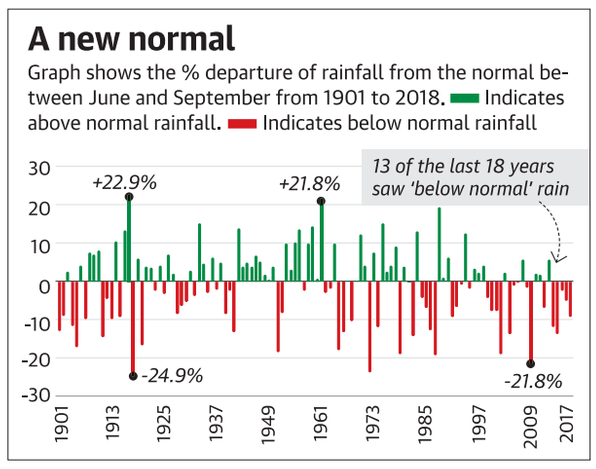
Normal rainfall measure may be lowered

IMD proposes to revise LPA quantum by 2%

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is likely to revise downward by 2% the quantity of 'normal' monsoonal rain, two independent sources confirmed to *The Hindu*.

Currently, 89 cm of monsoon rain from June to September is considered 'normal', more technically, the long period average (LPA), and this is derived from the average rainfall that the country got from 1960-2010. Were this change to happen, the definition of 'normal' rainfall could dip below 88 cm, unprecedented since 1950. The dip in average rainfall is largely due to a surge in drought and depressed rainfall since 2000; 13 out of the last 18 years have seen 'below normal' rains (where rainfall is less than 95% of the normal) in India and there have been droughts (where rainfall was less than 90% of the normal) in 2002, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.



The IMD routinely updates 'normal' rain every 10-12 years but the changes can take nearly 5 years to reflect in the agency's official forecasts.

This time the change could be reflected by 2021 after taking into account the monsoon rainfall from 1970-2020, a senior meteorologist connected to IMD's forecast process told *The Hindu*.

This year the IMD has forecast monsoon rains to be 96% of the LPA, just shy of 'below normal' rainfall.

Research into the monsoon has observed a rough 30-40 year cycle of a rise and fall in average rainfall when computed since 1900. Since the 1990s, India is in a 'low epoch' meaning that average rainfall has been below normal. Global warming has generally made Indian rainfall more erratic and prone to bursts of intense rainfall or long periods of drought.

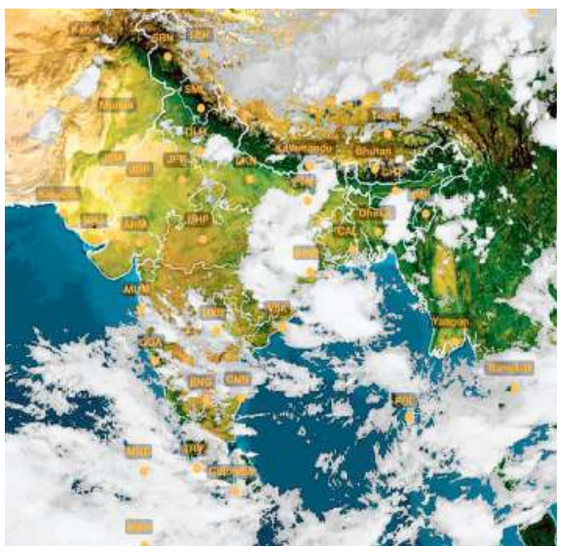
This year the monsoon has been 16% short over India so far, largely due to a shortfall in June. It has improved in July and the IMD has forecast a pick-up in the coming days due to a 'monsoon pulse' in Southern India. Kerala, the Konkan coast, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh will see heavy rainfall.

Separately, the IMD is also examining an internal report on whether the monsoon withdrawal and onset dates in parts of Central India and North India need to be changed. This is because records over nearly two decades show that the monsoon rainfall after entering Kerala on June 1 has in recent decades been stalling and sluggishly advancing into parts of central India, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan. It has also been withdrawing late.

"These changes are needed to update agricultural advisories so that farmers can make better decisions on sowing their crop," said a senior IMD meteorologist.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places likely over Konkan region, Goa, Tamil Nadu, coastal and south interior Karnataka, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	35.0	27.0	Kozhikode	4.2	33.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	–	39.0	28.0	Kurnool	8	34.0	24.0
Aizawl	32.0	30.0	24.0	Lucknow	–	36.0	26.0
Allahabad	3.5	39.0	26.0	Madurai	–	36.0	25.0
Bengaluru	3.0	30.0	21.0	Mangaluru	20.0	29.0	23.0
Bhopal	–	35.0	25.0	Mumbai	4.2	31.0	27.0
Bhubaneswar	0.6	37.0	25.0	Mysuru	8.8	30.0	21.0
Chandigarh	2.3	30.0	25.0	New Delhi	21.6	31.0	24.0
Chennai	0.9	36.0	27.0	Patna	–	37.0	28.0
Coimbatore	–	32.0	23.0	Port Blair	16.7	29.0	24.0
Dehradun	5.2	30.0	23.0	Puducherry	–	36.0	27.0
Gangtok	42.4	23.0	17.0	Pune	–	31.0	23.0
Goa	67.0	30.0	23.0	Raipur	–	37.0	28.0
Guwahati	9.3	34.0	25.0	Ranchi	19.8	34.0	25.0
Hubballi	–	27.0	21.0	Shillong	0.4	27.0	17.0
Hyderabad	1.1	35.0	24.0	Shimla	36.7	21.0	15.0
Imphal	–	30.0	20.0	Srinagar	–	33.0	18.0
Jaipur	–	37.0	28.0	Thiruvananthapuram	10.6	29.0	24.0
Kochi	12.1	30.0	24.0	Tiruchi	–	39.0	28.0
Kohima	7.4	26.0	18.0	Vijayawada	0.8	38.0	27.0
Kolkata	53.4	36.0	27.0	Visakhapatnam	0.4	36.0	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	–	127	48	63	–	
Bengaluru	6	62	82	46	83	
Chennai	6	36	78	95	–	
Delhi	19	33	53	47	106	
Hyderabad	36	29	13	90	48	
Kolkata	13	61	10	127	120	
Lucknow	4	30	50	151	–	
Mumbai	14	7	13	46	105	
Pune	68	8	67	42	42	
Visakhapatnam	6	74	41	117	153	

Yesterday

Moderate levels of particulate matter pollution recorded in most cities across the country. Going by Central Pollution Control Board data, Patiala, Punjab recorded a healthy Air Quality Index (AQI) of 34. On the contrary, Talcher, Odisha, recorded an AQI of 192, indicating moderate air pollution.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Mumbai building crash toll rises to 13

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The death toll in Tuesday's building collapse in Dongri in south Mumbai went up to 13 with the recovery of three more bodies, including those of two children, early on Wednesday.

Late in the evening, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the fire brigade called off the search and rescue operations.

"The search and rescue operation has been called off after removal of the debris and search of the entire area," Sachidanand Gawde, PRO of the NDRF team, said.

"Debris is completely cleared by now but some locals have reported one person missing. So the fire brigade is on standby," Additional Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Joshi said.

Under treatment

Of the 22 injured persons admitted to the JJ Hospital, two have been discharged, six are still under treatment and one remains critical.

Search operations continued through the night to rescue a mother and two children trapped under a concrete slab. Around 5.30 a.m., fire brigade personnel were able to remove the slab. However, the minors did not survive.

Dam Safety Bill gets nod from CCEA

It is set to be reintroduced in Parliament after several unsuccessful bids to clear it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre is set to introduce the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 in Parliament after it was cleared by the Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday.

A version of the Bill was first introduced in the Lok Sabha in 2018 but it subsequently lapsed. It aims to put in place a systematic procedure to ensure that India's 5,600 dams are made and maintained safely.

Various editions of the Bill have been introduced since 2010 but it has never been successfully passed, largely due to opposition by States at various times. Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Odisha have opposed the Bill on the grounds that it encroaches upon the sovereignty of States to manage their dams. The Bill lays the onus of the dam safety on the dam owner and provides for penal provisions for wilful "commission and omission of certain acts." The The Bill also provides for establishment of a National Dam Safety Authority as a regulatory body to implement the policy, Javadekar said.

Water power: The Bill aims at improving safety of dams. • PTI

The CCEA also approved the ₹1,600-crore pre-investment expenditure for the Dibang Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh, India's largest hydropower project.

HC convicts man for U.K. teen's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

The Bombay High Court's Goa Bench on Wednesday convicted a person in the 2008 British teenager Scarlett Eden Keeling death case, overturning his acquittal by the trial court.

Scarlett was found dead with bruises at Anjuna beach in Goa on February 18, 2008. Two locals, Samson D'Souza and Placido Carvalho, were accused of leaving her to die after drugging and sexually abusing her. The Goa Children's Court had acquitted both last year.

The High Court convicted D'Souza under IPC Sections 328 (for administrating drugs), 354 (outraging woman's modesty), 304 (culpable homicide not amounting murder), and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) and for child abuse under Section 8(2) of the Goa Children's Act. Arguments on the quantum of sentence would be heard on July 19. The case, initially investigated by the Goa police, was handed over to the CBI after Scarlett's mother Fiona Mackeown raised doubts over the probe.

Green light for 3 railway projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved three new railway projects, with a combined investment of over ₹6,000 crore, giving a boost to rail connectivity in Uttar Pradesh and Assam.

The three projects – an 81.17 km new railway line between Sahjanwa and Dohrighat (U.P.), doubling of 142.97 km New Bongaigaon-Agthori line (Assam) and construction of a 150-km-long third railway line between Allahabad and Mughalsarai– are expected to generate a total direct employment of 89.79 lakh man-days during the construction period.

The Centre said the new line connecting Dohrighat to Sahjanwa is expected to generate an employment of 19.48 lakh man-days and would be completed by 2023-24 by the Construction Organization of North Eastern Railway.

The project is expected to help "cope up with the future traffic and remove capacity constraints," the government said.

Nine gunned down in U.P. over land dispute

3 women were among those killed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Nine persons, including three women, have been gunned down by a village head and his associates in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh over a land dispute, police said on Thursday.

Four persons were also injured in the incident that took place in Murtiya village under the Ghorawal police station on Wednesday, the police said.

State Director General of Police O.P. Singh said five persons have been arrested and a door-to-door search was launched to nab the others.

Additional DG Law and Order P.V. Ramasastry said the incident was set off after headman Yagya Dutt Bhurtia, reached the village with his associates to take possession of a farmland he had purchased two years ago.

However, the locals, who had not allowed him to take over the farmland for two years, protested, following which he and his men opened fired at them, police said.

No phones, inter-caste marriages for Thakor girls

SPECIAL CORESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

In a regressive step, Gujarat's Thakor community unanimously passed a fiat directing parents to discourage their daughters from having mobile phones and inter-caste marriages. If found with phones, the parents can be fined up to ₹2 lakh. Suresh Thakor, a member of the governing body said 'college-going youth' use mobile phones to make videos and waste time.

Judiciary should revisit conventional wisdom: CJI

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Wednesday said great institutions like the judiciary should be on their guard against the "wicked and the vile," who work in their dark recesses to weaken them in a deceptive manner.

The Chief Justice was speaking at the inauguration of the state-of-the-art Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court. On the occasion, the Court also launched the translation of 100 of its English judgments in seven other languages.

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the solar-powered building, which has a total built-up area of 1,80,700 square metres and is situated on 12.19 acres of land abutting Pragati Maidan. The foundation stone of the building was laid in 2012 and is meant to overcome the acute space crunch. Constructed by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), the building will house administrative blocks and has two auditoriums with a seating capacity of about 620 and 250 persons and a conference room.

In his address, the CJI said it is time for stakeholders to introspect their respective roles in order to successfully engage in the process of nation-building.

"History has witnessed how great institutions have been brought to the knees by the wicked and the vile. History has also seen how even great nations have been brought down in an utterly deceptive manner," the CJI said.

CJI Ranjan Gogoi

"The threat from such people has always been the greatest to institutions like the judiciary, which do not pander to any particular interest or bow to powerful coteries that breed in the nooks and dark corners," the CJI said. The Chief Justice also said there is a dire need for introspection among the stakeholders as to where and how they would like to see this institution in the decades ahead.

"The winds of change, bringing in a new world of instant communication amongst human beings across continents, have thrown open possibilities of a changing global order and its expanding and infinite consequences, from changing the way we live to even redefining 'life on the planet' itself. These changes have also affected the way human beings perceive institutions, and the irrelevance to the existent social order," Chief Justice Gogoi told the gathering.

In this context, the CJI said the court and all its constituents should revamp existing methodologies and revisit conventional wisdom and traditions.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, K.B.K. MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE-I, BHAWANIPATNA
'e' Procurement Notice No.02 sekbkmic-I /2019-20
Bid Identification No. SEKBKMIC-I / 02 / 2019-20
141-A: sekbkmi@yahoo.co.in
No. 1390 // KBKMIC-I // date – 15.7.19

Bid documents consisting of Work, Estimated cost, Cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, Class of Contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in.

1.	Name of the work	:- Laying of HDPE Pipes in distribution System
2.	No of Works	:- 01 (One) No.
3.	Estimated cost	:- Approximately from Rs.1,27,57,741.00
4.	Period of completion	:- 04 (Four) Calendar months
5.	Date and Time of availability of bid documents in the portal :-	:- From 22.07.2019 (10.00 AM) to 07.08.2019 up to (5.00 PM)
6.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	:- 07.08.2019 (5.00 PM)
7.	Date of opening of Bid	:- 08.08.2019 at 11.30 A.M onwards
8.	Date of receipt of bid cost and bid security *on online payment mode*	:- *From dt.22.07.2019 to 07.08.2019 up to (5.00 PM)*
9.	Date of Transparent Lottery (if cases arise)	:- 20.08.2019 at 11.00 A.M. onwards
10.	Name and address of the OIT	:- Superintending Engineer, K.B.K.M.I. Circle-I, Bhawanipatna

**Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place http://tendersodisha.gov.in

32267/11/0002/1920 Superintending Engineer, K.B.K. M.I. Circle-I, Bhawanipatna

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
P.H. CIRCLE, NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK-753004
Ph.-0671-2440841, Fax- 0671-2440841, E-mail : sephctc@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Invitation For Bids (IFB) No.SEPHCTC-01/2019-20 Dtd.10.07.2019

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimated cost (Approx)
1.	Operation and maintenance of W/S Project at Banki (for a period of 3 years).	₹ 135.04 lakh
2.	Operation and maintenance of W/S Project at Pattamundai Municipality (for a period of 3 years).	₹ 151.20 lakh
3.	Operation and maintenance of W/S Project at Vyasanagar Municipality (for a period of 3 years).	₹ 138.96 lakh
4.	Operation and maintenance of W/S Project at Choudwar Municipality (for a period of 3 years).	₹ 186.98 lakh

1. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal :- 11.00 hours of dt.18.07.2019 to 17.00 hours of dt.03.08.2019.
2. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 03.08.2019 upto 05.00 P.M.
3. Date & time of opening of bids :- 05.08.2019 at 12.30 P.M.
4. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :- The Superintending Engineer, P.H. Circle, Nayabazar, Cuttack-753004, Odisha, Ph.(0671)2440841, email:sephctc@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in

66-C: 13029/11/0001/1920 Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, Cuttack.

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road,
Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010.
Telefax : 080-22024000 email : cekrdcl@gmail.com

No. KRDCL/IFB/2019-20/ 06 Dated : 17-07-2019

INVITATION FOR BIDS
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(on e-procurement basis)

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), invites bids from reputed Consultants based on Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) for **"Consultancy Services for Proof Checking of Designs, Project Management and Construction Supervision"** for the work details below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work / Package	Estimate cost for construction (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD Amount	Period of completion (including monsoon)
1	**Package-2C & 2D** **Package-2C** : Construction of RUB at Basavanahalli Railway crossing near Nelamangala railway station (Km 0+800) on SH-74 and ROB at Gollahalli Railway crossing (Km 6+330) on SH-74 in Bangalore Urban/ Rural District **(RUB & ROB).** and **Package-2D** : Construction of ROB at Rajanakunte for crossing Railway line & SH-9 (Km 32+185) and ROB at Railway crossing at Narayanapura (Km 36+840) on MDR in Bangalore Urban / Rural district **(2 ROB).**	9332.00	Rs.50,000/- through e-proc & Rs.1,50,000/- in the form of DD	30 months

a) Interested applicants can view and download the complete proposal document from Government of Karnataka e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 17.07.2019 onwards.**
b) Bid Security (EMD) shall be paid as mentioned in the document.
c) Pre-bid Queries, if any shall be submitted **on or before 26.07.2019 upto 17.00 hours** through e-portal/e-mail : **cekrdcl@gmail.com**
d) Pre-bid meeting will be held on **30.07.2019, 15.30 hours at KRDCL office.**
e) Bids must be submitted online only through e-procurement portal **on or before 19.08.2019 upto 17:00 hrs IST.**
f) Technical Bids will be opened on **21.08.2019 at 11.30 hrs IST.**
g) Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject allot any of the Bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.
h) Further, any addendums/clarifications/calendar of events regarding the bid documents will be published/uploaded only on e-procurement portal and KRDCL website **https://www.krdcl.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, KRDCL

DIPR/DDU/783/19-20

Balance and tilt

SC order on rebel MLAs hands over the floor advantage to the Karnataka Opposition

The Supreme Court's interim order stating that the 15 dissident Karnataka legislators cannot be compelled to attend the House, means they are not bound by any whip relating to the trust vote moved by Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. This gives the numerical advantage in the House to the BJP-led Opposition. Without the support of the 15 lawmakers, the ruling coalition will be reduced to a minority. The other limb of the order permits the Speaker to decide on the resignation of these MLAs in a time-frame he considers appropriate. Although the court says there was an imperative necessity "to maintain the constitutional balance", the order tilts the odds in favour of the Opposition in the vote. It amounts to holding that provisions of the anti-defection law, under which parties can issue whips to their members to vote in a particular way, will not be applicable to the 15 MLAs. The order raises the concern whether it does not constitute a perilous precedent for granting *ad hoc* judicial exceptions from constitutional provisions on defection and set the tone for future judicial intervention to suspend the operation of any whip in respect of a few. Alternatively, the court, which is understandably reluctant to intervene in the Speaker's power ahead of his decisions, could have refrained from making any orders about the legislators' presence during the trust vote, and made it clear that any action against them arising out of their absence or manner of voting would be subject to judicial review.

To be fair to the Supreme Court, it is being burdened with the task of unravelling political knots created by amoral strategems. In this case, the "political thicket" into which the court has been dragged has its origins in manoeuvres to reduce the combined strength of the Janata Dal(S) and the Congress. In a bid to thwart tactical resignations, the government and the Speaker adopted the counter-strategy of not immediately accepting them, but initiating or pursuing disqualification proceedings. One of the questions in the litigation is whether it is resignation or disqualification that should get priority. The objective of disqualifying the MLAs rather than allowing them to quit will not save the government, but it will prevent them from taking oath as ministers in an alternative Cabinet. Though the court's order recognises the Speaker's authority to rule whether the resignations are genuine, and fixes no time-frame, it is a Pyrrhic victory; for, their continuance as members puts them under no obligation to vote for the government in view of the allowance given to stay away during the vote. The dissident MLAs risk nothing other than their seats, certainly not the opportunity to join the Cabinet of a successor-government. When the court takes up the substantive questions of law for adjudication, it should squarely address the new-found interplay between issues of resignation and disqualification, lest it become a perennial source of political controversy.

Sword against pen

India needs a free and independent media for its own well-being

Journalists are facing heightened threats around the globe, according to the 2019 World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), covering 180 countries and territories. It notes that the number of countries regarded as safe for journalists is on the decline; this should be a wake-up call. Hatred of journalists has degenerated into violence in many places, and India is no exception. In 2018, at least six Indian journalists were killed in the line of their work, the report said. India's rank fell by two places to 140 from 138 – in 2016 it was 133 and in 2017 it was 136. In 2014 India's ranking was 140, but this year's setback is qualitatively different. The report notes that organised campaigns by supporters of Hindutva "to purge all manifestations of 'anti-national' thought from the national debate" is putting journalists in danger. Women journalists are particularly at the receiving end, and covering sensitive but important topics of public interest such as separatism in Jammu and Kashmir and Maoist insurgency has become more difficult. Authorities use anachronistic sedition laws against journalists, who also face the wrath of militants and criminal gangs.

Hostility towards the media is a defining feature of hyper-nationalist politics in many countries. In India, the Centre and several State governments have not merely shown extreme intolerance towards objective and critical reporting but also taken unprecedented measures to restrict journalism. The Finance Minister's recent order barring credentialed reporters from the Ministry's premises is a case in point but this is not an isolated measure. There is a systematic attempt to limit the scope of journalism in India through physical restrictions, denial of information and hostile rhetoric against journalists by senior government functionaries. The Narendra Modi government is unlikely to take the RSF report seriously. While expression of concern by foreign countries or global bodies regarding human rights, religious violence or media freedom is routinely dismissed as external interference in India's sovereignty, the government knows all too well that in a globalised world these perceptions matter. What else would explain the Prime Minister's single-minded pursuit to improve India's position in the World Bank's annual Ease of Doing Business ranking? If India is concerned about its reputation in terms of business and investment, it should be equally or even more concerned about its standing as a democratic, pluralist country with a free and dynamic press. That is not so much for the inflow of investment or luring global corporations, which may care little about a destination-country's democratic credentials – but for India's well-being.

At the UNSC, a three-point agenda

India should once again become a consensus-builder, instead of the outlier it has progressively become

JAYANT PRASAD

India's singular objective as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in 2021-22 should be to help build a stable and secure external environment. In doing so, India will promote its own people's prosperity, regional and global security and growth, and a rule-based world order. It could emerge a partner of choice for developing and developed countries alike.

India's representation in the UNSC has become rarer. It is to re-enter the Council after a gap of 10 years. The previous time, in 2011-12, followed a gap of 20 years. In total, India has been in the UNSC for 14 years, representing roughly a fifth of the time the United Nations (UN) has existed. India must leverage this latest opportunity to project itself as a responsible nation.

Changing state of world

India finds itself in a troubled region between West and East Asia, a region bristling with insurgencies, terrorism, human and narcotics trafficking, and great power rivalries. There has been cataclysmic dislocation in West Asia. The Gulf is in turmoil. Though the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Daesh) has been defeated, Iraq and Syria are not going to be the same as before. Surviving and dispersed Daesh foot soldiers are likely preparing new adventures, many in their countries of origin. The turbulence in West Asia is echoed in North and South Asia, a consequence of the nuclear and missile tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Afghanistan's slow but unmistakable unravelling from the support, sustenance and sanctuary provided in its contiguity to groups such as the Haqqani network, the Taliban, and al-Qaeda. Other problems in Asia include strategic mistrust or misperception, unresolved borders and territorial disputes, the absence of a pan-Asia security architecture, and competition over energy and strategic minerals.

Alongside, the western world is consumed by primordial, almost tribal instincts, turning its back on the universal values it once espoused as western values. Pundits and political scientists, who had spoken of the end of the nation state and the end of history itself, are grappling with the rise of new nationalism.

The benign and supportive international system that followed the Cold War has all but disappeared. At the beginning of this century, the words 'national interest' had acquired almost a pejorative connotation. They are now back in currency. Fear, populism, polarisation, and ultra-nationalism have become the basis of politics in many countries. No wonder that five years ago, when Henry Kissinger completed his latest work, *World Order*, he found the world to be in a greater state of disorder than at any time since the end of World War II.

Even so, the world is in a better place today than when the UN was first established. The record on maintaining international peace and security, one of the prime functions of the UNSC, has been positive, with or without the UN. The world has been distracted from its other shared goals, especially international social and economic cooperation. Although

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coordination between 193 sovereign member nations will be difficult, it is well worth trying. To this end, the permanent members (P-5) as also other UN members must consider it worth their while to reform the Council.

A report by Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, "World in 2050", predicts that by 2050, China will be the world's number one economic power, followed by India. In China's case, this is subject to its success in avoiding the middle-income trap. And in India's, to more consistent economic performance than the experience of recent years. That said, one of the challenges of the international system today, and for India in the UNSC, is that this profound impending change is largely unrecognised by the great powers and other countries.

What should India aim to do?

There is no need for India to fritter away diplomatic goodwill in seeking an elusive permanent seat in the UNSC – it will come India's way more by invitation and less by self-canvassing. India will have to increase its financial contribution, as the apportionment of UN expenses for each of the P-5 countries is significantly larger than that for India. Even Germany and Japan today contribute many times more than India. Although India has been a leading provider of peacekeepers, its assessed contribution to UN peacekeeping operations is minuscule.

At a time when there is a deficit of international leadership on global issues, especially on security, migrant movement, poverty, and climate change, India has an opportunity to promote well-balanced, common solutions.

First, as a member of the UNSC, India must help guide the Council away from the perils of invoking the principles of humanitarian interventionism or 'Responsibility to Protect'. The world has seen mayhem result from this. And yet, there are regimes in undemocratic and repressive nations where this yardstick will never be applied. Given the fragile and complex international system, which can become even more unpredictable and conflictual, India should work towards a rules-based global order. Sustainable development and promoting peoples' welfare should become its new drivers.

Second, India should push to ensure that the UNSC Sanctions Committee targets all those individuals and entities warranting sanctions. Multilateral action by the UNSC has not been possible because of narrowly defined national interest. As on May 21, 2019, 260 individuals and 84 entities are subject to UN sanctions, pursuant to Council resolutions 1267, 1989, and 2253. The U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control maintains a larger list of individuals and entities subject to U.S. sanctions. The European Union maintains its own sanctions list.

Third, having good relations with all the great powers, India must lead the way by pursuing inclusion, the rule of law, constitutionalism, and rational internationalism. India should once again become a consensus-builder, instead of the outlier it has progressively become. A harmonised response is the sine qua non for dealing with global problems of climate change, disarmament, terrorism, trade, and development. India could take on larger burdens to maintain global public goods and build new regional public goods. For example, India should take the lead in activating the UNSC's Military Staff Committee, which was never set into motion following the UN's inception. Without it, the UNSC's collective security and conflict-resolution roles will continue to remain limited.

Looking at polycentrism

A rules-based international order helps rather than hinders India, and embracing the multilateral ethic is the best way forward. India will be a rich country in the future and will acquire greater military muscle, but its people will remain relatively poor. India is a great nation, but not a great power. Apolarity, unipolarity, a duopoly of powers or contending super-powers – none of these suit India. India has a strong motive to embrace polycentrism, which is anathema to hegemonic powers intent on carving out their exclusive spheres of influence.

Finally, India cannot stride the global stage with confidence in the absence of stable relations with its neighbours. Besides whatever else is done within the UN and the UNSC, India must lift its game in South Asia and its larger neighbourhood. Exclusive reliance on India's brilliant team of officers at its New York mission is not going to be enough.

Jayant Prasad has served as Ambassador in several stations and is a former Director General of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

Takeaways from the Kulbhushan Jadhav case ruling

India's more successful legal journey to the ICJ must now reshape New Delhi's approach to potentially difficult situations

ARJUN SUBRAMANIAM

Kulbhushan Jadhav, the former Indian Navy officer, who was allegedly abducted by Pakistani intelligence from Iran and sentenced to death on charges of espionage and terrorism by a farcical military court in Pakistan, has been given a glimmer of hope by the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Responding to a petition by India that sought an annulment of his death sentence because Pakistan had violated numerous international treaties and extracted irregular confessions under coercion, the ICJ, on July 17, 2019, ruled with a decisive vote (15-1) that Mr. Jadhav cannot be executed by Pakistan, and that he must be given adequate consular access and a fair trial. The ruling also urged Pakistan to review his conviction. This constitutes a major diplomatic and legal victory for India, with Pakistan accusing India of 'ambushing' it at The Hague.

Focussed strategy

Given its rather lukewarm record in the past of securing the release of Indian detainees in Pakistan through bilateral negotiations, India's strategy in this case has been to exploit increasing international acceptance that Pakistan was an emerging 'rogue' state. Laying stress on Pakistan's scant regard for Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations – it deals with the arrest, detention and trial of a foreign citizen – India's counsel, Harish Salve, highlighted two compelling arguments. First was the arrest process, which was not accompanied by an immediate notification to Indian consular officials in Islamabad. There was a delay of over three weeks before India was informed, and it was during this period, according to reliable sources from within Pakistan, that Mr. Jadhav was subjected to all means of coercion and forced to sign a 'confession taken under custody' without adequate legal representation. Second was the two-way denial of access and communication by any means between Mr. Jadhav and consular officials and a failure to inform him of the rights he enjoyed under the convention.

The legitimacy of military courts has always been controversial within the international legal system that emerged in the post-World War II era as a fast-track system of delivering skewed justice by authoritarian regimes and military dictatorships. Purportedly set up in Pakistan in 2015 as a counter-terrorist and anti-corruption initiative, Mr. Jadhav's sentencing in April 2017 was based on confes-

AFP

sions taken in captivity and is part of several arbitrary sentencings by Pakistan's Military Court.

Violation of rights

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) recognises the right to an effective defence against criminal charges, and to a fair and impartial trial, in which the accused is represented by a lawyer of his choice. By denying consular access, Pakistan has stood in gross violation of both the Vienna Convention and the ICCPR. Had due process been followed, and then had Mr. Jadhav been charged with espionage, India may not have had the necessary room to take the matter to the ICJ.

By attempting to circumvent the 'due diligence' process, Pakistan has exposed serious chinks in its legal environment and jeopardised its standing in the comity of nations. The Jadhav case has also revealed Pakistan's desperation in its search for 'proxies' as drivers of the internal unrest in Balochistan. Reliable sources within India's intelligence agencies hint at the possibility of Mr. Jadhav having been abducted by armed groups operating on the border between Iran and Balochistan. Pakistan is known to have used proxy Sunni groups such as the Jaish al-Adl against Iran, and Iranian officials have often spoken to their Indian counterparts about Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorist activities along the Iran-Pakistan border. A testimony to the growing menace of this group is its recent designation as a front of Jundullah – which is a 'Specially Designated Global Terrorist'.

India has shown both intent and resilience in attempting to secure the release of Mr. Jadhav despite the many hiccups along the way. Following a synergised approach steered by the National Security Adviser and the External Affairs Minister, India fought the kidnapping of Mr. Jadhav, an Indian national who was legitimately residing in Iran after retirement from the Indian Navy. Realising, in 2017, following his death sentence that the overall deteriorating relations between India and Pakistan had closed the door on any bilateral way of securing his release, India rightly chose to go the 'international way' by fielding a formidable legal team led by the jurist, Harish Salve. Sparing no efforts on the human aspects of the case too, India managed to get Mr. Jadhav to meet his mother and wife after the death sentence was pronounced. The first success achieved by the Indian legal team was on May 9, 2017 when the ICJ sent an urgent message to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, urging him to stay the execution till India's case was heard fully and the ICJ arrived at a verdict. Moving slowly but surely through the legal battle for over two years, India, has been demonstrating significant synergy between various stakeholders in the case.

The final verdict will, hopefully, galvanise the Indian establishment to step on the pedal and exert pressure on Pakistan to rescind the death sentence and allow Mr. Jadhav consular access and legitimate legal platform to mount his defence. While it would be wishful thinking to assume that Mr. Jadhav would return to India soon, there is a glimmer of hope on the horizon that the Indian strategic establishment would do well to exploit. Having deftly navigated the legal and diplomatic channels and restrained the Pakistan military by securing manoeuvring space following the ICJ verdict, a leading power such as India must demonstrate its intent and capacity to extract desirable outcomes out of potentially difficult, or seemingly impossible situations. Kulbhushan Jadhav's case is one such challenge.

Arjun Subramaniam is a strategic commentator and Visiting Professor at Ashoka University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

An exclusionary tactic

It is obvious that both the Centre and Assam government want to deprive more people from inclusion in the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Hence, they are seeking a re-verification of 20% of those already enrolled (Front page, "Centre, Assam move SC for sample re-verification of NRC," July 17). There have been many disturbing reports on the anomalies in the process of NRC updation, especially about the use of locally developed Digitised Legacy Data software without subjecting it to the rigours of necessary testing. Moreover, there are also reports that complete data on the 1951 NRC and electoral rolls of 1966 and 1971, based on which the present NRC is being updated, are unavailable. As mentioned by the writer in her article, "The many hurdles in proving citizenship" (OpEd page, July 17), a majority of those left out of the NRC are impoverished and illiterate. They are not in a position to fight for their legitimate rights in the court of law and are in danger of being declared "foreigners" even though they could be genuine nationals.

S.K. DEB,
Kolkata

Disqualify the defectors

It has become routine for elected representatives to change loyalties for pecuniary benefits, threatening the stability of an elected government, following which a different party captures power. This amounts to a clear breach of the trust of voters who elected the MLAs and endangers the very fabric of democracy. The present Anti-Defection Law does not act as a deterrent. Hence, it needs to be suitably amended to ensure that members of a party, irrespective of the numbers, are not able to defect till they complete their full term (Editorial, "Karnataka conundrum", July 15). If they defect, they should be disqualified.

M. GOVINDARAJ,
Gudiyatham, Tamil Nadu

A test of federalism

Elected representatives from non-Hindi-speaking States are often compelled to protest against the Central government for conducting recruitment tests only in Hindi or English and denying an equal opportunity to many candidates (Front page, "Centre annuls test to recruit postmen," July 17). Such quiet enforcement, where the state favours one or two languages for competitive recruitment exams, is against the principles of federalism and especially disadvantages those living in rural areas.

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,
Bengaluru

A realistic move

The postponement of Chandrayaan-2's launch need not be viewed as a dampener. The ability to identify a malfunctioning component and recognise the attendant risk is as laudable if not more as a successful launch. We need to take lessons from the disaster that befell NASA's Challenger space shuttle on January 28, 1986 (Editorial, "Waiting for daybreak", July 16). A design fault in one of its components had been known to NASA scientists. Since, on the day of the launch, the temperature was below the permissible limit, the engineers raised an alarm. However, President Ronald Reagan's address scheduled for the same evening had included a 'successful launch' in its content. To avoid embarrassment, NASA's management overruled the technical advice. Soon after lift-off, the launch vehicle exploded, killing all the seven crew members. The Rogers Commission concluded that NASA's organisational culture and decision-making processes were the culprits. Physicist Richard Feynman observed that "for a successful technology, reality must make precedence over public relations, for nature cannot be fooled". The ISRO team should be congratulated because the presence of the President of India at the launch site did not weigh on them and they placed reality above public relations.

R. NARAYANAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Judges not 'Lords'

The Rajasthan High Court's decision to do away with the archaic practice of addressing judges as 'My Lord' and 'Your Lordship' is laudable and can be emulated by other courts. In the place of 'My Lord', 'Mr. Judge', can be used. The custom of calling a judge 'Your Honour' can also be dispensed with ("Rajasthan HC seeks to dispense with 'My Lord'," July 15).

K. PRADEEP,
Chennai

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Turkey's tilt towards Russia

Why Ankara is ready to risk NATO's ire over a defence deal with Moscow

STANLY JOHNY

"Russian President Vladimir Putin has made a few compromises to keep Turkey tilting." Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President Putin at a joint press conference after a meeting in Ankara in April 2018. ▪ REUTERS

In November 2015, a Turkish F-16 shot down a Russian fighter jet over the Syrian border, ratcheting up tensions between Moscow and Ankara. There were speculations that Russian President Vladimir Putin would retaliate. But Mr. Putin didn't take any military action against Turkey. Instead, he stayed focussed on his strategic goal of defeating the anti-regime rebels and jihadists and bolstering Syria's existing state institutions. Mr. Putin's strategy was not to attack Turkey, but to win over it. He exploited the cracks in the Atlantic alliance, especially in U.S.-Turkey relations. Evolving regional equations also favoured his bet. On July 12, three and a half years after the Russian bomber was downed by the Turks, Ankara received the first batch of the S-400, Russia's most advanced missile defence systems, despite threats and warnings from the U.S. and NATO.

An irony

This is a pivotal moment in the post-Soviet order. Turkey is a NATO member and also hosts a U.S. airbase in Incirlik. Turkey's strategic location, in the intersection of southern Europe, Central Asia and West Asia, makes it a pricey catch in geopolitical games.

During the Cold War, Turkey was a key buffer for the Atlantic powers against the Soviet Union. Even after the Soviet Union disintegrated, the U.S. continued to maintain a close alliance with Ankara. But now, a high-tech Russian missile system protects a NATO nation's airspace. This is an irony as the idea of NATO, a relic of the Cold War, is to check Russia.

The U.S. has raised several technical issues over Turkey acquiring the S-400. It fears the system will gather data from the latest radar-evading American bombers, F-35, for which Turkey has placed an order. In response to Turkey's decision to go ahead with the S-400 deal, the U.S. has already suspended training programmes for Turkish pilots. Ankara could also attract sanctions from Washington. But beyond these issues, the political point of a NATO member defying NATO and a powerful member of the alliance to buy Russian weaponry is what makes the S-400 deal the hottest post-Soviet weapons agreement.

Turkey's failed bet

Why did Turkey defy the U.S., even risking sanctions when its economy is underperforming? A host of factors led President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to redirect foreign policy.

The fissures in U.S.-Turkey ties date back to the 2003 Iraq War when Ankara refused to be a launchpad for the American invasion. During the Syrian crisis, Turkey wanted the U.S. to interfere in Syria on behalf of the rebels and overthrow the Assad regime, but the Obama administration refused to do that. Turkey at that time was betting on the Arab Spring as a foreign policy tool to expand its influence in West Asia and North Africa. The expectation was that the dictatorships in the region would be replaced by Islamist political parties (say, the Muslim Brotherhood which is ideologically aligned with Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party). But this bet was counterproductive, especially in Syria.

In the initial years of the Syrian crisis, the porous Syrian-Turkish border was a crucial transit point for rebels and jihadists alike. By the time Turkey started sealing the border, the Islamic State (IS) had established itself as a dominant player in Syria. The IS initially attacked Syrian government forces and rebel groups. But once it started facing the heat on the battlefield, it turned against Turkey, carrying out a host of terror attacks in 2016. Another consequence of Turkey's failed Syrian bet was the empowerment of Syrian Kurdish rebels, who have close ideological and military ties with the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which has been fighting the Turkish forces for decades. When Kurds fought the IS in the battlefield, the U.S. started supporting them directly. So Turkey lost all sides in Syria. It failed to topple the Assad regime as the Russians and Iranians came to the regime's rescue. The porous border policy backfired as jihadists turned against Turkey. Finally, there is an empowered Kurdistan across the border controlled by battle-hardened Kurdish rebels, who Turkey sees as its primary enemies.

Turkey accepted this new reality. It gave up its demand to topple the Assad regime, and shifted its focus to creating a buffer between its border and Syrian Kurdistan. For this it needs Russian and Syrian help, as the Syrian government also doesn't want to see the Kurds being empowered any further. But Kurds were the U.S.'s partners in the war against the IS, and over 2,000 U.S. troops are still stationed in Syrian Kurdistan. Here Turkey's interests directly clash with the U.S.'s.

There were other issues as well. Ankara blames Fethullah Gulen, a U.S.-based Turkish cleric, for the 2016 failed coup bid against Mr. Erdogan, and wants him to be extradited to Turkey. (Turkey also issued an arrest warrant against a former top CIA officer with links to Mr. Gulen.) The U.S. refused to give in to Turkey's demands. Turkey also wanted to buy the Patriot missile defence system from the U.S., but Washington initially was not keen on selling it to Ankara. As all these issues piled up, Turkey turned to a willing Russia.

Putin's calculus

For Mr. Putin, Turkey is a big win, a luxury which even his Soviet bosses didn't have. If it has Turkey on its side, Russia will have seamless access to the Mediterranean Sea from the Black Sea (where it has Naval bases) through the Bosporus Strait. And if Russia wants to deepen its engagement in West Asia in the long term, Turkey's role would be critical. Mr. Putin has made a few compromises to keep Turkey tilting. He didn't do anything when Turkey invaded Afrin, a largely Kurdish town on the Syrian side, last year, despite protestations from Damascus. Also, after freeing much of Syria from rebels' hands, Russia didn't do the same in Idlib, Syria's last rebel/jihadist-held enclave where pro-Turkey rebels are also stationed. Instead, Russia initiated talks with Turkey and Iran for truce, and reined in the Syrian government. Step by step, Mr. Putin lured Turkey to his side.

This doesn't mean that Russia and Turkey have become new regional allies. There are still structural issues between them. In Syria, where both countries continue to back rival sides, the crisis remains unresolved. Turkish national security establishment has historically been aligned with the U.S. Russian and Turkish interests vary in several other countries, from Libya to Israel. But the unmistakable message that Turkey has sent is that the U.S. is no longer an indispensable partner in its national security strategy. Turkey has also told NATO that it's ready to risk the organisation's ire over a defence deal with Russia. Turkey is tilting. The U.S. will have to either mend its ways to retain a drifting Turkey or take retaliatory steps against an ally. Either way, it's a "check" by Mr. Putin on the grand geopolitical chessboard.

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The price of a good cuppa

The lives of tea-estate workers in West Bengal have worsened in many aspects over the years

SOUMITRA GHOSH

The tea plantation sector continues to play a significant role in the economy of north Bengal. There are 276 organised tea estates spread over the three tea-growing regions of West Bengal: Darjeeling Hills, Terai and Dooars. Besides the formally registered large tea plantations, there are thousands of small growers. According to one estimate, the plantations employ about three lakh permanent daily-wage workers. However, despite their large numbers, the issues of tea plantation workers, such as labour standards and violation of human rights, hardly get any space in the media, let alone being discussed in policy circles. As the plantations are located in remote places, the narratives of deprivation remain confined to these alienated enclaves.

Our independent survey in 30 tea gardens across West Bengal in 2017 revealed that the living conditions in the plantations have not seen any improvement in decades. In fact, the situation has worsened in some respects in recent years, despite the presence of laws for labour protection.

Dismal implementation of law

The Plantations Labour Act (PLA), 1951 gave certain social and economic rights to the workers. Nevertheless, the ground realities point to a dismal implementation of the Act's major provisions in West Bengal.

For instance, though the Act makes it mandatory to provide housing accommodation to every worker and his/her family, almost one-third of the 501 surveyed households were found to be living in huts made of wood, mud, straw and dry leaves. Further, half of them were living in semi-*kutcha* homes and only a fourth of the families were residing in *pucca* houses. Moreover, one in 10 homes did not have electricity.

Water and sanitation remained a major issue. Half of the households lacked safe drinking water and toilets. Latrines had not been set up in labour lines by the management of many tea estates and plantations and though some toilets had been constructed through government initiatives, they were not properly maintained. Hence, labourers had to go to the fields to relieve themselves.

Access to quality education remained a dream for the children of the plantation workers as the government schools were in a shambles. Many of the children either never had an opportunity to go to school or attained education only up to the primary level (nearly 40% of those surveyed belonged to these categories). Further, workers in certain plantations reported that they were unable to send their children to high school because of the distance. Though the PLA requires plantation owners to provide transport for schoolchildren, many estates chose to look the other way.

Further, though the PLA makes provision of medical facilities mandatory, only four of the 30 tea gardens surveyed were found to have fully functioning hospitals. More than half of them did not have hospitals at all and of those that had a medical facility, most did not have a residential doctor.

Lack of quality medical care

The unhealthy living conditions, coupled with a lack of quality medical care, had a bearing on the health of the workers. Respiratory and digestive diseases were common while many reported chronic ailments such as hypertension, diabetes, arthritis and asthma. Nonetheless, one-sixth of the sick workers did not seek treatment.

Apart from being deprived of their PLA entitlements, at least 11% of the workers reported denial of rations from the Public Distribution System as they did not possess ration cards. Not surprisingly, these deprivations pushed them further into the vicious cycle of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Every second child under the age of five was found to be stunted and starvation deaths were very common. However, these issues did not come into public knowledge as governments refused to acknowledge them.

The PLA is considered to be one of India's most labour-friendly pieces of legislation. However, it remains largely unenforced and governments have turned a blind eye to the infractions. In the light of what our survey has found, there is a need to recognise that provision of services mandated by the PLA would call for a far-reaching enforcement. However, so far, the state has not demonstrated the political will needed to raise the standard of living of tea-plantation workers. It is high time governments, both at the Centre and in West Bengal, ensured that the workers are able to live a life of dignity.

Soumitra Ghosh is an Assistant Professor at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

The benefits of blockchain

India could take a leaf out of Europe's book instead of calling for a blanket ban on cyptocurrencies

ANIL K. ANTONY & ANKUR PRASAD

The Banning of Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019 has proposed stringent penalties, including 10 years of imprisonment, for holding, selling or dealing in cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin. Given the high chances of cryptocurrencies being misused in money laundering, various government bodies such as IT, CBDT, and the customs departments have endorsed this endeavour.

While it is important to put mechanisms in place to deter bad actors, a blanket ban on all forms of cryptocurrency transactions will result in India missing out on what may become one of the biggest technology revolutions since the Internet.

The potential of blockchain

While an oversimplification, blockchain can be described as a way for people to share extra space and computational power in their computers to create a global supercomputer that is accessible for everyone. Every computer connected to a blockchain network helps validate and record transactions. People who connect their computers to a network are known as validators and receive transaction fees in the form of tokens.

Many technologists believe that the blockchain industry is poised for an explosion similar to what happened to the smartphone industry. None of us could have imagined services such as Google Maps or Uber which came to fruition due to the new mobile platform. Start-ups have already built thousands of apps on blockchain platforms like Ethereum. However, these apps aren't easily available to non-tech savvy consumers through an app store, and hence their usage remains low. They also face technical problems including scalability and slowing down of the network when many people use these apps simultaneously. New companies such as Algorand and Casper-Labs are investing millions in research and development and are close to solving these issues.

Blockchain technology has the potential to create new industries and transform existing ones in ways we cannot imagine. For instance, it has the capacity to facilitate nano-payments proportionate to an individual's contribution and value creation in the Internet, making it an ideal wealth redistribution tool for our digital age.

Even big technology companies have started to take blockchain applications seriously. Facebook, for instance, recently announced its own cryptocurrency to facilitate payments globally with minimal fees and no dependency on a central bank. Venture capitalists invested $2.4 billion in blockchain and cryptocurrency start-ups in 2018. So far, 2019 is poised to exceed this benchmark.

None of the above is possible without the underlying tokens that facilitate transactions in a blockchain network. A law to ban holding or transacting in cryptocurrency would not only prevent Indians from reaping economic benefits by participating in blockchain networks as validators and earning transaction fees, but also stifle any innovation related to this disruptive emerging technology.

The European example

The European Parliament and European Council are working on an anti-money laundering directive, known as AMLD5. The deadline for its implementation is January 2020. All crypto exchanges and wallet custodians operating in Europe will have to implement strict know-your-customer (KYC) on-boarding procedures and need to register with local authorities. They will also be required to report suspicious activities to relevant bodies. This will not fully solve the problem since it is not always possible for the exchange to know a beneficiary's details.

The EU Commission is aware and has been mandated to present further set of amendment proposals regarding self-declaration by virtual currency owners, the maintenance of central databases registering users' identities and wallet addresses, and norms while using virtual currencies as payment or investment means by 2022. This is a more reasonable approach, and the Indian government could follow suit.

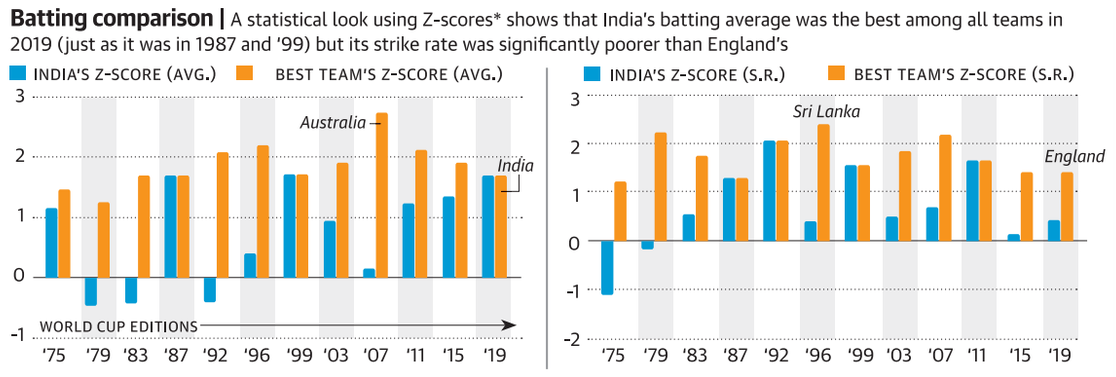
Anil K. Antony is Convener of INC-Kerala Digital Media; Ankur Prasad is the Head of Product for Amazon Moments

DATA POINT

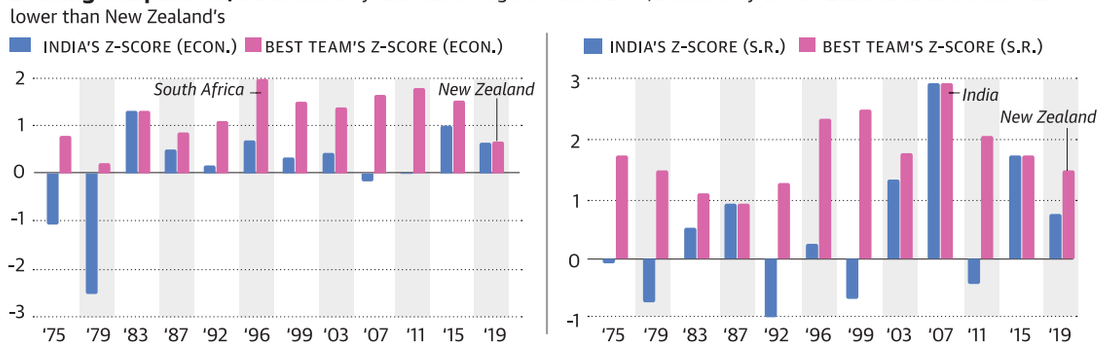
How good was team India?

India's batting and bowling performance (in average and economy rate, respectively) was close to the best in the 2019 World Cup. The graphs compare India's performance with the best team's performance in each edition of the World Cup. By **Sumant Sen**

Batting comparison | A statistical look using Z-scores* shows that India's batting average was the best among all teams in 2019 (just as it was in 1987 and '99) but its strike rate was significantly poorer than England's



Bowling comparison | India's economy rate was among the best in 2019, second only to New Zealand. Its strike rate was lower than New Zealand's



The statistical analysis uses Z-scores to evaluate the Indian team's performance in comparison with the other teams. The Z-score captures how exceptional a team's batting average (among other variables) is, when judged against the averages of other teams. It is a measure of how many standard deviations away from the mean score a team's average (or strike rate/economy rate) is. The higher the Z-score, the more impressive the team's record

FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 18, 1969

Apollo 11 racing to the moon

Apollo-11 was well on target for the moon today [July 17] after its three-man crew had successfully fired its main rocket for three seconds - the first flight path correction of the historic mission. The spacecraft's speed was increased by 25 KPH (21 feet per second), an essential correction if it is to pass 111 kilometres above the moon on Saturday [July 14]. Had the firing failed the craft would pass 323 kilometres above the moon, marking it necessary for the astronauts to make unscheduled orbital changes. The three second firing was made at 16-17 GMT (21-47 1ST) less than two hours after the spacecraft passed the halfway stage on its historic mission. Officials at the Houston Space Centre let them wake on their own accord as there was nothing urgent for them to do. "Good morning up there," said a ground controller when he heard noises from the capsule. One of the first things the American astronauts learnt after they awoke this morning from a good night's sleep was that Luna-15, the latest Russian unmanned spacecraft, was orbiting the moon. They made no comment. They breakfasted on fruit cocktail, sausage, meat patties, cinnamon, toasted bread cubes, cocoa and grapefruit drink. To conserve energy for their moon lauding this week-end, today's flight plan was not a crowded one.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 18, 1919.

Judicial Methods Criticised.

Mr. Eardley Norton addressed this evening [July 17, in Calcutta] a public meeting at the Indian Association on the present political situation. Mr. Norton began with a short history of the growth of political life in India and said that the people of the country would be well advised in taking whatever reforms were offered to them and then press for more. They should work out their own salvation by fighting their own battles and by pressing the rulers that they were fit to be entrusted with further installments of freedom. They should co-operate in the successful working of the Reform Scheme and thus lay their claim to get more freedom. They should accept whatever political concessions now given to them and then go on agitating for more and more. Though there were a few Englishmen here who were against Indian aspirations they did not represent the millions of liberal-minded Englishmen, who sympathised with Indian aspirations and who wanted to see India more and more prosperous and self-governing.

FROM PAGE ONE

'Karnataka rebel MLAs need not attend House'

On the other hand, the court said it should not shackle the Speaker's authority. He should be allowed to arrive at a decision on the resignations at an "appropriate time".

"In the present case, the discretion of the Speaker while deciding the issue should not be fettered by any direction or observation of this court. The Speaker should be left free to decide the issue in accordance with Article 190 read with Rule 202 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Karnataka Legislative Assembly framed in exercise of the powers under Article 208 of the Constitution," the court held.

The court said the Speaker, once he had taken a call on the resignations, should place his decision before the court. The court's order may act as an impetus for the Speaker to take a quick call on the pending disqualification as well as resignation of the MLAs. In fact, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for the Speaker, submitted on July 16 – the final day of arguments – that the Speaker could decide both disqualification and resignations "by tomorrow".

The Speaker's grounds for rejection of the resignations remains limited. He can reject a resignation only if it is not in proper format or if found to be involuntary or bogus. In this case, the MLAs have already filed sworn affidavits in the court that their resignations are voluntary and genuine.

The Bench described its order on Wednesday as a "prudent" interim exercise and a deft balancing act in the face of "conflicting and competing" rights of the Speaker and the dissident MLAs. The court said the interim order is only meant to maintain the constitutional balance between the authority of the Speaker and the rights of the rebel MLAs.

The decision on Wednesday comes as a complete U-turn from the court's order on July 11, asking the Speaker to decide the resignations of 10 of the total 15 MLAs "forthwith or within the remaining part of the day."

ICJ tells Pakistan to review Jadhav sentence

The court also upheld India's contention that the Vienna convention overrides a 2008 bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan on consular access.

Significantly, all 16 judges on the UN judicial organ's panel ruled unanimously that the ICJ's jurisdiction held over the case.

On six other contentions, including on the comprehensive violation of the Vienna Convention by Pakistan, the immediate granting of consular access to Mr. Jadhav, an "effective review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence", and a continued stay of execution, the ICJ panel ruled 15-1 in India's favour.

Lone dissenter

Pakistani Judge, Justice Jillani, was the lone dissenter on those rulings.

The Pakistan government claimed a victory of sorts over the judgment, pointing out that the court had not accepted India's written and oral submissions asking for cancellation of the Pakistani verdict, and to direct Mr. Jadhav's release.

"Commander Jadhav shall remain in Pakistan. He shall be treated in accordance with the laws of Pakistan," tweeted Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

However diplomats said that ordering Mr. Jadhav's release was never really an expectation from the ICJ. "This was a big victory, and as much as India could have hoped for at this stage," said former Indian envoy to Pakistan Gautam Bambawale, explaining that "the ICJ never gives directions beyond its authority as it cannot implement them."

Hafiz Saeed held in terror financing case

Foreign policy analyst Hassan Akbar said the JuD leader's arrest has been announced as part of renewed efforts under the "national action plan" to clamp down on terror financing.

"Saeed has previously used the courts effectively to gain bail. We expect that enough evidence will be provided by law enforcement agencies to ensure that any bail application is rejected by the High Court," Mr. Akbar told *The Hindu*.

Avoid blacklisting

He believes that Saeed's arrest will help Pakistan make a strong case to avoid blacklisting by the FATF (Financial Action Task Force, an anti-money-laundering monitor based in Paris) in October.

"Equally significant, the action can help generate forward momentum towards de-escalation ahead of the Kartarpur opening later this year, renewing hopes that the idea of a dialogue between India and Pakistan can be germinated in the months to come," he said.

The arrest comes a few days before Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's maiden U.S. visit.

After Saeed was arrested on Wednesday, U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted: "After a ten year search, the so-called "mastermind" of the Mumbai Terror attacks has been arrested in Pakistan. Great pressure has been exerted over the last two years to find him!"

All illegal migrants will be deported, says Shah

Replying to Mr. Sable, Minister of State Nityanand Rai said the government was committed to ensure that an "error free" NRC is published where no genuine Indian citizen is left behind and no illegal immigrant is added.

Mr. Rai added that the Home Ministry and the President's office have got over 25 lakh memoranda from those whose names have been excluded from the NRC. He said the government will be filing an appeal in the Supreme Court seeking more time to publish the register to ensure there are no errors.

Mr. Rai was also asked by Mr. Sable if the government has an estimate of the number of Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar living in the country. Mr. Rai said the government was working on collating the numbers but it was problematic because the Rohingya Muslims are living across the country.

Congress divided over Karnataka order

Abhishek Singhvi claims victory, Randeep Surjewala calls it 'terrible judicial precedent'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday was divided over the Supreme Court order on the Karnataka rebel MLAs, with senior leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi claiming victory but the party's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala describing it as a "terrible judicial precedent".

In a series of tweets, Mr. Surjewala reminded the Supreme Court of its May 2016 order regarding defections in Uttarakhand, while Mr. Singhvi, who represented Karnataka Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar before the top court, said there had been a "disinformation campaign by the BJP", but the Congress had won as a political party.

> As a political party we are extremely happy that we have emerged victorious... The stage of whip will come when voting takes place and voting at the moment is not scheduled until Friday-Saturday when the discussion gets over
>
> ABHISHEK SINGHVI

> Blanket protection to MLAs, who are driven not by ideology but by far baser concerns, is unheard of... Does this mean the Court can interfere with the working of the State Legislature by deciding when a whip will be enforced?
>
> RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA

Mr. Surjewala, soon after the interim order was given, took to Twitter to argue that nullifying the whip had provided "blanket protection" to the rebel MLAs.

"SC's order nullifying the whip & by extension, operation of the Constitution's Xth Schedule to punish MLAs betraying the public mandate, sets a terrible judicial precedent!" he tweeted. "Blanket protection to MLAs, who are driven not by ideology but by far baser concerns, is unheard-of," he said.

"Tragic that SC didn't appreciate the context and designed history of defections to subvert democratic mandates by Modi Govt over last 5 yrs. SC should recall own judgement of May 2016 striking down the illegal attempt of BJP in Uttarakhand to form govt," the Congress communication chief said.

Mr. Surjewala, who is also a lawyer, argued that the top court's order abandoned the principle of separation of powers.

"Does this mean: 1. Court can interfere with the working of the State Legislature by deciding when a Whip will be enforced? 2. Abandonment of the 'Basic Structure' doctrine of Separation of Powers?" he asked.

"As a political party we are extremely happy that we have emerged victorious...The court says we should not fetter the Speaker in any manner. He may decide any time he wants and any way that he wants," Mr. Singhvi told presspersons and added that the court had not set any date for the Speaker's decision on the resignations.

Explaining the portion of the order where the court said that the 15 rebel MLAs could not be forced to take part in the proceedings in the Assembly, Mr. Singhvi said this was a "protective order for the future" till such time the court decides finally.

"The stage of whip will come when voting takes place and voting at the moment is not scheduled until Friday-Saturday," he said.

BJP expels MLA after gun video

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday expelled its Uttarakhand MLA Pranav Singh Champion from the party for six years, days after a purported video of the legislator brandishing guns and dancing at a house party became viral on social media. Party media head and Rajya Sabha member Anil Baluni told presspersons that the party had taken cognisance of his serial public misconduct.

Mr. Champion was first sent a show-cause notice by the State unit before the expulsion orders were issued.

He was already suspended from the party for earlier instances of alleged misdemeanour.

Tiranga TV employees end protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The employees of HTN's Tiranga TV ended their two-day sit-in on Wednesday after the channel's management met them mid-way. The agitating members had demanded that they be paid three months' salary as severance pay.

The channel, which is run by Congress leader Kapil Sibal's wife Pramila Sibal, abruptly stopped operations just six months after it was launched on January 26. Neither Mr. Sibal nor any of the promoters met the agitating employees. According to one employee, the management which was earlier offering a month's salary as severance package had increased it.

BJP MPs indirectly raised the issue in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday without naming Mr. Sibal. Party MP Bhupender Yadav, during zero hour, said, "We do not want to interfere in any private organisation, but if a woman is misbehaved with and the employees are not paid, it is the responsibility of the parliamentarians to protect the freedom of speech." The matter should be referred to the ethics committee to protect the rights of mediapersons, Mr. Yadav said.

India, China maintaining peace on border: Rajnath

Adhir Ranjan raises issue of incursion in Ladakh region

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that India and China had been maintaining "peace and tranquillity" on the border by respecting bilateral pacts, and added that the government was "fully alive" to the country's security needs.

Mr. Singh, however, acknowledged that at times some "unpleasant incidents" had taken place because of "differences in perception with regard to the Line of Actual Control (LAC)".

The Minister was responding to a question raised by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, leader of the Congress in the House, during Zero Hour on reports that Chinese troops had come six kilometres inside India on July 6, and planted their flags in the Demchok area of the Ladakh region.

'Grave concern'

The Congress leader said the incident was of "grave concern" since it came after the 72-day stand-off on the Doklam plateau at the tri-junction of India, China and Bhutan. "China has often been transgressing into India and follows it up with aggressive diplomacy," Mr. Chowdhury said.

The Defence Minister then assured the House that there was complete restraint by the armed forces of India and China at Doklam, especially after the informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan.

"India and China are respecting bilateral pacts to ensure peace and tranquillity along the border," Mr. Singh said and added that both sides were exercising restraint.

Asserting that there was nothing new for troops to transgress the LAC as it was not properly delineated, Mr. Singh listed out the various mechanisms available to the two sides to maintain communication such as meetings of commanders, flag meetings, a hotline and dialogue between Special Representatives at the level of the National Security Advisers.

"I want to assure the entire nation, not just about our border with China, but across the country...we are fully alive to the security needs of our country," Mr. Singh told the House.

Keeping watch: An Army patrol in the Sub-sector North along the Line of Actual Control with China. ▪ FILE PHOTO

'Samjhauta blast case lacked proof'

Shah defends not filing appeal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday defended the decision not to file an appeal against the acquittals in the 2007 Samjhauta Express blast case, stating that the chargesheets filed under the UPA regime did not have any substantial proof.

Replying to a debate in the Rajya Sabha on a Bill extending more powers to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Mr. Shah alleged that the case had been instituted with a political motive.

> Appeal not filed against acquittals on the basis of law officer's opinion
>
> AMIT SHAH
> Home Minister

Bill passed

The Bill was subsequently passed by the House. It was cleared by the Lok Sabha on Monday.

Mr. Shah said conviction in any criminal case depended on the chargesheet, based on which law officers argued in court. In the Samjhauta case, the first chargesheet was filed on August 9, 2012, and the second on June 12, 2013, when the UPA was in power. The decision not to file an appeal against the acquittals was taken on the basis of the law officer's opinion, he said.

Initially, in the same case, seven persons were arrested and U.S. agencies had confirmed their role. However, they were let off and an attempt was made to link it to a particular religion, Mr. Shah alleged. Those killed in the blast and their relatives did not get justice as the real culprits remained at large.

Mr. Shah, responding to the apprehensions, assured the House that the Modi government would never allow misuse of the NIA law. The amendment extends powers to the agency to investigate terror-related incidents involving Indian nationals and assets abroad. It also extends the NIA's jurisdiction to human trafficking, counterfeit currency, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyberterrorism, and offences under the Explosive Substances Act.

Earlier, when Mr. Shah was about to speak, Left parties' members demanded that the Bill be sent to a Select Committee.

However, Deputy Chairman Harivansh rejected it, saying there was no prior proposal. They then boycotted the Home Minister's speech.

'Open to improving Fasal Bima Yojana'

Agriculture Minister tells Lok Sabha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Promising to create a new breed of "smart farmers by introducing smart farming", Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday told the Lok Sabha that the government was open to improving its welfare schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for crop insurance.

With several members raising concerns about the working of the scheme on the ground, Mr. Tomar invited suggestions from members on how to make it better.

Easier, more useful

"We are working on how can we make the PM Fasal Bima Yojana more easier, more useful, more beneficial," Mr. Tomar said, and added, "Earlier also, there was the PM Fasal Bima...Today, there is focus on PM Fasal Bima." The Minister said neither he nor the Prime Minister considers the crop insurance scheme as foolproof.

The Minister made these remarks during the passage of the Demand for Grants under the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and the Rural Development Ministry.

Narendra Singh Tomar

Mr. Tomar said the government is aiming to provide easy access to farm credit and plans to ensure that every farmer gets to own a Kisan Credit Card towards this end.

The Minister also informed the House that over 10 crore Soil Health Cards have already been given and another 9.82 crore cards are being processed. And over 10,000 soil testing labs have been set up.

'Mindset changed'

"Earlier, a doctor's son would want to become a doctor, children want to take the professions of their parents, but a farmer's son would never want to be a farmer. But after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the mindset has changed and more educated people are coming in to agriculture and are using technology," Mr. Tomar said.

LS clears Appropriation Bill

Allows govt. to borrow ₹98.18 lakh crore for 2019-20

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Appropriation (No.2) Bill-2019 allowing the Union government to withdraw ₹98.18 lakh crore from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet its expenditure during 2019-20.

The Bill, moved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, was passed by a voice vote after the House approved demands for grants for several Ministries which were collectively put to vote and passed by applying guillotine.

Earlier in the day, the Lok Sabha discussed demands for grants for the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry. Minister of State Kiren Rijiju said talks were on with the corporate sector to collaborate for the development of youth and sports.

Nirmala Sitharaman

"We are bringing in changes that will allow early selection of players from across the country, good coaching facilities, adequate nutritional support and regular checks of sports facilities. We hope that in the upcoming international games, India will better its medal tally," Mr. Rijiju said.

He said that his Ministry aimed to support players and not control them.

The House also discussed demands for grants of various Ministries, including rural development, agriculture and farmers' welfare, railways, and road transport and highways.

The government in February had came out with an interim Budget.

1,083 MHA staff dismissed in five years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A total of 1,083 officials in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) have been dismissed from service in the last five years on the grounds of "lack of integrity and ineffectiveness" in public interest, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Mr. Rai said action against government servants is a continuous process and as per the applicable disciplinary rules, the government has the right to take disciplinary action against erring officials.

AIIMS, JIPMER will also come under NEET

Cabinet nod for National Medical Commission Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill, proposed to be introduced in the current session of Parliament, proposes to replace the Medical Council of India with the National Medical Commission to over see medical education in the country.

Under the Bill, the National Medical Commission will have four autonomous Boards – Undergraduate Medical Education Board, Post-Graduate Medical Education Board, Medical Assessment and Rating Board, and Ethics and Medical Registration Board.

Apart from NEXT, the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) and common counselling for admissions will be used by all institutions.

This includes Institutes of National Importance which have been allowed to follow their own admission procedures so far such as the various All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry and the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh.

The Commission would also be responsible for regulating fees and all other charges for 50% of the seats in private medical colleges and deemed universities.

This would be an increase from the 40% of seats whose fees were proposed to be controlled under the original NMC Bill, 2017.

"These measures will ensure a transparent admission process and also bring down admission fee," said the statement. "The NMC and the respective Boards will ensure a dynamic and modern educational environment, decreasing the emphasis on physical infrastructure, achieving the norms in global standards and an effective grievance redressal mechanism."

We want him back soon, say Jadhav's relatives

Family and friends hail role of government

JAI NARAYAN TIWARI
VASANTH SUNDARRAJAN
MUMBAI

The verdict by the International Court of Justice, which was announced in favour of Mumbai resident Kulbhushan Jadhav, was greeted with jubilant celebration across the city. Minutes after news of the verdict landed, his family members expressed happiness and hope.

"The Indian government has presented our side very well and Wednesday's verdict is a very positive one. Even though none of us will rest easy till Kulbhushan actually comes home, the efforts taken by the government so far inspire hope and we are nothing but thankful to the government for it," Mr. Jadhav's uncle, Subhash Jadhav, a retired Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), said.

Several of Mr. Jadhav's childhood friends, who live in the Prithvi Vandan society in Lower Parel, greeted the verdict by releasing balloons in the air.

On cloud nine: Friends of Kulbhushan Jadhav celebrating in Mumbai. ▪ EMMANUAL YOGINI

The son of a retired ACP, Mr. Jadhav grew up in the police quarters in the same lane as the building, and many of the residents have been praying for his release ever since he was caught.

One of his childhood friends, Sachin Kale, said, "Once again, we have won. Pakistan has no sense of legal proceedings but justice is still being done. We are very happy that our prayers are being heard." The sentiment was echoed by all of Mr. Jadhav's other friends, including Arvind Singh, Jitendra Shah, Sunil Singh, Shubash Deshmane and Tushar Shingte.

Night-long celebration

"We will be celebrating the whole night and soon, when Mr Jadhav is back with us, we will celebrate with him as well," Mr. Singh said.

An official with the Coast Guard School in Powai, where Mr. Jadhav's children study, spoke highly of Mr. Jadhav. "He is truly a very congenial man and none of us believes that he would do any of the things that he is accused of," the official said.

Residents of Javli village in Satara, where Mr. Jadhav hails from, were happy. "The Indian government should get him released at any cost. It is their responsibility," a villager said.

(With inputs from Gautam S. Mengle)

Advantage India

How the Jadhav case unfolded

March 3, 2016: **Kulbhushan Jadhav** is arrested. Weeks later, Pakistan terms him "an Indian spy" arrested from Balochistan

March 25: India rejects claims, says there's no proof that he was arrested in Balochistan

March 29: India seeks consular access to Jadhav

April 10, 2017: A Pakistani Army court sentences him to death

April 12: According to a media report, Jadhav is charged with terrorism and sabotage by a court

May 8, 2017: India approaches the ICJ against Pakistan's decision

May 9: ICJ stays Jadhav's execution

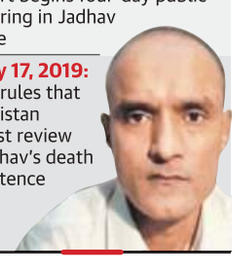
June 16: World court asks India to make its submission by September 13

June 22: Jadhav files mercy petition before Pakistan army. It claims he filed the plea with a confessional statement that he was involved in subversive activities in Balochistan

December 8: Pakistan allows Jadhav's wife, mother to meet him on Dec. 25

February 18, 2019: World court begins four-day public hearing in Jadhav case

July 17, 2019: ICJ rules that Pakistan must review Jadhav's death sentence



Truth and justice have prevailed, says Modi

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

"Truth and justice have prevailed. Congratulations to the ICJ for a verdict based on extensive study of facts. I am sure Kulbhushan Jadhav will get justice. Our Government will always work for the safety and welfare of every Indian," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a message on the social media.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that he had spoken to Mr. Jadhav's family after the verdict was delivered, and "applauded their courage." Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj also congratulated the entire diplomatic team, Prime Minister Modi and the legal team led by India's counsel Harish Salve.

> **I wholeheartedly welcome the verdict of International Court of Justice in the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav. It is a great victory for India**
>
> SUSHMA SWARAJ
> Former External Affairs Minister

"I have a degree of personal satisfaction that a lot of adjectives were used by Pakistan in its submissions that I described as unfortunate because of my upbringing as Indian. The Court has said Pakistan is guilty of internationally wrongful acts and it must cease those acts. This is a trenchant indictment," said Mr. Salve, while addressing a press conference in London.

"The court said Pakistan has to do everything to make the Vienna Convention a living reality," said Mr. Salve, pointing out that the international legal body also asked for a fair trial of Mr. Jadhav. He said the judgment gives India a "good moment " to help Mr. Jadhav get justice.

Mr. Salve also pointed that a re-trial of Mr. Jadhav in a military court in Pakistan would not meet the standards set by the ICJ. He described the verdict as a victory for the rule of law.

The verdict was welcomed by outgoing Congress president Rahul Gandhi and former Home Minister P. Chidambaram.

"My thoughts tonight are with #KulbhushanJadhav & with his distraught family-.for whom this verdict brings a rare moment of relief, joy & renewed hope..." Mr. Gandhi tweeted.

Music, videos for NRC mindspace

Creative agencies to document work

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Union government wants to showcase and publicise the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise through music videos and films. The office of the NRC Coordinator has invited bids to film the process for which it will "share data" with private creative agencies.

The documentary will include "the verification processes undertaken across the State, interviews of [the] public and interviews of officials involved in NRC work," the Request for Proposal (RFP) says.

Stating the purpose for floating the RFP, the office of NRC State Coordinator Prateek Hajela said, "NRC update is an extremely huge exercise without any precedence and it is imperative that adequate documentation of the process is carried out. Such documentation also needs to be done in formats which are to be understood and have the ability to record the elaborate and IT-intensive nature of the exercise."

The RFP added that the State Coordinator, NRC "accordingly intends to get a proper audio-visual documentation of the NRC Update Project."

The RFP said the language of the documentaries will be English with versions in Hindi and Assamese. "Sub-titles for interviews and other written material will also have to be in English while Hindi and Assamese language will be used for the respective language version," it said.

Around 41 lakh people have been excluded from the draft NRC lists.

Around 1,200 employees of software major Wipro have provided the IT back-up to the project.

The NRC exercise in Assam – under the supervision of the Supreme Court – is one of the most keenly watched processes in the country as several lakh people will be rendered Stateless once the final list is published.

The SC has asked the list to be published by July 31 but the Centre and the State have moved the Court seeking "sample re-verification" in areas bordering Bangladesh.

Hearings under way

Around 41 lakh people have been excluded from the draft NRC lists published in July 2018 and June this year. Around 36 lakh have filed claims against their exclusion and objections have been filed against two lakh inclusions. The hearings for these claims and objections are underway at various NRC centres.

Centre's interlocutor in J&K holds talks with Omar

Says he is open for talks with anyone who wants to meet him

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Reigniting hopes of a political reach-out in Kashmir, the Centre's interlocutor, Dineshwar Sharma, on Wednesday said he "is willing to meet whoever wanted to meet him" after he met former Chief Minister and National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah in Srinagar.

Speaking to *The Hindu* after the meeting, Mr. Sharma said he met Mr. Abdullah as his mandate was to meet all kinds of people, not just politicians, in Jammu and Kashmir. "I keep meeting so many people. I met the Governor recently and non-political figures. My job is to meet everybody," he said.

Omar Abdullah

He met Mr. Abdullah at his residence in Srinagar on Wednesday morning. Sources said the "NC leader insisted on an early installation of an elected government in the State".

This is Mr. Sharma's second significant meeting since July 16 when he met Governor Satya Pal Malik and apprised him of "his consultations with people from a cross section of society in the State."

The meeting was followed by the Governor welcoming Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's offer for a dialogue, which was immediately opposed by the top BJP leadership including the party general secretary Ram Madhav.

Hardening his stand, Mr. Sharma also said that "nobody has the authority to question the Constitution", in response to a question on any immediate engagement with the Hurriyat, which stands for a dialogue outside the Constitution.

He, however, was quick to add: "I will meet whoever wants to meet me."

Ayodhya panel seeks more time

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ayodhya mediation committee chaired by Justice F.M.I. Kalifulla, former Supreme Court judge, has filed a report in the Supreme Court on the progress made so far in talks with parties disputing the title over the contested Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land. The committee has requested the court for more time.

The Supreme Court had recently asked the mediation panel for a progress report following an application filed by Gopal Singh Visharad, an original claimant who filed a title suit way back in 1950, through his survivor Rajendra Singh, on July 9, claiming that the mediation is making no progress.

The application had urged the Supreme Court to stop mediation and start adjudication on the pending Ayodhya appeals.

SP backs Azam Khan in land grab case

Says false cases lodged against him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party (SP) has thrown its weight behind its senior leader Azam Khan who faces charges of land grab in his Rampur constituency.

Mr. Khan is the Lok Sabha member from Rampur in western U.P.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has formed a 21-member internal committee to investigate the allegations of land grab levelled against Mr. Khan, as well as the Rampur administration's alleged hounding of the party MP.

SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said on Wednesday that "false cases" had been lodged against Mr. Khan.

The party panel, led by the SP's leader in the Legislative Council Ahmad Hasan, will go to Rampur on July 20 and submit a report to Mr. Yadav in three days.

Azam Khan

Meanwhile, Rampur district police chief Ajay Pal Sharma said 13 cases had been lodged against Mr. Khan after complaints by local farmers that he used intimidation and force to illegally occupy their land.

"Investigation is on," said Mr. Sharma, adding that a former local officer of the police had also been named in the FIRs.

Mr. Khan was booked in June for allegedly occupying public property.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No. 49, 4th & 5th Floor, East Wing, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001,
Ph.: 080-40931272, **website:** www.kiadb.in **e-Mail:** cdoce2@kiadb.in **or** jdtp@kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/EIA/EC/ETND-EP-06/5210/2019-20 Date:15.07.2019

SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER TO PROVIDE CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE (EC)

(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tenders under two cover systems for providing consultancy services for preparing EIA, SIS studies etc., to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) and Consent for Establishment (CFE) from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) for the following KIADB Industrial Area.

Sl. No.	Proposed name of the New Industrial area.	Approx. Extent	EMD (Rs in lakhs)
1.	Kuduthini Industrial Area, Kuduthini village, Ballari District.	645.18 Acres (261.20 Ha)	2.00

The scope of work includes preparation of reports as per the present guidelines of Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF) and Consent for Establishment of Industrial Areas (CFE) from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), to obtain the clearance form KSPCB/ MoEF & other concerned Authorities for setting up the above Industrial Area. The detailed scope of work can be downloaded from **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
The firms who are listed as Accredited Consultants in the Accredited list of Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi/KSPCB are eligible to participate in the tender. The EMD amount as per the above table should be paid through e-payment in the e-procurement portal only using any of the four modes namely: Credit Card, Direct Debit, National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT), and Over the Counter (OTC).
The Revenue Survey Map/layout plan of the Industrial Areas can be accessed through e-portal of GoK. KIADB reserves the right to accept or reject the Tender without assigning any reasons. For further queries contact Chief Development Officer & Chief Engineer, KIADB, Bengaluru and Development Officer & Executive Engineer-KIADB Zonal Office, Ballari.
Applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Schedule of dates are as follows:
- Last date to receive pre-bid Queries: **26.07.2019 up to 5.00 PM.**
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on: **30.07.2019 at 11.30 AM.**
- Deadline for submission of Technical and Financial Bids is: **09.08.2019 up to 4.00 PM**
- Time and date of opening Technical Bids is on: **13.08.2019 after 11.30 AM.**

Sd/- Chief Development Officer & Chief Engineer

TICEL BIO PARK LTD.
(TIDCO Centre for Life Science)
CIN: U45309TN2001PLC047979
No.5, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113. Ph: +91 44 2254 2060/61/62, Fax: +91 44 2254 2055, E-mail: md@ticelbiopark.com

TICEL Bio Park-III, Coimbatore

Tenders for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plant, Effluent Treatment Plant and Reverse Osmosis Water Plant Works by MBR Technical System Works & Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Vacuum, Compressed Air and Lab Exhaust System Works

TICEL Bio Park - I established in Technical Collaboration with Cornell University, USA at a cost of ₹ 54 Crores is in Operation Since 2004. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, has inaugurated the ₹ 168 Crores TICEL Bio Park - II on 09-09-2015 and also announced under Rule 110 for construction of Biotechnology Park - III in Anna University Campus, Coimbatore at a cost of ₹ 55 Crores.
TICEL invites Tender for the following services for Bio Park - III at Coimbatore:

Name of the Tender	Tender Document Cost (in ₹)	EMD (₹ in Lakhs)	Date of the Pre-Bid Meeting at Site	Last Date of Submission	Date of Technical Bid Opening
Tender for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plant, Effluent Treatment Plant and Reverse Osmosis Water Plant Works by MBR Technical System Works.	16,800/-	1.48	3.00 P.M. on 23-07-2019	02-08-2019 before 3.00 P.M.	02-08-2019 @ 3.30 P.M. @ TICEL Bio Park-I, No.5, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.
Tender for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Vacuum, Compressed Air and Lab Exhaust System Works.	16,800/-	2.00	4.00 P.M. on 23-07-2019	02-08-2019 before 3.00 P.M.	02-08-2019 @ 4.00 P.M. @ TICEL Bio Park - I, No.5, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.

Tender Documents can be downloaded from TICEL's website viz. **www.ticelbiopark.com** from **18-07-2019** onwards. The downloaded Tender Documents should be submitted by the Bidder along with Tender Document Fee of ₹ **16,800/-** in the form of Crossed Demand Draft drawn on any Nationalized Bank in favour of **TICEL Bio Park Ltd.**, Payable at **Chennai.** Tender Documents downloaded from the website which are submitted without the non-refundable Tender Document Fee will be summarily rejected. The EMD should be in the form of Crossed Demand Draft drawn on any Nationalized Bank in favour of **TICEL Bio Park Ltd.**, Payable at **Chennai.**
TICEL reserves the right to accept/reject any one/all the Tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

DIPR/2415/Tender/2019
MANAGING DIRECTOR

CSIR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
4, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Kolkata - 700032

EXTENSION OF BID SUBMISSION DATE

The last date for bid submission in r/o e-tender No. 2019_CSIR_28075_1 for Sweeping & Cleaning Services for Jadavpur & Salt Lake Campus has been extended further till 22.07.2019 at 3.30 p.m. For further details please refer to our website **https://iicb.res.in/tenders and https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**

(Administrative Officer)

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
Chepauk Campus, Chennai - 600 005.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

University of Madras invites sealed tenders in Two Bid System from eligible Professional Agencies / Service Providers for **Providing Manpower Services on Outsourcing Basis.** The eligibility for participating in the tender and other details are given in the University website **www.unom.ac.in** under "Tender" column. Last date for receipt of Tender is 20.08.2019.

F.1(C)/Estt/2019/449 dated 12.07.2019
DIPR/2381/Tender/2019

REGISTRAR

NLC India Limited
Navratna - Govt. of India Enterprise
Registered Office: 1st Floor, No.8, Mayor Sathyamoorthy Road,
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CIN : L93090TN1956GOI003507 Website : www.nlcindia.com
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BRIEF NOTICE INVITING BID

Online Bids in English are invited by NLC India Limited, Neyveli for the following :

1. Tender No. CO CONTS/0021H/MII/REVAMP/BWE1420/ELEC/RT/2019, Dt.: 15.07.2019 (e-Tender)
Name of the work : MAJOR REVAMPING OF 1400 LITRE CRAWLER MOUNTED BRIDGE TYPE BWE 1420 AT MINE-II FOR ELECTRICAL PORTION.
B.G. Amount : ₹ 6,40,000/- **Tender Fee :** ₹ 10,000/-
Date of Tender Document available to bidders to Download : 19.07.2019
Last date for Remitting tender fee : 19.08.2019 up to 17.00 Hrs.
Last Date & Time for receipt of Bid : 21.08.2019 up to 14.30 Hrs. (IST)
Date & Time of Bid opening (Part-I): 21.08.2019 at 15.00 Hrs. (IST)

Bids in English are invited by NLC India Limited, Neyveli for the following :

2. Tender No. CO/HR/GROUP-C/0002/NHRI/PCMM/HRTRANSF/2019, Dt.: 17.07.2019
Name of the work : ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY FOR PARTNERING AND HANDHOLDING NLCIL IN ACHIEVING MILESTONES AS PER HIGH LEVEL ROAD MAP PREPARED TO ACHIEVE MATURITY LEVEL 3 & 4 AS PER PEOPLE CMM V2.0 STANDARDS
Tender Fee : ₹ 5,000/-
Date of Tender Document available to bidders to Download : 23.07.2019
Last Date & Time for receipt of Bid : 23.08.2019 up to 14.30 Hrs. (IST)
Date & Time of Bid opening (Part-I): 23.08.2019 at 15.00 Hrs. (IST)
Pre Bid Conference at 11.00 Hrs. at Conference Hall of Corporate Contracts Division, Corporate Office, NLCIL, Neyveli. : Sl. No.1 : On 02.08.2019, Sl. No.2 : On 03.08.2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender Notices Sl.No.1 to 6)

Sl.No.	Tender Ref./Scope of supplies & Qty. reqd.
1.	**UNIT : M.M. COMPLEX : ENQ/19-20/000908/MM02 (07), Dt. 04.07.2019.** BTR Clamps. **Qty.: 150000 Nos.** **Due date of opening :** 05.08.2019
2.	**ENQ/19-20/000972/MM19 (01), Dt. 10.07.2019 :** Procurement of refractory castable (single item). **Due date of opening :** 07.08.2019
3.	**ENQ/19-20/000993/MM22 (01), Dt. 11.07.2019.** Remote monitoring of real time status of Electrical data using GSM gate way & cloud based data acquisition system of Conveyor Drive head station. **Qty.: 3 Nos.** **Due date of opening :** 05.08.2019
4.	**ENQ/19-20/000977/MM02 (07), Dt. 11.07.2019 :** Pressure Rollers **Qty.: 2000 Nos.** **Due date of opening :** 12.08.2019
5.	**ENQ/19-20/000998/MM05 (05) Dt. 12.07.2019 :** Procurement of **29 items** of Turbine spares. **Due date of opening :** 14.08.2019
6.	**ENQ No.19-20/001012/MM03 (06) Dt. 15.07.2019 :** Undercarriage spares as Set for Russian Pipe Layers of Model TG-503. **Due date of opening :** 16.08.2019

FOR e-TENDER DOCUMENTS/DETAILS/CORRIGENDUM VISIT : www.nlcindia.com
PUBLIC SECTOR IS YOURS : HELP IT TO HELP YOU

U.S. House condemns Trump's 'racist' tweets on lawmakers

The first time a President has been rebuked by the House in more than 100 years

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
WASHINGTON

The House voted on Tuesday to condemn as racist President Donald Trump's attacks against four congresswomen of colour, but only after the debate over the President's language devolved into a bitterly partisan brawl.

The measure, the first House rebuke of a President in more than 100 years, passed nearly along party lines, 240-187, after one of the most polarising exchanges on the House floor in recent times. Only four Republicans and the House's lone independent, Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan, voted with all Democrats to condemn Mr. Trump.

"I know racism when I see it, I know racism when I feel it, and at the highest level of government, there's no room for racism," said Rep. John Lewis (Democrat), an icon of the civil rights movement.

Some Republicans were just as adamant in their defence of Mr. Trump: "What has really happened here is that the President and his supporters have been forced to endure months of allegations of racism," said Rep. Dan Meuser (Republican). "This ridiculous slander does a disservice to our nation."

Republicans ground the proceedings to a halt shortly before the House was to vote on the non-binding resolution, which calls Mr. Trump's tweets and verbal volleys "racist comments that have legitimised increased fear and hatred of new Americans and people of colour".

It was the Democrats' response to Mr. Trump's attacks on Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, who he said should "go back" to their countries, an insult that he has continued to employ in the days since.

Making a point: Minnesota Democratic representative Ilhan Omar speaking with reporters in Washington on Tuesday. ▪ AFP

"There's no excuse for any response to those words but a swift and strong, unified condemnation," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said as the House debated the resolution. "Every single member of this institution, Democratic and Republican, should join us in condemning the President's racist tweets."

'Shocking and shameful'

As Republicans rose to protest, Ms. Pelosi turned toward them on the House floor and picked up her speech, her voice rising as she added, "To do anything less would be a shocking rejection of our values and a shameful abdication of our oath of office to protect the American people."

Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee, made a formal objection to the remarks, charging that they had violated the rules of decorum, which call for lawmakers to avoid impugning the motives of their colleagues or the president. It was a stunning turn in a debate about Mr. Trump's own incendiary language.

Mr. Trump on Tuesday denied that his tweets were racist and implored House Republicans to reject the measure. The President raged on Twitter, calling the House resolution a "con game".

"Those Tweets were NOT Racist," Mr. Trump wrote. "I don't have a Racist bone in my body! The so-called vote to be taken is a Democrat con game. Republicans should not show 'weakness' and fall into their trap."

Late on Tuesday, the President praised how the Republicans voted, tweeting, "So great to see how unified the Republican Party was on today's vote concerning statements I made about four Democrat Congresswomen".

The vote was a show of unity for Democrats who had been squabbling for weeks – and a test of Republican principles. In the end, the only Republicans to cross party lines were Reps. Fred Upton of Michigan, Susan Brooks of Indiana, Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania and Will Hurd of Texas, the House's only black Republican.

At one point, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II (Democrat), who was presiding in the House when Republicans challenged Ms. Pelosi's words, banged the gavel, rose from the marble dais and stormed off the House floor. "We aren't ever, ever going to pass up, it seems, an opportunity to escalate, and that's what this is," Mr. Cleaver said, his voice rising in frustration. "We want to just fight."

Defending Trump

For their part, Republicans took to the floor not to defend the President's remarks but to condemn Democrats for what they called a breach of decorum.

Ultimately, it was left to Rep. Steny Hoyer, the majority leader, to recite the official ruling that Ms. Pelosi had, in fact, violated a House rule against characterising an action as "racist". The move by Republicans to have her words stricken from the record then failed along party lines, and Ms. Pelosi was unrepentant.

"I stand by my statement," she said as she strode through the Capitol. "I'm proud of the attention being called to it, because what the president said was completely inappropriate." NY TIMES

U.S. not to sell F-35 fighter jets to Turkey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has announced that the U.S. would not sell the F-35 fighter jets to Turkey after Ankara purchased the S-400 missile defence system from Russia.

Mr. Trump said it was not fair that when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "really wanted" to buy the Patriot surface-to-air missile system, the previous Obama administration did not sell it.

"We have a situation where Turkey is very good with us, very good. And we are now telling Turkey that because you have really been forced to buy another missile system, we're not going to sell you the F-35 fighter jets," Mr. Trump told reporters on Tuesday.

Protesters, Sudan Army rulers ink deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KHARTOUM

Sudan's protesters and the ruling generals on Wednesday inked a deal that aims to instal a civilian administration, a key demand of demonstrators since President Omar al-Bashir was deposed in a coup three months ago.

Deputy chief of the military council General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo said the agreement was a "historic moment" for Sudan. It has "opened a new and promising era of partnership between the armed forces, RSF (Rapid Support Forces) and leaders of the glorious Sudanese revolution," he said.

Taliban shuts 42 health clinics in Afghan province

Nearly 6,000 people will be hit, says Swedish NGO

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL

The Taliban forced a Swedish non-profit group to close 42 health facilities it runs in eastern Afghanistan, the organisation said on Wednesday, the latest attempt by the insurgents to show strength amid negotiations to end the country's nearly 18-year war.

In Sweden, the group's director called the closures "an obvious violation of human rights and international humanitarian law" and demanded that the facilities be allowed to reopen right away.

Sonny Mansson, the country director of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, told that the Taliban threatened the NGO's staff by saying that if they do not close the facilities, "it would have consequences for themselves and their families."

Ahmad Khalid Fahim, programme director for the Swedish group. ▪ AP

"We treat equally anyone who needs medical care regardless of who they are. Everyone who needs help gets it," Mr. Mansson said, adding that the facilities that closed over the weekend were in a Taliban-controlled area of Maidan Wardan province while others are still open in the province's government-controlled areas.

Parwiz Ahmad Faizi, the group's communications manager, said the closures came after Afghan forces last week raided a clinic run by the NGO in Daimirdad district. The Afghan troops, acting on intelligence, were allegedly looking for suspected Taliban fighters hiding in the clinic.

Ahmad Khalid Fahim, programme director for the Swedish group, said two staff members, a guard and a lab worker, and two other people were killed in the attack, while a fifth person has been missing. Mr. Faizi said the closures would affect health services for around 6,000 patients, particularly women and children.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed the closure of the NGO's facilities.

U.S. mulls raising merit-based immigration to 57%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration is proposing to increase merit-based legal immigration to 57% and half of those would be based on family and humanitarian grounds, in an effort to overhaul the existing system.

Senior presidential adviser Jared Kushner, who is also the son-in-law of U.S. President Donald Trump, said having an immigration policy that would 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," Mr. Kushner told the Cabinet during a meeting at the White House.

At the direction of Mr. Trump, Mr. Kushner is leading the immigration reform project, which he said was now into its final stages.

Mr. Kushner rued that America's immigration system was very outdated compared to some of the peer countries that it competes with for talent. He said just 12% of people become legal immigrants through merit-based system right now.

"Compare that to some of our peer countries like Canada. They're at 53%, New Zealand at 59%, Australia 63%, Japan at 52%," he said. "Under President Trump's proposal, we'll go to 57%, which puts right in the range and it will make us competitive."

Last year 1.1 million people became citizens. "We are keeping the number the same. But we want to change the composition of what's that made up of," he said.

IN BRIEF

U.S. court gives life term to Mexican drug lord

NEW YORK

Once one of the world's most powerful and notorious criminals, Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was jailed for life on Wednesday — the mandatory sentence for a host of crimes spanning a quarter-century. AFP

Turkish diplomat among two shot dead in Iraq

ARBIL

The Turkish vice consul to Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region was among at least two people shot dead Wednesday in the regional capital Arbil, prompting pledges of "retaliation" from Ankara. AFP

Netanyahu set to become Israel's longest-serving PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

Benjamin Netanyahu is set to becomes Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister as his 13-year rule surpasses that of Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion on July 20.

But as he is about to cross the milestone, Mr. Netanyahu faces perhaps his greatest political challenge yet. After failing to form a parliamentary majority following the April elections, the country is holding a repeat vote in September. The following month, he faces a hearing with the Attorney General, who has recommended indicting Mr. Netanyahu on corruption charges. If formal charges are filed, Mr. Netanyahu could be forced to step aside.

Benjamin Netanyahu

Mr. Netanyahu has often said he would like to be remembered as the "protector of Israel." But admirers and critics alike say that what sets him apart is his unparalleled political acumen, a ruthless drive to win at all costs and an uncanny ability to sell his shifting policies to the public. "His marketing skills are so amazing that he can argue for one thing and then the opposite with the same conviction. It's an art form," said Aviv Bushinsky, a former Netanyahu aide.

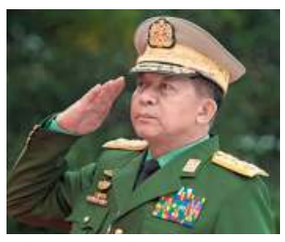
U.S. bans Myanmar military leaders over Rohingya abuses

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

The U.S. announced sanctions on Tuesday against Myanmar military's Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing and other leaders it said were responsible for extrajudicial killings of Rohingya Muslims, barring them from entry to the country.

The steps, which also covered Min Aung Hlaing's deputy, Soe Win, and two other senior commanders and their families, are the strongest the U.S. has taken in response to massacres of minority Rohingyas in Myanmar. It identified the two others as Than Oo and Aung Aung, both Brigadier Generals.

"We remain concerned that the Burmese government has taken no actions to hold accountable those responsible for human rights violations and abuses, and there are continued reports of the Burmese military committing human rights violations and abuses throughout the country," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement.



Min Aung Hlaing

Mr. Pompeo said a recent disclosure that Min Aung Hlaing ordered the release of soldiers convicted of extrajudicial killings at the village of Inn Din during the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya in 2017 was "one egregious example of the continued and severe lack of accountability for the military and its senior leadership."

A spokesman for the Myanmar military, Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun, said by phone the military had not ignored the accusations, citing internal probes. One army-led investigation in 2017 exonerated security forces of all accusations of atrocities. Another is ongoing.

"Right now we have an investigative committee ... to conduct a detailed investigation," he said. "They should value these facts."

Critical media coverage may be treason: PTI

Imran Khan's party slams journalists

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

The ruling party of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has launched another blistering attack on the press, linking critical coverage to potential "treason" in the latest broadside against the beleaguered media.

The official account of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party fired off over two dozen tweets in English and Urdu late on Tuesday, lambasting the press for coverage criticising the government and Mr. Khan which it deemed "Anti-State".

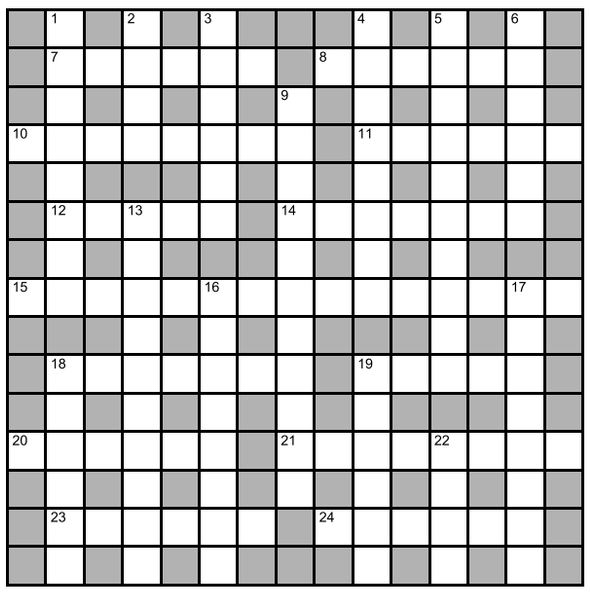
"Freedom of Expression is beauty of Democracy. Expressing Enemy's Stance is Not Freedom of speech but treason against its people," read one tweet.

"Media houses & journalists must take care that in their quest for criticism on State, they intentionally or unintentionally do not end up propagating enemy's stance," read another, with the hashtag: #JournalismNotAgenda.

Pakistan routinely ranks among the world's most dangerous countries for media workers, and reporters have frequently been detained, beaten and even killed for being critical of the government or powerful military. In recent years the space for dissent has shrunk further, with the government announcing a crackdown on social networks and media houses.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12681

(set by xChequer)



ACROSS

7 Meal without a vessel (6)

8 China's neighbour having power to remove Western expatriate tycoon (6)

10 Tailor set mark to cut opening in robe (8)

11 One beginning to close old fireplaces (6)

12 Monsters go back, saint carries on (5)

14 Mum can supply loads of fish sauce (4,3)

15 Modern man reached space, a wonderful experience (7,3,5)

18 Get expert to heal (7)

19 Extract using force with support (5)

20 Bit of finery, over a pound during season (6)

21 Fancy heiress eating fine specimen of mackerel (4,4)

23 Perhaps a patient batting partner (6)

24 Instrument of Zulu heritage, timeless hit (6)

DOWN

1 Noble use questionable for a prig (8)

2 Barely reasonable (4)

3 Current charge for admission (6)

4 Several staff doubt veteran (8)

5 Ahead before true game unfolds on a sticky wicket (2,1,3,4)

6 Garment measure said to appear under hip (6)

9 Put up with a kid in order to loosen up (5,2,4)

13 Deficiency in butter reportedly for Spooner's meat dish (4,2,4)

16 Identity of base character (8)

17 Skill and cunning is on test (8)

18 Limits to paper alliance in real-life operation (6)

19 Tiny, most nasty pest (6)

22 Name of northerly, stifling hot wind (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS4418 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to puzzle 12680

			A		N				I		H			
	R	U	B	O	U	T		I	N	W	A	R	D	
	H		A		C		G		F		N		U	
T	E	R	C	E	L		O	G	R	E	S	S	E	S
	U		U		E		S		A		O		N	
I	M	P	S		I	M	P	E	D	I	M	E	N	T
	Y		E				E		I				A	
		A	S	T	R	O	L	O	G	I	S	T		
	P				I		T				A		A	
E	A	R	L	Y	B	I	R	D	S		B	U	C	K
	T		A		O		U		H		O		U	
H	O	U	S	E	S	I	T		I	N	T	U	I	T
	I		C		O		H		N		E		T	
	S	M	A	R	M	Y		P	E	N	U	R	Y	
				R		E				R		R		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Trivikrama praised

Thiruppavai covers the vibhava avataras of Lord Narayana. Most of the verses are about Krishna avatara, but other avataras are also covered, said Sujatha Raghavan in a discourse. Verse three speaks of the benefits we get by praising Trivikrama. Rains will be copious, fields will yield a lot of paddy, fishes will swim in the water between the crops, bees will rest in the large lotus flowers, and cows will give plenty of milk, if Trivikrama is praised.

Trivikrama is described by Andal as Uthaman, which shows His superiority to everyone. His are the feet that touched the heads of everyone in the world, regardless of whether a person was a sinner or was virtuous. The stalks of grain Andal refers to are the prapannas. The stout fishes are the Acharyas, who are glad that their efforts to perform Saranagati have been rewarded. The sleeping bees symbolically indicate the Lord. Glad that the Acharyas have been able to help their sishyas resort to Saranagati, He sleeps peacefully. The generous cows, which fill vessels with milk, are Acharyas, who teach and guide their disciples. In Ambarame Thanneere (verse 17), Andal talks again of Trivikrama, who pierced the skies, as He grew in stature, from the short Vamana to the gigantic Trivikrama. The Lord is the 'sOru' (rice) referred to here.

For true bhaktas, the Lord is everything, even the food they consume. That is why Nammazhvar said that for devotees Kannan is everything – He is the rice that is eaten (unnum sOru), water (neer) and even the betel leaves (vettrilai). In pasuram twenty-four, Andal praises the feet that measured the worlds. These are also the feet that went to Lanka, and destroyed Ravana. These are the feet that kicked Sakatasura, the demon who came as a wheel to crush Krishna.

MARKET WATCH

	17-07-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,216	0.22
US Dollar	68.82	-0.16
Gold	35,500	-0.19
Brent oil	64.17	-3.79

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	417.05	-0.70
Asian Paints	1395.90	23.60
Axis Bank	752.60	-8.45
Bajaj Auto	2696.90	-35.55
Bajaj Finserv	7854.55	-27.15
Bajaj Finance	3463.30	14.60
Bharti Airtel	346.25	-4.50
BPCL	352.80	-1.65
Britannia Ind	2797.80	50.65
Cipla	557.55	4.00
Coal India	230.00	-2.80
Dr Reddys Lab	2666.30	-10.20
Eicher Motors	18433.70	-607.55
GAIL (India)	143.40	-3.95
Grasim Ind	926.70	-3.80
HCL Tech	1040.75	21.10
HDFC	2286.70	9.15
HDFC Bank	2397.45	6.25
Hero MotoCorp	2522.95	-21.40
Hindalco	203.45	4.35
Hind Unilever	1760.70	19.40
Indiabulls HFL	668.20	21.85
ICICI Bank	424.70	0.10
IndusInd Bank	1501.25	28.05
Bharti Infratel	264.00	0.30
Infosys	794.15	9.30
Indian OilCorp	146.85	-0.20
ITC	272.90	0.95
JSW Steel	271.90	-2.00
Kotak Bank	1534.60	33.15
L&T	1455.45	-5.75
M&M	617.95	-4.95
Maruti Suzuki	6075.70	-82.35
NTPC	129.10	-1.85
ONGC	149.90	-2.35
PowerGrid Corp	208.00	-0.90
Reliance Ind	1281.85	-11.15
State Bank	372.40	8.05
Sun Pharma	430.05	-3.25
Tata Motors	167.90	-2.10
Tata Steel	475.70	-1.00
TCS	2117.25	11.25
Tech Mahindra	690.80	14.85
Titan	1109.90	-4.85
UltraTech Cement	4608.95	8.05
UPL	659.75	17.85
Vedanta	168.65	1.75
Wipro	259.60	-0.40
YES Bank	98.40	-5.45
Zee Entertainment	353.25	7.00

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.61	68.93
Euro	76.93	77.29
British Pound	85.13	85.54
Japanese Yen (100)	63.38	63.67
Chinese Yuan	9.98	10.02
Swiss Franc	69.37	69.69
Singapore Dollar	50.38	50.62
Canadian Dollar	52.49	52.74
Malaysian Ringitt	16.66	16.76

Source:Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

July 17 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	42.3	(41.8)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3294	(3312)

RBI reserves: panel for transfer in tranches

Jalan committee report expected within the next fortnight; consensus on decision unlikely

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bimal Jalan Committee on treatment of Reserve Bank of India's reserves is likely to recommend a transfer of a specified quantum of RBI reserves to the government over two or three tranches over the next few years, an official in the Finance Ministry said. The committee will submit its report in 10-15 days, the official said, following the final meeting of the committee on Wednesday.

However, there is not likely to be consensus in the committee over this decision, he added.

The government and the RBI have been at loggerheads over the issue of how much of the central bank's reserves can be transferred to the Centre.

The panel was also tasked with suggesting an adequate level of risk provisioning that RBI should maintain. ▪ KAMAL NARANG

The government view has been that the RBI's reserves constitute 27% of its total assets, a much higher proportion than the global norm of 14%.

As a means to reach a resolution on the issue, the central bank, in December, constituted a committee under former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan.

Statutory mandate

The committee was to keep in mind the statutory mandate under the RBI Act that the profits of the RBI be transferred to the government after it made provisions 'which are usually provided by the bankers'.

Against this background, the committee was tasked with reviewing the status, need, and justification of the various provisions, reserves and buffers currently provided for by the RBI, and also review the global best practices followed by central banks in making provisions for the risks that central bank balance sheets are subject to.

The committee was also tasked with suggesting an "adequate level" of risk provisioning that the RBI should maintain, and determining whether the RBI's current reserves were surplus of this or lower. If they are surplus, then the committee also had to come up with a suitable profits distribution policy.

Fiscal deficit target

The treatment of the RBI's reserves is a matter of great importance at a time when the central government has committed to a fiscal deficit target of 3.3% in financial year 2019-20, and a further tightening to 3% the next year.

With tax revenues falling short of expectations, any off-Budget receipts from the RBI will be welcomed by the Centre.

Future imperfect

"Demand environment was stable in global markets, but in pockets such as BFSI, decision making has been slower due to overall macro environment"
ABIDALI Z NEEMUCHWALA, CEO, Wipro

Metrics	Q1 FY20	Q1 FY19	Growth (%)
Revenue from operations (₹cr.)	14,716.1	13,977.7	14.0
Net profit (₹cr.)	2,387.6	2,120.8	12.6
Earnings per share (₹)	3.9	3.5	

Wipro profit rises 12.6% to ₹2,388 crore

Firm gives subdued revenue guidance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Tech major Wipro posted a 12.6% year-on-year growth in net profit to ₹2,388 crore, during the quarter-ended June against ₹2,121 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

During the June quarter, the company posted a gross revenue of ₹14,716 crore against ₹13,978 crore last year, marking a 5.3% growth year-on-year. In dollar terms its IT services revenue declined 1.3%.

The company said factors like macro uncertainties, softness in manufacturing and healthcare, slowness in BFSI, project deferrals and delay in decision-making by clients have been the reason for the growth decline. However, it saw robust demand from key financial clients.

Wipro also set a subdued revenue guidance for second quarter of FY20. The company expects revenues from IT services to be in the range of $2,039 million to $2,080 million, which translates to a sequential growth of 0-2% for the quarter ending September. Wipro CEO and executive director Abidali Z Neemuchwala said, "We had a slow start for the year than what was expected with revenues being down sequentially by 0.7%, though within our guidance range of -1% to 1%. Our YoY growth in constant currency terms was at 5.9%. Q1 is typically a weak quarter for us and we entered the quarter with macro uncertainties."

The demand environment was stable in the global markets, but in pockets like BFSI the decision-making has been slower due to overall macro environment, he said. "However, we are hopeful that some of this delay and deferral is temporary and will improve as we progress through the year," said Mr. Neemuchwala.

The company's digital business continued to see strong growth with revenue growing 5.6% QoQ and 34.6% YoY. Digital revenue now contributes 37.4% of the total business.

Addressing the media, Mr. Neemuchwala said, "Our wins in digital demonstrated this quarter that our leadership position as both digital and cloud transformation partner, provides our clients end-to-end capacity they require for their growth and future success."

Jatin Dalal, chief financial officer, Wipro said: "Our focus is to get back on the revenue trajectory."

Cabinet okays amendments to bankruptcy code

Stress on time-bound resolution, financial creditors' voting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, placing a greater emphasis on more time-bound resolution and laying down voting rules of the financial creditors.

"The Union Cabinet today approved the proposal to carry out seven amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019," the government said in a release.

Among the amendments approved is the one that mandates a deadline for the completion of the resolution process within 330 days, including all litigation and judicial processes. "Votes of all financial creditors covered under Section 21(6A) shall be cast in accordance with the decision approved by the highest voting share [more than 50%] of financial creditors on present and voting basis," the release added.

Minimum liquidation

Another amendment allows for creditors who voted against the majority to receive a minimum liquidation value. This decision would have retrospective effect in cases where the resolution plan has not yet been finalised or has been appealed against. The Amendment Bill also states that the resolution plan will be binding on all the stakeholders, including governments, to whom a debt is owed.

"Welcome amendments to the IBC, specifically the clarity around process timelines, and the clarity around the binding nature of the proposed resolution vis-a-vis the central, state and local governments," Sanjeev Krishan, Partner & Leader - PE & Deals, PwC India said.

"Allowing all possible corporate actions as part of the proposed resolution plans can also help save time and effort for applicants."

15th Finance panel term extended till Nov. 30

To ensure funding needs of Defence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved expanding the terms of reference of the Fifteenth Finance Commission to address the funding requirements for defence and internal security as also extending its term to November 30, 2019.

"The Union Cabinet has approved the proposed amendment to enable the Fifteenth Finance Commission to address serious concerns regarding the allocation of adequate, secure and non-lapsable funds for defence and internal security of India," the government said in a statement.

"Under the terms of reference (ToR) of the Commission, it is proposed to ensure an assured allocation of resources towards defence and internal security imperatives." The amendment provides that the Fifteenth Finance Commission will also examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security be set up and if so, how it could be operationalised. "The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Commission's term up to November 30, 2019," it added. "It will enable the Commission to examine various comparable estimates for financial projections in view of reforms and the new realities to finalise its recommendations for the period 2020-2025."

L&T's Naik is non-executive chairman of Mindtree

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Larsen & Toubro-acquired Mindtree has appointed A.M. Naik (Anilkumar Manibhai Naik) as the non-executive chairman of the company with effect from July 18, 2019.

"Naik mirrors the defining characteristics of the company, viz., professionalism, customer-centricity, fidelity to core values, and a passionate commitment to serving the interests of country, cause and community," Mindtree said in a filing with the stock exchange on Wednesday.

Mr. Naik, the group chairman of L&T, is the fourth L&T official to come on the board of Mindtree now. Last month, L&T secured three board positions at Mindtree, bringing in S.N. Subrahmanyan (L&T CEO and MD), Jayant Damodar Patil and Ramamurthi Shankar Raman.

Mr. Naik has been working with L&T in the last over 54 years. He also led the company for over 20 years.

Meanwhile, Mindtree reported a 10.3% year-on-year (y-o-y) revenue growth during the quarter ended June 30.

The company posted a revenue of $264.2 million, a growth of 0.8% q-o-q and 9.4% y-o-y.

In constant currency terms, it posted a growth of 1.1% q-o-q/10.3% y-o-y. It posted a 52.7% q-o-q and 42.7% y-o-y dip in net profit at $13.4 million.

The company's total revenues stood at ₹1834.2 crore, a decline of 0.3% q-o-q and a growth of 11.9% y-o-y. Net profit at ₹92.7 crore, a decline of 53.3% q-o-q and 41.4% y-o-y.

"We have delivered stable results in the face of many uncertainties reflecting the unique strength of Mindtree," said its outgoing CEO Rostow Ravanan.

Yes Bank Q1 profit plunges 91% on MTM losses

Asset quality deteriorates sharply as gross non-performing assets rise to 5.01%

SPECIAL CORRSPONDENT
MUMBAI

Private sector lender Yes Bank's net profit for the April-June quarter plunged 91% to ₹114 crore on a standalone basis mainly due to mark-to-market (MTM) losses of ₹1,109 crore.

The lender had made a profit of ₹1,260 crore during the same period of the previous financial year.

While total provisions were ₹1,784 crore, the provision of ₹1,109 crore was due to rating downgrades of investments in companies of two financial services groups, the bank said in a statement.

Asset quality of the lender deteriorated sharply with gross NPA ratio rising to 5.01% as at June end compared with 1.31% a year ago and 3.22% as at March end. In absolute terms gross NPAs, as on June 30 was ₹12,092 crore compared with ₹2,824 crore a year ago. The provision coverage ratio of the bank stood at 43.1%.

Bumpy road

Metrics	Q1 FY20	Q1 FY19	Growth(%)
Interest earned (₹cr.)	7,816.1	6,578.0	18.8
Net profit (₹cr.)	114	1,260	(91.0)
Earnings per share (₹)	.4	5.5	
Gross NPA(%)	5.0	1.3	

Contingency provision

The bank had created a contingency provision of ₹2,100 crore in March 2019 of which ₹1,399 crore was utilised for provisions for non-performing assets in the first quarter.

It sold one NPA account with an exposure of ₹411 crore to an asset reconstruction company during the reporting period.

"Gross slippages were ₹6,232 crore during Q1FY20. Recoveries and upgrades aggregated to ₹1,678 crore during the quarter.

Net corporate slippages were entirely from the accounts classified as BB and below at end of Q4FY19," Yes Bank said in a statement.

Net interest income up

Net interest income (NII) grew 2.8% year-on-year to ₹2,281 crore in the first quarter which includes the impact of ₹223 crore of interest reversals on account of fresh slippages during the quarter. Net interest margin for the quarter was at 2.8%.

Regarding a whistleblower complaint in September 2018 alleging irregularities in the bank's operations, potential conflict of interests in relation to the former managing director and chief executive officer Rana Kapoor and allegations of incorrect NPA classification, the bank had conducted an internal inquiry, which was carried out by management and supervised by the board of directors.

Further, the audit committee of the bank engaged an external firm to independently examine the matter. The work is currently going on but based on the finding till date it has not identified any material financial statement implications, the lender said.

Ebix acquires Yatra Online in a ₹2,300-crore transaction

Yatra to now become part of EbixCash travel portfolio

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

U.S.-headquartered Ebix, a provider of on-demand software and e-commerce services, on Wednesday announced the acquisition of homegrown travel portal Yatra Online for $337.8 million (more than ₹2,300 crore).

Following the completion of the transaction, Yatra will become part of Ebix's EbixCash travel portfolio, creating one of India's "largest and most profitable" travel services companies. Both the firms are listed on the NASDAQ.

"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, besides being the largest enterprise financial exchange in the country...

"We are excited by the cross-selling opportunities that this combination provides us, while further strengthening our future EbixCash IPO offering," said Robin Raina, chairman, president and CEO, Ebix.

Yatra will continue to serve customers under its brand, alongside EbixCash's two other travel brands – Via and Mercury.

Under Ebix's travel platform, the combined firm will leverage Yatra's existing customer base, service offering and multi-channel platform to take advantage of the growing multi-billion-dollar opportunity in India, the statement said.

The combined company will have an international footprint with more than 11,000 employees and a travel expanse spanning GCC, ASEAN and Asia Pacific countries. The transaction also provides the necessary scale to extend its travel business to North America, Latin America and Europe.

The statement said that based on the 15-day volume weighted average price of of Ebix Common Stock of $49.05 per share, each Yatra ordinary share convertible into Ebix common stock would be valued, on an as-converted basis, at $4.90 per share.

This is approximately 32% premium on Yatra's closing share price on March 8, 2019, the last trading day prior to the public announcement of Ebix's offer to acquire Yatra.

Bond yields reverse trend after five days, but may remain soft

Ten-year government bond yield rises from 6.33% to 6.35%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

After softening for five days, bond yields rose marginally on Wednesday following media reports that the Bimal Jalan Committee is likely to recommend transfer of RBI reserves in tranches to the government.

Jalan report

The yield of 10-year government bond ended at 6.35% as compared to the previous close of 6.33%. Yields went up by about 5 bps after news on the Jalan panel broke, but came down during the closing hours.

Bond yields fell for the last five days and are down by around 40 bps since the Budget announcement, after the government showed its resolve to maintain fiscal discipline.

Bond yields are at the levels seen immediately after demonetisation.

"There is an expectation that growth and inflation are likely to remain low. Data on IIP and inflation are coming weak. Global growth also remains on the weaker side," said R. Sivakumar, head, fixed income, Axis Mutual Fund, explaining the reason behind the fall in government bond yields.

Rate cut hope

In addition, he said, the market was also hoping for further rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

"From a long-term government securities perspective, the aggregate rate cut is what matters more. The market is expecting, in aggregate, more rate cuts to happen," Mr. Sivakumar said. The RBI reduced the key policy rates by 25 bps each in the last three monetary policy review meetings.

"The current growth-inflation mix has been favourable for counter-cyclical monetary stance. With inflation at sub-4% in foreseeable future, the MPC [monetary policy committee] will likely focus on tackling weaker growth dynamics as output gap appears to have widened. We see more easing in the offing, with cut beyond 25 bps in August being data-dependent," said Madhavi Arora, Economist, Edelweiss Securities.

The central bank will announce the outcome of its next monetary policy review on August 7.

Nielsen cuts FMCG growth forecast to 9-10%

Softening demand across food, non-food categories; impact more in rural areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Market research firm Nielsen has lowered its growth forecast for the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector to about 9-10% in 2019, from the earlier expectation of 11-12%, on the back of softening demand across all food and non-food categories.

In a report released on Wednesday, Nielsen also noted that the impact of slowdown was seen more in rural areas than urban.

Rural India

Rural India accounts for nearly 37% of overall FMCG spends, and has been growing around 3-5 percentage points faster than urban on account of increasing affordability, availability and demand.

"However, rural growth is slowing down at double the rate of urban in recent quarters," the report said.

Tasty growth: Nielsen expects food categories to grow at a higher rate at 10-11%. ▪ ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

The FMCG growth for H1 2019 (January-June) stands at 12% as against a prediction of 13-14%, the report said, adding that, "Based on an analysis of key factors, a revised forecast for the year-end of 2019 put all India FMCG growth to be in the 9%-10% range." Within this, the research firm expects food categories to grow at a higher rate at 10-11%, whereas personal care and home care are expected to grow in the 7-8% respectively.

2018 growth as expected

In 2018, the sector saw a growth of 13.6%, in line with an expectation of 13-14% growth. According to the report, in Q2 2019 (April-June), FMCG value growth dropped to 10% "inching towards a slowdown."

"At the beginning of the year, we saw softening driven by essential and impulse food categories, however, this quarter has witnessed a slowdown across all food as well as non-food categories with salty snacks, biscuits, spices, toilet soaps, and packaged tea leading the slowdown," it said.

The report noted that Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Assam were leading the slowdown.

IN BRIEF

DCB Bank shares plunge 16% post Q1 earnings

NEW DELHI

Shares of DCB Bank plunged by over 16% on Wednesday after the company witnessed a rise in its bad loans proportion during the quarter ended June 30. The scrip tanked 16.39% to close at ₹199.65 on the BSE. The bank on Tuesday reported a rise of 17% in its net profit to ₹81 crore for the first quarter ended June 30. The bank's net profit in the April-June 2018 quarter had stood at ₹70 crore. PTI

L&T arm-led JV bags key order from GIDC

NEW DELHI

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Wednesday said its arm L&T Construction-led joint venture had bagged a contract for desalination plant from the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC). "The water and effluent treatment business of L&T Construction and Tecton Engineering and Construction LLC, UAE JV have secured a prestigious contract for a 100 MLD desalination plant from GIDC," L&T said. PTI

EVs a huge opportunity for India, says Kant

NEW DELHI

The electric vehicle (EV) segment is a big opportunity for Indian manufacturers and they should look at not only producing such models for the domestic market but also exports, NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant said on Wednesday. "Electric vehicles are a sunrise opportunity as India has over 72% two-wheelers; our endeavour should be to make these electric, and also manufacture EVs for the world, in India," he said. PTI

'Digitally skilling talent pool is a priority'

Requirement will rise to 2.3-2.7 million digitally-skilled professionals during 2023: Nasscom

SANGEETHA KANDAVEL
CHENNAI

IT lobby Nasscom has indicated that the demand for digitally-skilled workforce will rise at 35% compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) between FY 2019-2023.

"During financial year 2023, at our current trajectory, the requirement will rise to 2.3-2.7 million digitally-skilled professionals," said Kirti Seth, Industry Lead, Futureskills, Nasscom, on the sidelines of their annual HR summit in the city.

NASSCOM had also bookmarked skilling as its top priority for the next three years. To do this, the immediate objectives include transforming 100 universities to supply digital talent, upskilling four million professionals by 2025 and driving the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) transformation and ensuring its implementation across the industry.

For a new era: Efforts are on to build professional skills along with technical skills, says Debjani Ghosh. ▪ K. PICHUMANI

"STEAM includes arts - we need to bring in human skills too," Debjani Ghosh, president, Nasscom, said. Efforts are also being made to build professional skills along with technical skills that are critical, she added.

"If we don't fix the problem of talent pool immediately, there will be a point where companies are going to start hiring from each other. That's going to have a big impact on wages and will redefine the competition landscape for companies," said Ms. Ghosh.

Rising investments

According to Nasscom, the industry is witnessing rising investments towards digital skilling initiatives in technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), data science, cybersecurity, cloud, blockchain and several other segments.

The Indian IT-ITeS industry's digital talent base has been growing in excess of 20% YoY and today, there is an installed talent base of around 2.6 lakh in cloud computing, 1.85 lakh in AI and big data analytics, 1.85 lakh in social media and mobile platforms and 1.7 lakh in IoT.

Ms. Seth said that there were more than 100 universities and firms that have nominated their talent to be reskilled using the Futureskills platform. The platform has over 30 partners developing over 40,000 content pieces and an additional 6,500 content pieces are being curated by domain experts from the industry and academia.

Digital skilling is now being recognised as a KRA (key result area)in business scorecard by few companies in India.

Jaypee insolvency: IDBI Bank told to furnish conditions for fresh bids

Flats for all allottees as per pact: NCLAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Wednesday directed IDBI Bank, the lead lender of the debt-ridden Jaypee Infratech, to file an affidavit listing out new terms and conditions if a fresh bidding process is conducted.

A two-member bench, headed by Chairman Justice S.J. Mukhopadhaya, asked the bank to file an affidavit by Friday in this regard. The appellate tribunal listed the matter for the next hearing on Monday. "We allow the learned counsel of the lenders [banks and financial institutions] to file an affidavit by July 19, 2019, showing terms and conditions, as may be imposed, if fresh resolution plans are allowed to be accepted," the bench said. In the second round of bidding, the committee of creditors (CoC) had first rejected the resolution plan of Suraksha Realty and then voted against State-owned NBCC's offer.

In the voting that took place on NBCC's bid, 34.75% of home buyers voted in favour, 1.44% voted against, whereas 23.8% did not vote.

All the 13 banks, which constitute 40.75% of the CoC, voted against the bid by the state-run firm to acquire Jaypee Infratech. Home buyers have nearly 60% voting rights in the CoC. In its hearing on Wednesday, the appellate tribunal suggested some guidelines for new terms and conditions. "All allottees would be given flats according to their builder buyer agreement. If allottee [is] not present, then CoC has to decide how it has to be adjusted," the bench said.

"Land attached to the building and with common area amenities would remain with the allottees," it added.

'Improve bid'

Meanwhile, NCLAT also orally suggested to the counsel representing the Adani Group to improve its bid. Adani has made an unsolicited offer to acquire the debt-laden realty firm.

During the proceedings, lenders submitted that the period between September 17, 2018 and June 4, 2019 should be excluded for the purpose of counting mandatory 270 days to complete the resolution process as the issue related to voting share of allottees was pending before the Allahabad Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

Banks and financial institutions submitted that there was confusion regarding voting shares of the allottees and for its clarification they had approached the NCLT on September 17, 2018.

At NCLT, there was difference of opinion between members and it was referred to a third member and the issue was finally decided on June 4, 2019.

'Steel makers may see their margins hit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Steel manufacturers, especially non-integrated players, may see their margins coming under pressure on account of high iron ore prices, according to a Crisil research report.

The report said that iron ore prices, which contribute to around 15% of the total operating cost for non-integrated steel makers, are expected to rise ahead of the upcoming auctions and elevated global prices. As a result, this segment will see margins squeezed.

Iron ore leases, accounting for 30% of India's and half of Odisha's production, would expire in 2020, it noted.

L&T Infotech acquires AI firm Lymbyc for ₹38 crore

Acquisition will boost LTI's digital, analytics offerings.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Larsen & Toubro Infotech Ltd has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Lymbyc, a specialist AI, machine learning, and advanced analytics company to strengthen it's digital and analytics offerings.

The enterprise value for 100% share capital of Lymbyc is ₹38 crore on a cash-free, debt-free basis, which will be paid as a combination of upfront and three-year earn-out payments, said the company in a filing to the exchanges. The consideration value is subject to working capital adjustments.

Founded in 2012, Bengaluru-headquartered Lymbyc has customers in the U.S., U.K., Africa, and India and is known for its capabilities in analytics and data sciences space.

Sanjay Jalona, chief executive officer and managing director, LTI, said: "We believe self-service capabilities for AI and advanced analytics will be the next wave of disruption in the market place, and Lymbyc brings this capability to our Mosaic platform."

With growing dependence on data, global enterprises need to be better at data discovery, agile analytics and ability to process large data sets. Lymbyc's expertise in these spheres will enhance LTI's Mosaic platform to provide differentiated analytics solutions in a SaaS model, said the statement.

Satyakam Mohanty, founder and CEO, Lymbyc said: "With AI becoming increasingly mainstream, we are excited to join hands with LTI and to help a larger and richer set of clients. Leni, our AI-based virtual analyst, is perfectly suited to deliver better value to business users and maximise their information and analytics investments."

Lymbyc is the fifth acquisition by LTI since the company got listed in 2016.

Care Ratings MD and CEO sent on leave

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Care Ratings on Wednesday decided to send its MD and CEO Rajesh Mokashi on leave after an anonymous complaint to SEBI, the rating agency informed the exchanges.

Care said while an inquiry was on following the complaint, the board decided to send Mr. Mokashi on leave with immediate effect, pending the inquiry.

The board of the rating agency has appointed T.N. Arun Kumar, currently the executive director (Ratings) as the interim chief executive officer. "He [Mr. Kumar] will not be a part of the ratings operation to ensure independence of ratings," Care said.

TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT
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THE HINDU

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Ministry of Railways
(Workshop Projects) STORES BRANCH
TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF STORES

Online **"e-open tender"** through Indian Railways e-procurement portal (IREPS) www.ireps.gov.in are invited, for and on behalf of the President of India, for the following stores:-

Tender No.	Closing date/ time of tender	Short Description	Qty.	EMD amount	Tender document cost
PS185013B	02.08.2019 14.45 Hrs	Wagon Trestles Mobile	36 Set	Rs. 59,480/-	Nil

Note :- 1. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit IREPS Portal www.ireps.gov.in This tender notice is also available on the official website of Workshop Projects Organization Patna www.workshopprojects.org **2.** The prospective firms / bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS portal (www.ireps.gov.in) for updates including addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such notice / information concerned that shall be published in newspapers.

PR/760/WP/Store/T/19-20/48 Principal Chief Materials Manager, Workshop Projects, Patna

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative officer/Const./ Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet system for the under noted work.

Mode of Tender	E-Tender (Two Packet)
Tender Notice No.	74-W/1/1/508/WA/UMB Dated: 16.07.2019
Full name of work	Construction of limited height subway (by pushing method) in lieu of LC No. 85-A, 90, 92, 94, 95 & 96 on Delhi - Ambala section of Delhi Division and at Km. 43/569.960 near ROB (B-40) at Malerkotla on LDH-DUI section of Ambala Division.
Approx. Cost	Rs. 2571.14 Lacs
Completion period	12 (Twelve) Months
Earnest Money amount	Rs. 14,35,600.00
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 18.07.2019 to 08.08.2019 upto 11.30 hrs.
Last date/ time of upload of tenders	08.08.2019 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 24.07.2019 to 08.08.2019
Date and time of opening of tender	08.08.2019 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date & time to be notified later on

Tender Notice No. 74-W/1/1/508/WA/UMB Dated: 16.07.2019 **2296/19**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one person namely Ramesh, S/o Shri Jitan Singh, R/o Unknown, Age 48 years, Height 5'4", Complexion Shallow, Wearing Red colour T-shirt, sleti colour half lower and bare footed was found dead at Rain Basera, Geeta Ghat No. 243/44, Kudeshiya Park, Civil Lines, Delhi on 10.07.19. In this regard a DD No. 10-A dated 10.07.19 has been lodged at PS Civil Lines, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned.

SHO
PS: Civil Lines, Delhi
Ph.: 23815444, 23817100

DP/240/N/19

THE HINDU
LET US KNOW YOU BETTER
Your feedback is valuable to us.
Please scan the QR code or visit
www.thehindu.com/feedback
You may call us at toll free 1800 3000 1878 or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
3rd FLOOR, PRAGATI SADAN, KUTCHERY CHOWK, RANCHI 834 001, JHARKHAND.
PH: +91 651 2225878, E-MAIL: juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

NIT No.:29 **Date: 15.07.2018**

VERY SHORT TENDER NOTICE

1	Name of the work	NOTICE INVITED FOR SERVICES PROVIDER (AGENCY / FIRM / COMPANY) TO CONDUCT ONLINE EXAMINATIONS UNDER JUIDCO LTD.
2	Mode of submission of bid	Offline
3	Tender fee	Rs. 1,000/- (Demand Draft in the favour of JUIDCO LTD, Ranchi)
4	Earnest Money	Rs. 20,000/- (Demand Draft in the favour of JUIDCO LTD, Ranchi)
5	Date of start of submission of Bids	16.07.2019
6	Last Date of Bid Submission	23.07.2019 upto 12:00 Noon
8	Date of Bid Opening	23/07/2019 at 3:00 PM (Technical Bid)
9	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited (JUIDCO Ltd), Pragati Sadan (RRDA Building) Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi 834001
10	Helpline details for procurement cell	0651 2225878 juidcolimited@gmail.com / mhr.juidco@gmail.com

Further details can be seen on websitejuidco.jharkhand.gov.in/ udhd.jharkhand.gov.in *under Tender Link.*

Sd/-
(D. D. Mishra)
Project Director (Administration)

PR 211754 (Urban Development) 19-20 (D)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

S.N.: 1. **Name of work with its location:** Signalling work in connection with traffic facility & development of goods platform at DKZ & DBSI Railway station. **App. Cost of the work:** Rs. 29,87,488/- only. **Tender Inviting Officer Address:** Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/II, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055. **Tender Document Fee:** Rs. 3,540/- only. **Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 59,800/- only. **Date & Time for Closed of tender:** Tender uploaded date & time- 07.08.2019 up to 15:00 hrs. **Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.:** See the N.Rly. website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. **No.: 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/1286 Dated: 17.07.2019.** **2311/2019**

Serving Customers with a Smile

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an **unidentified dead body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found on 08.07.2019 at under Railway Bridge, Near Iron Bridge, Yamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.** In this regard proceeding **FIR No. 183/19, dated 08.07.2019** has been lodged at Police Satation Kasmere Gate, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 45 Year, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: White T-Shirt, Blue Jeans & Bare Footed.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station, Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123

DP/239/N/19

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA SRINAGAR
Department of Materials Management (Imports Section)
Soura , Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir 190011
E-mail: ammoimports@skims.ac.in Fax 0194-2403403

NOTICE

Subject :- Procurement / Upgradation of Harmonic scalpel (Generator) from M/s Johnson & Johnson.

SKIMS has received an offer from M/s Johnson & Johnson regarding upgradation of existing Harmonic Scalpel (Generator) (Model : Gen-04) (04 Units) to New generator (Model: Gen 11) being their proprietary item as claimed by them.

In this connection, objections (if any) from companies manufacturing / marketing similar equipment capable of delivering the same result as intended from the above equipment, regarding the proprietary nature of the above equipment should be communicated within 15 days on the above mentioned email id after which the claim of the company who has claimed for the proprietorship of the equipment shall be accepted.

No: SIMS-324-106-2011-Eq-3203-07-3293-3296
Dated:- 16.07.2019
No: SIMS-3296,Dated:- 17.07.2019

Sd/-
Asstt. Material Management officer Imports

Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads
Chief Engineer (Shimla Zone) HPPWD Nirman Bhawan Nigam Vihar, Shimla H.P., 171002
BHARAT NIRMAN
UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice

The Government of India has received a loan/ credit number "Ln 7995-IN/Cr.4848-IN/Cr.4849-IN" from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/ International Development Association towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) Batch-II and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed in the Table below. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.
For further details, please log on to htt://pmgsytenderhp.gov.in.

Sr. No	Name of Distt.	Package No.	Name of work	Period of construction in Days	Estimated Cost: Construction part Rs.	Estimated Cost: Maintenance part Rs.	Bid security	Cost of form
1.	Kullu	HP-06-334	C/O Link road from Kalog to Shilli Himri (Koil to Bashala) Km 0/000 to 14/800 (SH: F/C 5/7 mtr wide i/c dumping site, R/walls, B/walls, CD works in various RDs, Soling, Km stone, Logo board and essential parapets etc.)	510	102883804	0	2058000	5000
2.	Kullu	HP-06-347	C/O Link road from Muhan to Marech Km 0/000 to 4/375 (SH: F/C 5/7 mtr wide i/c passing places, R/walls, B/walls, CD works in various RDs, Soling, Km stone, Logo board and essential parapets etc.)	510	34064161	0	682000	5000
3.	Kullu	HP-06-348	C/O link road from Jaon to Bucher Km 0/000 to 5/000 (SH: M/T, R/walls, B/walls, CD works, drain and parapets etc.i/c five year maintenance)	510	33806547	2581450	728000	5000
4.	Kullu	HP-06-345	C/O link road from Pazenda to Shamani Km 0/000 to 5/300 (SH: M/T, R/walls, B/walls, CD works, drain and parapets etc. i/c five year maintenance)	510	26460219	3064698	591000	5000
5.	Kullu	HP-06-344	C/O link road from Kandugad to Patarna Km 0/000 to 11/195 (SH: M/T, R/walls, B/walls, CD works, drain and parapets etc. i/c five year maintenance)	510	48935427	6473453	1109000	5000

The Superintending Engineer 11th Circle HPPWD Rampur Distt Kullu on behalf of Governor Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the district of Shimla 5 number of package with estimated cost totaling to Rs.**2582.69 lacs** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with HPPWD/ CPWD/P&T, Railways/ other State Govt./ Central Govt. agencies. On-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 18th July 2019.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submissions: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder would be to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The technical bid shall be opened in the office of Superintending Engineer, 11th Circle, HPPWD, Rampur Bushahr on 13.08.2019. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with Concerned Executive Engineer, HPPWD, on a date not later than two working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the technical bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: Date 09th August 2019 upto 1700 Hours and will be opened on 13th August 2019 at 1100 hours.

The Financial bids shall be opened in the office of Chief Engineer (Shimla Zone) HPPWD Shimla (Date and Time will be intimated).

For further details please log on to http://pmgsytenders.gov.in.
The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the tender without declaring any reason.

Superintending Engineer
11th Circle HPPWD.,
Rampur Bushahr
Distt. Shimla (HP)
Fax: 01782-233167
Tel: 01782-233044

HP/1047/19-20

Did 'cricketing sense' prevail in World Cup final?

England was awarded an extra run in the last over, which proved crucial in the final analysis

KARTIKEYA DATE

Contentious: Ben Stokes offers an apology after the ball sped away to the fence, deflecting off his bat. Experts are of the view that since the batsmen hadn't crossed each other on a second run, it should have been only five runs instead of six. ▪ AP

In Sunday's Cricket World Cup final, England's Ben Stokes hit the fourth ball of Trent Boult's final over to deep midwicket. New Zealand's Martin Guptill fielded the ball and threw it to the striker's end, where Stokes was returning for a second run. As Stokes dived to make his ground, the throw hit his outstretched bat and the ball was deflected away to the boundary. The umpires awarded England six runs – two for the shot and four overthrows – and Stokes was back on strike for the next ball.

Under the laws of cricket, the English side should have been awarded five runs, not six, and Stokes should have been at the non-striker's end when the next ball was bowled. Veteran umpire Simon Taufel termed the decision to award England six runs, a move on which there has been much debate over the last two days, a "clear mistake". After all, it occurred in the last over of the World Cup final, which ended in a tie.

According to the 'Laws of Cricket', runs and boundaries are two distinct types of scoring. Runs (Law 18) are based on an action by the batsman. To complete a run, the two batsmen must cross each other and reach the opposite end. Boundaries (Law 19) are based on where (and how) the ball goes. A boundary is scored when the ball crosses the boundary line. This distinction is the first of two crucial points to understanding why *that* decision in the final was wrong.

The 'dead ball law'

Each delivery begins when the bowler starts his run-up and ends when the ball goes dead.

The circumstances under which a delivery is considered complete are specified under the 'dead ball law' (Law 20). When the ball is grounded outside the boundary, the ball is 'dead'. This means that on the given delivery, no further runs or dismissals may be attempted. Let's say a batsman hits a cover drive and the ball begins rolling towards the boundary rope. The batsmen run two. If the ball crosses the line, it is dead – a boundary is declared and the batsman gets four. If the ball gets fielded, the batsman gets two.

The ball is presumed dead once the ball has "finally settled" with the wicketkeeper or bowler. The play is evaluated based on how it ends. If the ball reaches the boundary, the team gets four runs, and not four plus the two which the batsmen ran. Whatever the batsmen ran between the moment the ball was hit and the moment the ball crossed the boundary is set aside.

An overthrow (Law 19.8) is logically identical. If the overthrow goes for a boundary, all action by the batsmen between the "instant of the throw" and the moment it crosses the boundary is set aside and a boundary is awarded. Additionally, the runs completed prior to the "instant of the throw" are also awarded.

The batsmen didn't cross

Video evidence shows that Stokes and Adil Rashid had completed one run and turned for the second when Guptill made the throw. Crucially, the "instant of the throw" was *before* the two batsmen crossed. Had the throw been made *after* the two batsman crossed, the correct award would have been six runs. Since they didn't cross, the correct award should have been one-plus-four runs. Further, Rashid should have taken strike the next ball.

It must be noted that this is a very difficult thing for the two on-field umpires to judge, especially when the throw is made from the boundary. It would help if the TV umpire could intervene. But under the terms of the TV umpire's remit, such an intervention is not currently permitted unless it is requested from the field of play.

One widely held misconception is on the deflection off Stokes' bat. Under the Laws, such an accidental deflection is of no significance except when it hits the extra helmets behind the wicketkeeper (and if the ball hits the SpiderCam). After any other deflection, the ball remains in play. If Stokes had been judged to have deliberately made contact with the throw (he didn't), he would have been given out for 'Obstructing the Field'.

The Laws of Cricket are unambiguous. But they have to be understood as a system. Without such an understanding, one law can appear to contradict another. 'Cricketing sense' comes from the system of laws and not from any law in particular.

Don't add four overthrows, Stokes told umpires

Anderson reveals the all-rounder's conversation with match officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

England World Cup hero Ben Stokes asked the umpires to take away the four overthrows that proved decisive during the summit clash win over New Zealand on Sunday, according to his Test teammate James 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 eight.

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

"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 Tailenders 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."

Stokes said he might have to say sorry "for the rest of my life" for the extra runs which he labelled "fluke".

Kapil Dev-led panel could pick the coach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Kapil Dev. ▪ V.V. KRISHNAN

The Kapil Dev-led *ad-hoc* committee coould pick the next National team coach but a final decision on the panel formation would be taken only after the next Supreme Court hearing. The application deadline for all the coaching roles is July 30.

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) had asked the court for directions on the continuation of Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman.

However, if there is no directive from the court on the CAC, the CoA might be left with no other alternative but task the Kapil Dev-led committee with picking the coach.

The *ad-hoc* body comprising former India captain Kapil, Aunshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy had appointed W.V. Raman as the Indian women's team coach in December.

On Tuesday, the BCCI has 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.

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.

Pandey and Krunal help India-A clinch the series

The visitors take an unassailable 3-0 lead with a thumping win in the third one-dayer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ANTIGUA

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 six in its 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 century off just 87 deliveries. He also added a solid 110 runs with Hanuma Vihari (29) for the fourth wicket.

Manish Pandey ▪ FIEL PHOTO

Krunal Pandya. ▪ FILE PHTO

Chasing 296 for a win, the home team got off to a decent start with John Campbell (21) and Sunil Ambris (30) putting on 51 runs together for the opening wicket.

Spinning a web

But soon, Krunal (five for 25) ran through their batting line-up with a fifer to bowl West Indies-A out for below 150 runs. Lower down the order, Keemo Paul (34) tried to put up some resistance but in the end it was a comfortable victory for the Indians.

The fourth and fifth unofficial ODIs between the two sides will be played at Coolidge on Friday and Sunday.

The scores: India-A 295 for six in 50 overs (Shubman Gill 77, Shreyas Iyer 47, Manish Pandey 100) bt West Indies-A 147 in 34.2 overs (Keemo Paul 34, Krunal Pandya five for 25).

Roy earns Test call-up

Ireland game will help England prepare for the Ashes series

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

England has give 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.

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 which starts on August 1 at Edgbaston against Australia.

However, Durham's Wood, who has a left side strain, and Sussex paceman Jofra Archer, suffering from a similar same injury, were not selected for the Ireland clash.**The squad:** Joe Root (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Jimmy Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Sam Curran, Joe Denly, Lewis Gregory, Jack Leach, Jason Roy, Olly Stone and Chris Woakes.

Jason Roy. ▪ DAVID ROGERS/GETTY IMAGES

The Ashes schedule

First Test: Aug. 1 to 5, **Edgbaston** (Birmingham)

Second Test: Aug. 14 to 18, **Lord's** (London)

Third Test: Aug. 22 to 26, **Headingley** (Leeds)

Fourth Test: Sept. 4 to 8, **Old Trafford** (Manchester)

Fifth Test: Sept. 12 to 16, **The Oval** (London)

All matches start as 3.30 p.m. (IST)

Shastri praises Williamson

Ravi Shastri. ▪ REUTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

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.

"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 (sic). God bless," Shastri wrote on his twitter handle.

India gets relatively easy draw

Coach Stimac, however, terms it a very tough challenge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KUALA LUMPUR

The Indian football team was on 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.

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," Stimac said.

"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. The two teams which are playing the final (Tajikistan, and DPR Korea) are the lowest FIFA ranked teams in the tournament. That shows that everyone can beat everyone," he said.

"I will teach the team to respect the opposition, but when we step on to the pitch, we will do everything to win. We are just at the beginning of our journey. I hope that it will be a long one," he added.

India's schedule

September 5: vs Oman (H)

September 10: vs Qatar (A)

October 15: vs Bangladesh (H)

November 14: vs Afghanistan (A)

November 19: vs Oman (A)

March 26: vs Qatar (H)

June 4: vs Bangladesh (A)

June 9: vs Afghanistan (H)

(H): Home; (A): Away

Think-tank: Coach Igor Stimac will bank on Sunil Chhetri to lead the way for India. ▪ COURTESY AIFF

Ewan on top in a frenetic finish

No change in the overall leading positions

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-FRANCE
TOULOUSE

Australian Caleb Ewan picked up his first Tour de France stage win in a mass sprint at Toulouse on Wednesday as Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe kept the overall lead.

With defending champion Geraint Thomas and his Ineos teammate Egan Bernal also finishing in the pack, there was no change in the overall top three after a 167km run from Albi to Toulouse, marked by a fall that forced Nairo Quintana into a successful race to catch up.

Ewan timed his explosive burst to perfection, catching and overtaking Dutch sprinter Dylan Groenewegen right on the line after a long home straight. Elia Viviani was third on a finish designed for the pure sprinters.

Finally...

"It took me half the Tour de France to get my win, but I got it in the end," said Ewan. "I let him go, caught his wheel and just had him on the line," explained, the stocky 25-year-old.

Pipped at the line: Caleb Ewan, left, timed an explosive final push to perfection to edge out Dylan Groenewegen. ▪ AFP

In his first season with the Lotto-Soudal team, Ewan has now won stages on all three Grand Tours after three wins on the Giro and one on the Vuelta.

It was a narrow win with the photo-finish, which takes thousands of shots a second from both sides at the finish line, showing a marginal victory.

Sprint points leader Peter sagan of Slovakia kept his green jersey after finishing fourth behind Ewan. "I congratulate him, he's too fast for me on that kind of course, said the 30-year-old Sagan.

Colombian Bernal kept hold of the under-25's white jersey and said Ineos would remain calm in its quest for the yellow jersey.

"We won't be attacking just yet, but I feel good going into the mountains" said Bernal, on his second Tour.

Inzamam steps down as chief selector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Pakistan chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq stepped down as the chief selector on Wednesday, but was open to take up any new assignment from the Cricket Board. The 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 in 2023, I believe it is the right time for the Pakistan Cricket Board to appoint a new chief selector," Inzamam said.

Koepka punts on inside knowledge to land him another Major

Says he has a big advantage as his caddie Elliott is a local and is quite familiar with the course

THE OPEN 148TH ROYAL PORTRUSH

Ready to fire: Brooks Koepka feels that caddie Ricky Elliott could well prove to be his trump card. ▪ AP

REUTERS
PORTRUSH (NORTHERN IRELAND)

American Brooks Koepka believes he has a "big advantage" in this week's British Open in the form of his local-born caddie who grew up playing on Royal Portrush.

Such is four-time Major winner Koepka's belief that caddie Ricky Elliott can give him valuable "inside info" on the course that he even ignored a practice round invitation from Tiger Woods.

Elliott was a promising young amateur player, winning the Ulster Boys' and Ulster Youths' Championships but struggled when he turned professional and switched to caddying in the U.S. But he remains a well-known figure in Portrush and while he has spent the past six years travelling the world on Koepka's bag, his parents Pat and Martha still live in the town and his brother Peter is the owner of a golf shop in nearby Coleraine.

68-year gap

The Open is being held at Portrush for the second time – 68 years after the only other occasion the Northern Ireland venue held the Major.

That means few players have the intimate knowledge of the links course that Elliott possesses.

"Luckily my caddie has played this golf course I can't tell you how many times, so that's a big advantage," Koepka told a news conference on Tuesday.

"Every hole I just step up on, (I say) 'You tell me what to do, you've played it more than anybody'. So just let him figure it out."

Woods, who has never played Portrush, said he had tried to set up a practice round with Brooks but got nowhere.

"I texted Brooksie, congratulations on another great finish. What he's done in the last four Major championships has been just unbelievable. To be so consistent, so solid," Woods said.

"And I said, 'Hey, dude, do you mind if I tag along and play a practice round?' I've heard nothing," he said with a grin.

Koepka may have won four Majors in the last two years, including a second straight PGA Championship at Bethpage Black in May, but he said the large crowds at practice have been more focused on his hired help.

"I probably hear more, 'Ricky! Hey, Ricky, whats going on?' than anything. I'm sure he'll have quite a bit of friends and family out. It will be a special week for him, for sure," he said.

'Nothing cooler'

It would be even more special if he happened to pick up the bonus for Koepka's first Open.

"There would be nothing cooler. Put it this way, I don't think when he grew up that he ever thought there would be an Open Championship here. And to top it off, I don't think he ever thought he'd be a part of it," Koepka said.

"And to be caddying and to be able to win one here would be – he'd be a legend, wouldn't he? He already is. But it would be cool to see him win."

The Open facts

Most number of British Open titles: Harry Vardon (6 times)

Lowest winning score: 264 (20-under par) - Henrik Stenson, at Royal Troon, 2016

Lowest 18-hole score: 62 - Branden Grace, third round, at Royal Birkdale, 2017

Largest margin of victory: 13 strokes - Old Tom Morris, 1862

Most appearances: 46 - Gary Player

Most frequently used venue: St. Andrews (29)

- The 2019 Open Championship will be held at Royal Portrush Golf Club in Northern Ireland.
- A total of 14 courses have hosted the Open, with 10 currently active

2019 favourites: Rory McIlroy, Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Jon Rahm, Tiger Woods

Defending champion: Francesco Molinari

- COMPILED BY ASHWIN ACHAL

McIlroy and a five-year drought

Irishman hopes the 'home' environment will do the trick

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PORTRUSH

Rory McIlroy said on Wednesday that he was not feeling extra pressure this week as the British Open returns to Northern Ireland for the first time since 1951, and hoped that the home fans can help him end a five-year Major drought.

The World No. 3 is the bookmakers' favourite to lift the Claret Jug for the second time, on Sunday, despite not having claimed a Major title since the 2014 PGA Championship.

He said in the past he struggled being the focus of attention at the Irish Opens,

Rory McIlroy. ▪ REUTERS

although he did win a tournament in 2016.

"I think it's probably easier this week because it's such a big tournament," said McIlroy, who opens his title tilt at Royal Portrush on Thursday alongside US Open winner Gary Woodland and England's Paul Casey.

"You've got the best players in the world here, and I don't feel like I'm the centre of attention.

"I'm here to enjoy myself. Hopefully, it doesn't take another 68 years for the tournament to come back here. But at the same time, I mightn't get an opportunity to play an Open Championship here again. I'm really just treating it as a wonderful experience and one that I really want to enjoy.

Tiger Woods defends his lack of competitive golf

I made a conscious effort to cut back on my schedule, he says ahead of the British Open

REUTERS
PORTRUSH (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Tiger Woods has shrugged off concerns about his lack of golf heading into this week's British Open, saying he needs to carefully manage the remaining years of his career.

Woods has played only 10 competitive rounds since winning the Masters in April and his last tournament start was at the U.S Open.

By the time the 43-year-old tees up on Thursday, he will have gone 32 days without playing competitively.

"Last year, I played too much. I played 17 events," Woods told a news conference on Tuesday. "And a lot of it was trying to qualify for certain events.

Conscious effort

"So this year I made a conscious effort to cut back on my schedule to make sure that I don't play too much. I want to play here as long as I possibly can. And you have to understand, if I play a lot, I won't be out here that long," the American former world number one said.

"So it's understanding how much I can play, prepping how much I do at home and getting ready. And that's the tricky part is trying to determine how much tournament play I need to get the feel for the shots and also understanding where my body is," Woods added.

Back on the greens: After a month without playing golf, Tiger Woods practises on the eve of the 148th Open. ▪ STUART FRANKLIN/GETTY IMAGES

"I'm trying to figure it out and trying to play enough golf to where that I can compete and win events."

Woods said his Masters victory took a lot out of him and he went on a two-week family vacation in Thailand after finishing tied for 21st at the U.S Open last month. "It's not quite as sharp as I'd like to have it right now," he said. "My touch around the greens is right where I need to have it. I still need to get the ball – the shape of the golf ball a little bit better than I am right now, especially with the weather coming in and the winds are going to be changing.

"I'm going to have to be able to cut the ball, draw the ball, hit at different heights and move it all around."

I am not finished yet, says Dutee Chand

She is yet to qualify for both this year's Worlds and 2020 Olympics

ATHLETICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Ace sprinter Dutee Chand on 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.

Answer to critics

Dutte 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 focused 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 in an interview.

Prime objective: Dutee Chand wants to keep her feet rooted and focus on the tougher tasks ahead. ▪ PTI

"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 focusing on my athletics more than even before," she added.

After winning the yellow metal at the World Universiade, she had also tweeted: "Pull me down, I will come back stronger!"

Focus on tougher tasks

Dutee also described her 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 Sept. 27-Oct. 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," she said.

The World Championships qualification 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.

Round-robin format will help: Titans coach

Believes it will open up competition

PKL

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Titans coach Gholamreza Mazandarani of Iran believes that the round-robin format of the Vivo ProKabaddi League this season should make the competition more open and will give equal chances for all teams.

"This is a format which gives a chance for team lagging behind in the early part of the league to come back strongly. However, we are confident of sustaining the momentum right from the word go and determined to win the title this time around," said the Iranian, who guided his national team to gold in the last Asian Games, on the sidelines of a promotional event here on Wednesday.

"We have a very strong balanced side with the likes of Siddharth Desai, Vishal Bharadwaj and having plugged some of the gaps during the preparations should one of the strong contenders," feels the Titans coach who trained U Mumba last season.

Gholamreza Mazandarani.

It is also informed that the feared right-corner defender, Aobzhar Mohajar Mighani, will lead Telugu Titans this season.

Telugu Titans team owner Srinivas Sreeramaneni hopes the sport will get a fillip as the modern, international and competitive face of kabaddi would be on show and which would benefit all stakeholders involved with the game.

Ramkumar claws back from the brink

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
NEWPORT

Qualifier Ramkumar Ramanathan bounced back from a precarious situation to turn the tables on Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine 5-7, 7-6(6), 6-2 to reach the pre-quarterfinals of the $652,245 ATP tournament on Tuesday.

After losing the first set, the 134th-ranked Ramkumar was down a break in the second before turning the match on its head.

In doubles, Leander Paes, seeded third with Marcus Daniell of New Zealand, won 10-5 in the super tie-break against the Aussies, Max Purcell and Luke Saville, in the pre-quarterfinals.

The results:

$652,245 ATP tournament, Newport, US: Singles (first round): Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Sergiy Stakhovsky (Ukr) 5-7, 7-6(6), 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Marcus Daniell (Nzl) & Leander Paes bt Max Purcell & Luke Saville (Aus) 2-6, 6-2, [10-5].

$135,400 Challenger, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan: Singles (second round): Matteo Viola (Ita) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-1, 2-6, 6-1; Arthur Rinderknech (Fra) bt Sasi Kumar Mukund 7-6(8), 7-6(5).

$250,000 WTA, Bucharest, Romania: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Irina Bara & Patricia Maria Tig (Rou) bt Cristina Bucsa (Esp) & Prarthana Thombare 6-2, 7-5.

$250,000 WTA, Lausanne, Switzerland: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Oksana Kalashnikova (Geo) & Ena Shibahara (Jpn) bt Rosalie Van Der Hoek (Ned) & Ankita Raina 3-6, 6-4, [10-6].

$25,000 ITF men, Gandia, Spain: Singles (first round): Sheil Kotecha (Ken) bt Aryan Goveas 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

$25,000 ITF women, Qujing, China: Singles (first round): YeHua Zhou (Chn) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-0, 6-1.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Shuyue Ma (Chn) & Alana Parnaby (Aus) bt Ho Ching Wu (Hkg) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-4, 6-4.

$25,000 ITF women, Palmela, Portugal: Singles (first round): Eva Fuerrero Alvarez (Esp) bt Sathwika SSama 6-2, 6-3.

Anas and Hima run to gold; silver for Nirmal and Vismaya in a weak field

On top: Muhammed Anas had the measure of fellow-Indians in the 400m. ▪ FILE PHOTO

TABOR GP

SPORTS BUREAU
TABOR (CZECH REPUBLIC)

It was virtually an all-India race as National record holder Muhammed Anas won the men's 400m gold in 45.40s at the Tabor Grand Prix here on Wednesday.

There were three Indians behind him with Nirmal Noah Tom clocking a season-best 45.59s for the silver while K.S. Jeevan and M.P. Jabir took the next two spots.

Britain's Grant Plenderleith was way behind, in 47.51s for the fifth place.

Hima Das (23.25s) and V.K. Vismaya (23.43) clocked their season best as they took the top two spots in the women's 200m.

The field in both the races was such a weak one that it would have been a surprise if the Indians had not won.

Season-best for Mallick

Meanwhile in Finland, National record holder Amiya Kumar Mallick won the men's 100m bronze clocking a season-best 10.55s in the Lapinlahti Grand Prix.

It was the first time Mallick, whose national record 10.26s came in 2016, was going below 11s this year. Malaysian Jonathan Nyepa (10.48s) and Rechmial Miller (10.52) finished ahead of the Indian.

The results (Indians only):

At Tabor: Men's 400m: 1. Muhammed Anas (45.40s), 2. Nirmal Noah Tom (45.59), 3. K.S. Jeevan (46.60), 4. M.P. Jabir (47.16).

Women's 400m: 1. Hima Das (23.25s), 2. V.K. Vismaya (23.43).

At Lapinlahti, Finland: Men's 100m: 3. Amiya Kumar Mallick (10.55s).

Unstoppable: Hima Das again struck it rich by claiming the 200m. ▪ FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

Atrachali is U Mumba skipper

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

U Mumba, on Wednesday, announced Iranian player Fazel Atrachali as its skipper for Season-7. The franchise also named Sandeep Narwal as the vice-captain.

"I am quite motivated to be selected to lead the U Mumba team. I want to lead the team to victory," Atrachali was quoted as saying in a media release.

TV PICKS

Indonesia Open: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.
The Open golf: DSport, 3.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Portrush set for record British Open attendance

PORTRUSH

The 148th British Open at Royal Portrush is set to become the second-highest attended tournament in history with 237,750 spectators expected across the week, the organisers said on Wednesday. The first Open to be held in Northern Ireland since 1951 will be the best-attended outside of St. Andrews.Despite bracing conditions on Wednesday with strong winds and driving rain, the locals continued to head to the course to watch the final practice day. AFP

Messi is the face of soccer: Griezmann

BARCELONA

Barcelona's last signing Antoine Griezmann said his new teammate Lionel Messi is the best footballer in the world and the face of the sport. "For me, he (Messi) is the number one, like Lebron (James) in basketball. They're the ideal," the French international forward said. "Messi is the face of soccer because he has something different that others don't have. We can only see (such talent) every 30 years or so."

Steve Bruce named Newcastle head coach

NEWCASTLE

Newcastle United announced on Wednesday that Steve Bruce has been appointed head coach following the departure of Rafael Benitez from the Premier League club. "Newcastle United can now announce that Steve Bruce has been appointed as the club's new head coach," the club said on its website, adding that the former Manchester United player had signed an initial three-year contract. AFP

Rithvik and Divya triumph

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU
TIRUCHENGODE

IM R. Raja Rithvik (Telangana) and WIM Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra) remained unbeaten throughout and emerged the champions of the National sub-junior (under-15) chess championship here on Wednesday.

Important results (final round, TN unless specified):

Open: Ajay Karthikeyan 7.5 lost to R. Raja Rithvik (TS) 9.5; Samant Aditya (Mah) 8 lost to Kushagra Mohan (TS) 9; PraloySahoo (WB) 7.5 lost to S. Rohith Krishna 8.5; V. Pranav 8.5 bt Sanket Chakravarty (WB) 7.5; AaryanVarshney (Del) 8.5 bt L. Srihari (Pud) 7.5; Nikhil Magizhnan 7.5 lost to Anadkat Kartavya (Guj) 8.5; M. Pranesh 7.5 drew with Devesh Anand Naik (Goa) 7.5; R. Rathneesh 7 lost to Aditya Varun Gampa (TS) 8; N. Vignesh 7 lost to Soham Kamotra (J&K) 8; Arjun Gupta (Del) 7.5 drew with P. Srikrishnan 7.5.

Girls: Jain Nityata (MP) 7.5 lost to Divya Deshmukh (Mah) 9.5; Bristy Mukherjee (WB) 8 drew with L. Jyothsna 8.5; Divyabharathi Masanam 7 lost to Mrudul Dehankar (Mah) 9; V. Rindhiya 7 lost to M. Sai Divya (AP) 8; M.K. Poorna Sri 7.5 drew with Arushi Kotwal (J&K) 7.5; Bhagyashree Patil (Mah) 7.5 drew with P. Tarunika 7.5; Nayanikaa Muralidharan 8 bt ChinnamVyshnavi (AP) 6.5; C. Tina 7 lost to Dhyana Patel (Guj) 7.5; V. Meenatchi Rajam 7 drew with Chopdekar Gunjal (Goa) 7; K.M. Shrija 7.5 bt Tanvi Vasudev Hadkonkar (Goa) 6.5.

Dominant show by Indians

Men and women's teams register thumping wins to top their groups

C'WEALTH TT

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

India's men and women registered thumping wins in the preliminary stage to top their respective groups and qualify for the Super Eights in style on the opening day of the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship.

So dominant were the Indian teams that in 12 matches that the men and women featured over four rubbers in all, the home team paddlers dropped just two games.

Comeback win: Sharath Kamal rallied well after losing the first game to douse the challenge of Singapore's Zheyu Clarence Chew. ▪ BISWARANJAN ROUT

Short work

Despite playing in a tricky group along with Scotland and the dangerous Singapore, A. Sharath Kamal's troupe made short work of both the teams without much fuss. Only Sharath lost the opening game against Singapore's Zheyu Clarence Chew but made a strong comeback to leave his opponent in awe.

The women, on the other hand, had an easy draw in the first stage. Despite resting Madhurika Patkar in both the ties and key paddler Manika Batra in the second, the women hardly broke any sweat while thrashing Sri Lanka and South Africa with an identical margin of 3-0. Ayhika Mukherjee lost the only game for the Indian women against Sri Lanka's Chamathsara Fernando.

More players arrive

Meanwhile, TTFI secretary-general M.P. Singh confirmed that five paddlers from Uganda and three from Guyana will arrive here latest by Friday and participate in the individual events. Both had to withdraw from the team championship since they didn't get the requisite approval from their respective governments.

It will result in the number of participating countries in the event increasing to 14. "More the merrier," he said.

Select results: Team championship (preliminary stage): Women: Group B: India bt Sri Lanka 3-0 (Manika Batra bt Bimandi Bandara 11-5, 11-4, 11-5; Archana Kamath bt Ishara Madurangi 11-5, 11-5, 12-10; Ayhika Mukherjee bt Chamathsara Fernando 11-3, 11-3, 8-11, 11-4).

India bt South Africa 3-0 (Archana Kamath bt Danisha Patel 11-6, 11-2, 11-2; Madhurika Patkar bt Palesa Mtshoelibe 11-2, 11-5, 11-3; Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Simeen Mookrey 11-1, 11-4, 11-4).

Sri Lanka bt South Africa 3-0.

Men: Group B: India bt Scotland 3-0 (G. Sathiyan bt Niall Cameron 11-4, 11-7, 11-8; A. Sharath Kamal bt Colin Dalgleish 11-2, 11-6, 11-9; Harmeet Desai bt Dylan Curry 11-2, 11-6, 11-1).

India bt Singapore 3-0 (G. Sathiyan bt Yu En Koen Pang 11-7, 11-9, 11-8; A. Sharath Kamal bt Zheyu Clarence Chew 8-11, 11-5, 11-4, 11-9; Harmeet Desai bt Shao Han Josh 11-4, 11-7, 11-6).

Qualifiers for Super Eights:

Women: Group A: Singapore, Wales; **Group B:** India, Sri Lanka; **Group C:** Australia, Malaysia; **Group D:** England, Nigeria.

Trying to maintain balance between career and passion

Biokineticist Danisha Patel has won five successive national table tennis titles in South Africa

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

Despite being a sporting nation, table tennis is far from popular in South Africa. No wonder then that the rainbow nation's top female paddler is known in her locality in suburban Johannesburg more for her highly specialised profession as a biokineticist than her five successive national championship titles.

But Danisha Patel has no qualms about it.

"Table tennis is way behind in terms of popularity and support in comparison with sports like soccer, rugby and cricket. Things are changing at a slow pace but unfortunately it's still considered a recreational activity more than a competitive sport," reveals the 26-year-old southpaw.

Love for the sport: Danisha Patel says table tennis is considered a recreational activity more than a competitive sport in South Africa. ▪ BISWARANJAN ROUT

Recognised domain

Biokinetics may still be in its nascent stages in terms of awareness in India, but Danisha reveals it is a recognised domain in South Africa.

"There is a lot of awareness about injury management and rehab, which is where biokinetics comes in, so my day is spent in dealing with clients who have suffered general and sports injuries," she says.

Having been working as a professional for five years, Danisha is trying to maintain balance between career and passion. But it's her career option, she says, that helps her emotivated towards pursuing her passion.

"I cannot train much due to my work commitments but I love the sport so much that I manage to train whenever I can. More importantly, since I spend most of the day in the gym, it helps me remain match-fit."

Relatives in Gujarat

A member of the vast Indian expat community in South Africa, Danisha has relatives in Navsari district in Gujarat. While she spent a few days in her ancestral place after competing in the Surat edition of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship in 2015, this time around, she is planning to spend four days in Pune along with her childhood friend.

"I like exploring India. I have been to south, and spent a good vacation on the house boats in Kerala. Now I am looking forward to exploring the western part and hopefully I can bump into one of the Bollywood stars, especially my favourite Sidharth Malhotra," she concludes with a wink.

Amazing Response for feature

HYDERABAD: Amazing Response, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Telangana Cup (1,200m), the main event of the opening day's races to be held here on Thursday (July 18).

1 WELCOME PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-30 p.m.: 1. Bar Et Law (6) Koushik 56, 2. Friday Fury (2) Nakhat Singh 56, 3. Linewiler (8) Umesh 56, 4. Ruletheworld (5) Suraj Narredu 56, 5. Artistryy (3) R.N. Darshan 54.5, 6. Giethorn (1) Kiran Naidu 54.5, 7. Kintsugi (4) Kuldeep Singh 54.5, 8. Mahashakti (9) Trevor 54.5 and 9. Star Of Tiara (7) Kunal Bande 54.5.
1. RULETHEWORLD,
2 . LINEWILER, 3. GIETHORN

2 RAMAPPA PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 2-00: 1. Dippy Dip (7) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Agilis (6) Surya Prakash 59.5, 3. Blazing Speed (4) Santosh Raj 59.5, 4. Smarty (2) S.G. Prasad 59, 5. Run Runner Run (5) Afroz Khan 58.5, 6. Cowboys Delight (9) Jitender Singh 58, 7. Story Teller (1) Nakhat Singh 58, 8. Escalating Striker (8) Umesh 56 and 9. Victoria (3) G. Naresh 53.
1. COWBOYS DELIGHT,
2. STORY TELLER, 3. SMARTY

3 WELCOME PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat.II), (Terms), 2-30: 1. Bedazzled (5) Deepak Singh 56, 2. Bob Campbell (7) Akshay Kumar 56, 3. Explosive (2) R. Ajinkya 56, 4. Glendale (3) Umesh 56, 5. Mind Reader (6) Nakhat Singh 56, 6. Star Envoy (1) Kiran Naidu 56, 7. Yours Forever (4) Surya Prakash 56 and 8. Original Temptress (8) S.G. Prasad 54.5.
1. STAR ENVOY,
2. YOURS FOREVER,
3. BOB CAMPBELL

4 S.S. CARDMASTER MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3-05: 1. Raajneeti (5) Deep Shanker 60, 2. Star Gazer (7) C.P. Bopanna 60, 3. Blazer (3) Suraj Narredu 58, 4. Treasure Striker (8) Kunal Bunde 58, 5. Royal Green (6) Gaurav Singh 56, 6. Solar Heights (1) Rafique Sk. 55, 7. Platts Tour (4) Ashhad Asbar 54.5, 8. Roll Call (9) Akahsy Kumar 54.5, 9. Batur (10) G. Naresh 54 and 10. Et Voici (2) Ajeeth Kumar 51.5.
1. ROLL CALL, 2. BLAZER,
3. ROYAL GREEN

5 GOLDEN DAGGER PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 3-35: 1. Ambitious Approach (6) Koushik 62, 2. Exclusivenorthwind (5) Akshay Kumar 62, 3. Classic Remark (1) Gaurav Singh 57, 4. Isabella (10) Suraj Narredu 55, 5. Magical Skill (2) C.P. Bopanna 54, 6. Meritocracy (4) B.R. Kumar 54, 7. Scooby Dooby Doo (8) Ajit Singh 54, 8. Araqonda Princess (9) Gopal Singh 53.5, 9. Southern Crown (3) Harinder Singh 52 and 10. Ashka Ashka Ashka (7) Abhay Singh 50.
1. EXCLUSIVENORTHWIND,
2. ISABELLA, 3. CLASSIC REMARK

6 TELANGANA CUP (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 75 & above (Cat. I), 4-05: 1. Like Wise (1) Nakhat Singh 60.5, 2. Prospero (2) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 3. That's My Class (4) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 4. Phenomenal Cruise (5) B. Nikhil 53.5, 5. Amazing Response (7) Akshay Kumar 53, 6. Chase Your Dreams (6) Ashhad Asbar 51.5 and 7. Starlight (3) P. Sai Kumar 50.
1. AMAZING RESPONSE,
2. THAT'S MY CLASS,
3. CHASE YOUR DREAMS

7 S.S. CARDMASTER MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4-35: 1. Super Dart (7) Deep Shanker 62, 2. Sea Castle (10) Ajeeth Kumar 59, 3. Asteria (2) Umesh 58.5, 4. Hailstorm (8) Santosh Raj 58.5, 5. Pontius Pilate (3) Trevor 56.5, 6. Shandaar (6) Ajit Singh 53.5, 7. N R I Vision (ex: Excellent Hope) (9) Abhay Singh 53.5, 8. News O' Star (1) R.N. Darshan 53.5, 9. Flying Spaghetti (11) Kuldeep Singh 53, 10. Rapid Fire (5) Akshay Kumar 53 and 11. Guiding Force (4) N. Rawal 50.
1. PONTIUS PILATE,
2. SUPER DART, 3. RAPID FIRE

8 LOOK OF EAGLES PLATE (1,100m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5-05: 1. Evon Von Brando (2) Surya Prakash 62, 2. Max (10) Umesh 62, 3. Aon Aon Aon (6) Koushik 61, 4. Celeritas (3) Kiran Naidu 60.5, 5. Private Empire (1) S.G. Prasad 60.5, 6. Vijays Singham (11) Suraj Narredu 60.5, 7. Satin Symphony (7) Ashhad Asbar 60, 8. Curcumin (8) Deepak Singh 56.5, 9. London Bridge (9) Santosh Raj 56.5,10. Ajmal Birju (12) Gopal Singh 54.5, 11. Hurricane (4) Abhay Singh 52.5 and 12. Stormy (5) Afroz Khan 52.5.
1. VIJAYS SINGHAM, 2. CELERITAS,
3. PRIVATE EMPIRE
Day's best: **VIJAYS SINGHAM**
Double: **RULETHEWORLD – ROLL CALL**
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 3, 4 & 5; (iii): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: all races.

Deepika Kumari bags silver

ARCHERY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TOKYO

India's top-ranked woman archer Deepika Kumari Wednesday clinched a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics test event afterlosing 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 medallist 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 won the second set 29-25, before three perfect 10s won her the gold.

The Indian women's team is yet to qualify for the next year's Olympics but Deepika said the exposure will help.

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.

Creditable show: Deepika found the going tough against the second seed and managed a silver. ▪ FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

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.

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 tiebreker.

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).

Bombayala loses

Laishram Bombayala Devi lost in the second round to Malayasia's Nur Aliya Ghapar 5-6 in a thrilling tiebreaker that was decided on who shot nearest to the bull's eye.

Subhankar and Rituparna advance

RUSSIA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
VLADIVOSTOK

Five Indians, including top seed Subhankar Dey and Rituparna Das advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of their respective singles competition at the Russian Open BWF Tour Super 100 tournament on Wednesday.

Subhankar defeated England's Hin Shun Wong 21-10 21-6, Siril Verma saw off local shuttler Sergey Sirant 21-15 12-21 21-11 and Rahul Yadav Chittaboina downed another Russian Anton Ivanov 21-5, 21-9.

In women's singles, Rituparna beat Singapore's Chua Hui Zhen Grace 21-12, 21-8 while Vrushali Gummadi defeated Russia's Alina Kurguzova 21-8 21-9.

Third seed Thuy Linh Nguyen of Vietnam defeated Riya Mookerjee 21-11, 21-19 while Lakshya Sen gave a walkover to Miha Ivanic of Slovenia.

A red and gold farewell for Bhaichung Bhutia likely

The former India captain has expressed a desire for ceremonial send-off

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia is likely to end his club career in East Bengal colours eight years after retiring from international football.

"Bhutia has announced his retirement from international football but not from club football. In the centenary year of East Bengal, he has expressed his desire to play for five minutes and announce his retirement from club football," said EB executive committee member Debabrata Sarkar at a press conference, to announce a series of programmes in the run-up to the club's centenary celebrations next year, here on Wednesday.

Sarkar, however, added that the final call of fielding Bhutia, for the ceremonial farewell, would be taken by EB coach Alejandro Menendez.

"The coach will decide when and where Bhaichung can play," said Sarkar in the presence of Bhutia.

Bhutia last donned the India colours in the AFC Asian Cup in Qatar in 2011. He could not achieve his goal of retiring from club football in EB colours in 2015 due to a knee injury.

Thanking East Bengal

Thanking EB for spotting him early, Bhutia – who would be honoured with 'Identifying and Nurturing the Icon' award – said, "I came here from Sikkim as a 17-year-old and I cried when I left behind my family. But I got a bigger family here and never became homesick-...Other than Mohun Bagan, no other club has made so much contribution to Indian football."

Bhutia said EB's Federation Cup semifinal win (in which he scored a hat-trick) over Mohun Bagan in 1997 and the overwhelming reception on landing here after winning the ASEAN Cup in Indonesia in 2003 were two unforgettable moments of his career for the club.

Two other former India captains, Manoranjan Bhttacharya and Bhaskar Ganguly, also expressed their gratitude to the club.

"My parents brought me to this world, but East Bengal gave me identity," said Bhattacharya.

Ganguly said, "I became the India captain because of my association with East Bengal."

Awards

Both will be honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award.

Iconic footballer P.K. Banerjee will be conferred the 'Coach of coaches' award.

Laldanmawia Ralte will get 'Best Footballer of the Year' award.

The highest honour, Bharat Gaurav Award, will be conferred on legendary cricket captain Kapil Dev.

Impressive start by Sindhu, Srikanth

INDONESIA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

Indian shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and K. 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 on Wednesday.

Sindhu and Srikanth prevailed over Japan's Aya Ohori and Kenta Nishimoto in the women's and men's singles respectively.

Fifth seed Sindhu, who is eyeing her first title of the season, defeated Ohori 11-21, 21-15, 21-15 while eighth seed Srikanth, who had made the India Open final this year, beat Nishimoto 21-14 21-13 in 38 minutes.

Indian results: Men's singles: K. Srikanth bt Kenta Nishimoto (Jpn) 21-14 21-13; Wing Ki Vincent (HKg) bt B. Sai Praneeth 21-15, 13-21, 21-10; Shi Yu Qi (Chn) bt H.S. Prannoy 19-21, 21-18, 22-20. **Women's singles:** P.V. Sindhu bt Aya Ohori (Jpn) -21, 21-15, 21-15. **Mixed doubles:** Winny Oktavina Kandow & Tontowi Ahmad (Ina) bt R. Satwiksairaj & Ashwini Ponnappa 21-13, 21-11.

Durand Cup football is back — bigger and better!

Oldest tournament in Asia will feature teams from ISL, I-League

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Durand Cup, the oldest football tournament in Asia, is being revived in a big way as teams from the ISL and I-League will compete for the coveted trophy.

The tournament, which witnessed its last edition in New Delhi three years ago, got a lease of life after the West Bengal government extended its support to the three services - Army, Navy and Air Force - which jointly organise the event.

The 129th edition will have five teams from the ISL - ATK, Jamshedpur FC, FC Goa, Chennaiyin FC and Bengaluru FC - and six from the I-League - defending champion Chennai City FC, East Bengal, Mohun Bagan, Gokulam Kerala FC, Real Kashmir FC and the newly promoted TRAU FC of Manipur.

Four Services teams

The four Services teams - Army Red, Army Green, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy - and another popular Kolkata outfit, Mohammedan Sporting (II Division I-League), complete the line-up.

With the ISL teams yet to start their pre-season training, the first-team players are likely to stay away.

The tournament, which begins on August 2, will be held on a league-cum-knockout format, with the 16 teams divided into four groups and the group winners progressing to the semifinals.

The semifinals and final will be held on August 20 and 24.

Joy for Anish Bhanwala

JUNIOR WC

SPORTS BUREAU
SUHL (GERMANY)

Anish Bhanwala overwhelmed Egor Ismakov of Russia 29-23 to clinch 25-metre rapid fire pistol gold in the Junior World Cup on Wednesday. Bhanwala had earlier topped qualification with 584.

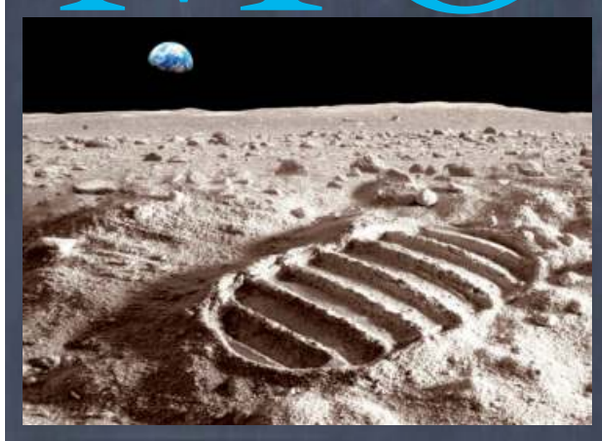
However, the Indian team could not clinch a medal, as the third member Harshwardhan Yadav had problems in the 4-second series in the second stage. The team, with Adarsh Singh (574) as the second member, missed gold by five points and was fourth.

The second string Indian team of Agneya Kaushik, Rajkanwar Sandhu and Udhayveer Sidhu won bronze, one point ahead of the main team. India stayed on top of the table with eight gold, eight silver and four bronze medals while China was in second place with six gold, four silver and five bronze.

The results: Junior men: 25m rapid fire pistol: 1. Anish Bhanwala 29 (584); 2. Egor Ismakov (Rus) 23 (575); 3. Florian Peter (Ger) 19 (580); 4. Adarsh Singh 17 (574); 6. Agneya Kaushik 9 (575); 11. Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu 571; 26. Udhayveer Sidhu 563; 35. Harshwardhan Yadav 550. **Team:** 1. Germany 1713; 2. China 1710; 3. India-A (Agneya Kaushik, Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu, Udhayveer Sidhu) 1709; 4. India (Anish Bhanwala, Adarsh Singh, Harshwardhan Yadav) 1708.

July 20 marks 50 years of the Apollo 11 lunar mission that put the first man on the moon. We take a look at how commercial space exploration is becoming a reality

FLY ME TO THE MOON



Chariots for Apollo Footprint of an astronaut on the moon with earth above the horizon; and (bottom) Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin ▪ NASA AND GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

NAHLA NAINAR

This week, US agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is in a celebratory mood. July 20 marks the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11, the first-ever mission that took astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins to the moon, in a journey that continues to enchant not just the world's scientific community, but also popular culture.

This televised journey drew a global audience of 600 million people, and gave us many oft-repeated (and sometimes abused and memed) Armstrong quotes like 'The Eagle has landed' and 'One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.'

Even though Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had to call off its Chandrayaan 2 lunar mission this week due to a technical snag, the country is already known as a leader in moon exploration with the 2008 Chandrayaan 1 probe that was made using indigenous technology.

Apollo 11 was a breakthrough in more ways than one. Not only did it transport human beings to another planetary body, but also created a competitive era among nations to send their representatives to space.

Once dominated by the US and the former USSR, today's 'space race' has India, China, South Korea and West Asian countries in the reckoning with their own exploration programmes.

In the new millennium, another dimension has popped up: commercial space tourism.

Tourists aboard

Ever since American businessman Dennis Tito strapped himself up for a flight that was literally 'out of this world' on April 28, 2001, several other, albeit extremely wealthy aspirants, have set their sights on becoming tourists in space.

Tito, a multi-millionaire engineer and technology services provider, paid $20 million for the privilege of leaving the earth behind with the help of the Russian Federal Space Agency to spend a week aboard the International Space Station (ISS), fending off criticism by NASA that he wasn't adequately prepared.

Though there have been only six more people who have been to outer space after Tito (all of them aboard a Soyuz craft to the ISS), the idea of commercial space tourism seems to have taken off in earnest, if not in the interest of science, then at least for bragging rights to have 'gone where no one has gone before'.

This would explain why so many companies are staking their reputation and money on offering package tours to outer space.

From British tycoon Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic to Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin, space travel has clearly caught the fancy of some big names on this planet.

And as PayPal co-founder and the head honcho of SpaceX, Elon Musk proved in February last year, the final frontier is not meant for human tourists alone... you can even send an electric car for a ride around the galaxy.

Launched with a help of a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, Musk's Tesla Roadster convertible, 'driven' by a spacesuit-clad dummy called Starman, will now cruise the solar system for millions of years (just don't call it space debris yet).

Up in the air

Leisure trips to outer space are already on the blueprints of the Aurora Station, a private space station in low earth orbit that was recently announced by the California startup Orion Span.

Touted on its website as the 'world's first luxury space hotel... equipped with a remarkable astronaut experience that can be had nowhere else in the known universe', the Aurora Station is due to start construction in 2021.

For a fee of $9.5 million per person, guests will be trained on earth and while in space, to stay for 12 days at the Aurora. And yes, they are offering condominiums too.

There are several players like Blue Origin and Space Adventures that have short-duration missions, details of which are still up in the air as technologies evolve.

Reasons to remember

But there's a lot you can do on terra firma, should you wish to celebrate mankind's first introduction to the moon.

At the very spot where the Apollo 11 mission took shape, in Cape Canaveral, Florida, the Kennedy Space Centre has been celebrating the run-up to the anniversary with a host of commemorative events, including, a pop concert by Duran Duran.

Today, auction house Christie's will be putting nearly 200 rare artefacts related to NASA missions of the 1960s and 70s on salein an event called One Giant Leap: Celebrating Space Exploration 50 Years after Apollo 11. Among the highlights is the Apollo 11 Lunar Module Timeline Book (estimate: $7-9 million), which was used by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to navigate the lunar module Eagle onto the surface of the moon in July 1969.

The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum is hosting the Apollo 50 Festival in Washington DC from July 18 to 20, culminating with The Eagle Has Landed, a recreation of the exact time when the first steps were actually made on the moon.

In the UK, The National Forest Adventure Farm in Burton-Upon-Trent has created a maze across a 10-acre cornfield, to showcase the iconic photo of Buzz Aldrin on the lunar surface, captured by Apollo 11 Mission Commander Armstrong.

If you'd rather be an armchair astronaut, you could treat yourself to an anniversary boxed set of the biopic *First Man* DVD (starring Ryan Gosling as Neil Armstrong) that is being released with a faux space suit cloth cover.

Believe it or not!

Among the most enduring conspiracy theories of our times, up there with Elvis Presley sightings and the Illuminati controlling the world, is the 'fact' that the US government 'staged' the moon landings on a secret film set.

Critics raised doubts on how Buzz Aldrin's American flag could appear to be waving on the moon, when there could be no breeze there.

NASA clarified that Aldrin was twisting the pole to get lunar soil, which caused the flag to move.

Others nitpicked over the photographs, pointing out the absence of stars behind the astronauts (the scientific reason: the Sun outshone all the other stars when those pictures were taken).

Who filmed Neil Armstrong going down the ladder if he was the first man on the Moon? The answer: Armstrong stopped to pull out a cable on the side of the Lunar Lander that released a TV camera that would broadcast his first steps.

PEOPLE

In a league of their own

Local soccer gets a shot in the arm with the return of the Delhi Football League, a two-day city-based tournament

Gunveet Singh Dang, a sports management professional, and Sarthak Singhal, a Delhi University graduate training to be a pilot, are bringing passion and purpose together. The two sports enthusiasts, hope to spread the love of the game, by building a platform for soccer players across the city to showcase their skills. Gunveet, in his first year of college, organised the first season of the Delhi Football League in June 2013, followed by another round in October the same year, and June 2014.

"DFL was a seasonal affair back in college, but after I graduated, I was introduced to a few exciting opportunities in the sports industry," says Guvneet. So he prioritised gaining experience there, simultaneously thinking about building a stronger base for DFL. He's garnered the support of Leh Leh Sports, a leading sports management company he works for.

Armed with knowledge, and a partner in Sarthak, the tournament is back for its fourth season. This five-a-side, two-day event comprises Group and Knock-Out stages, with two categories for the teams to play under: the Under-17 and the Open, with the latter having no age restrictions. Each match will last 25 minutes. The winners of the league will be awarded a cash-prize of ₹15,000 and the runners-up will get ₹7,000.

"We are expecting around 25-30 teams to register," says Gunveet, adding that there are already 16 registrations.

At SPADA Sports Arena, Gurugram; 20th-21st July; 9 a.m. onwards; for registration contact: 8447021283

MANSI ARORA

PRODUCTS

The sustainable Indian

Venn, a home-grown brand that crafts sustainable fabric into contemporary cuts and colours, aims to create a platform for ethical fashion. The idea is to tailor for the Indian body type. Their red-and-white collared cotton button down dress for instance, is a relaxed fit, for a day out. Its flattering silhouette with a belt to cinch in at the waist that gives it more shape. Other pieces in their collection, like the rustic orange collared top with miniature self-fabric buttons can add a pop of colour to otherwise staid workwear.

Available at Weavervenn.com; ₹1,690 upward

For a listing, or to be featured here, email us at *delhimetro@thehindu.co.in*

IN OUR BACKYARD

The Survivalist

Kair is a thorny shrub that conserves water and plays host to the one of the most beautiful butterflies

ABHISHEK GULSHAN

Environment-friendly Kair plays perfect host; (inset) butterfly ▪ AASHIKA TALREJA AND ABHISHEK GULSHAN

Plants in dry habitats (arid and semi-arid) tend to either have small or no leaves, invariably growing just thorns, an evolutionary trait that protects them from cattle grazing and also helps them conserve water and sustain themselves with very little. Since most of the leaves are shed, the process of photosynthesis is carried out by the thin green twigs.

The Kair, or Karira, Kareel, is known in English as the Bare Caper, a shrub producing bright red flowers on its large thorny bush. The scientific name is *Capparis decidua*. Where there is space for spread (such as in Mangar and in the Aravalli Biodiversity Park), it may grow into a small tree.

As with other members of its family, *Capparaceae*, which includes most shrubs, it adapts well to dry, exposed, rocky or sandy habitats. It is dense, with leafless, green, wire-like thorny twigs. The young shoots in the bushes support narrow small leaves that they shed quickly.

The shrub has a huge root system spreading deep and wide to absorb water. They can thus brave harsh conditions such as heat, drought, fire, frost and different kinds of soil settings as well. The spines on this plant are small, orange-yellow in colour and are present in pairs.

Flowering happens twice a year during the months of April-June and August-October. The fruits start as a greyish-green, slowly ripening into a fleshy pink.

The flower buds and the fruits of this plant are often pickled. Powdered tender stems and leaves are considered medicinal, and used on boils and swellings, while the bark has been used as a laxative. It is one of the two prime ingredients of a famous Rajasthani Dish, 'Ker Sangri', where the fruit of this shrub is used.

The plant attracts insects (beetles and bugs), insectivores (birds that feed on insects) and frugivores (animals that lives on fruits). It serves as a larval host for the Pioneer butterfly that lays its eggs on the plant. When the caterpillar emerges, it feeds on the soft narrow leaves and flower buds before turning into a pupa, eventually emerging as a butterfly. The pink berries are relished by birds that help carry out the process of pollination.

The writer is the founder of NINOX - Owl About Nature, a nature-awareness initiative. He is the Delhi-NCR reviewer for Ebird, a Cornell University initiative, monitoring rare sightings of birds. He formerly led a programme at WWF India.

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE

LITERARY

Book launch

Author Manu S. Pillai will launch his latest book, *The Courtesan, The Mahatma and the Italian Brahmin: Tales from Indian History*. The book tells stories from episodes of India's history, and of several of its men and women. Later, Pillai will be in conversation with Dr. Shashi Tharoor and author Devapriya Roy.

VENUE: Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.

ART

Mixed media

Artistagram 2019, an ongoing group art show, brings together the works of visual artists including painters, sculptors, photographers, and graphic artists. Curated by Jyoti Kalra, the collection showcases colourful representations of thoughts in varied genres and expressions, all inspired by nature.

VENUE: Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

LECTURE

Nelson Mandela International Day

Prof. Rajen Harshe, president of the G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, and Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, the former Indian High Commissioner to South Africa, will speak at a lecture titled 'Nelson Mandela's Struggles and Worldview'. The event is organised as part of the Nelson Mandela International Day, on July 18.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PERFORMANCE

Comedy show

Prim and Improper, a comedy show by Vasu Primlani, will take place in Vasant Kunj this evening. Primlani is a professor and environmentalist, whose comedy delivers strong social commentary, on topics like inter-personal relationships, gender politics, and climate change.

VENUE: Vasant Kunj Social, Ambience Mall
TIME: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

FILM

Documentary screening

The Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art will screen *Landless*, a documentary film by Randeep Maddoke. Set in Punjab, the film chronicles the struggles of landless Dalit labourers and the discrimination they faced in their lives. After the screening, the director will be in discussion with documentary filmmaker Sanjay Kak.

VENUE: FICA Reading Room, F-213, Lado Sarai
TIME: 6 p.m.

THE PIPES ARE CALLING

Between spoonfuls of haggis at a Burns Supper, a choir from Delhi matches step with dancers in kilts, and sings Bollywood songs in Scotland

Sounds of Scotland (Clockwise from left) A festival in North Berwick; and aboard a ferry at sea ▪ ANDY CATLIN, JOHN WOOD AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

REEM KHOKHAR

We disembark from our coach in sun-drenched Haddington. A cluster of beaming faces welcomes our choir group – The Capital City Minstrels. After the initial enquiries about our flight, a slightly awkward pause ensues. As if on cue, a bagpiper emerges, welcoming us with a lusty tune.

One of the Scots leaps into the centre, dragging one of us to dance. They cavort joyfully with linked arms, their enthusiasm prompting us to leap as gracefully as possible. The animated jig has broken the ice.

This is no ordinary visit. We are a choir from Delhi on a concert tour of the UK, and the first leg in Scotland is to perform at Haddington and Edinburgh with a local choir, The Siancio Singers. Many of us have visited Scotland before, but experiencing a destination through music showcases it in a completely new light.

We stay in the East Lothian area, about 45 minutes from Edinburgh. Our host choir arranges a Burns Supper – a celebration of Scottish poet Robert Burns' life and poetry, usually held closer, but not restricted, to his birthday, January 25. Supper begins with the traditional Selkirk Grace, a short, sweet prayer.

The highlight of a Burns supper is haggis, a traditional speciality made with sheep pluck (lungs, heart, liver) and seasoning. The bagpiper plays while the Scottish delicacy is brought in, followed by the 'Address to a Haggis', a theatrical enactment of Burns' poem, in an old dialect, with words like sonsie and hurdies strung together in praise of the dish.

Highland reel

A local band, Clappy Doo, brings us to our feet for the Ceilidh, traditional Scottish music and dancing. Soon we are in the midst of boisterous reels. The roles are switched when we play a few Bollywood songs, teaching the Scots some *thumkas*. In between rehearsals, we set out to explore East Lothian, which is filled with treasures. The National Museum of Flight, housed in the original wartime buildings of the East Fortune airfield, has a spectacular collection of military, civil and leisure aircraftlike the Spitfires, Meteors, Jaguars, Harriers, and the crowning glory of civil aviation – The Concorde Experience.

Steve McLean, general manager, National Museum of Flight, says, "Our Wartime Experience event, which takes place every May, has seen performers delighting our visitors with songs and dancing from the 1940s, beneath the wings of the Concorde."

Gathered under the nose of the Concorde, we break into 'Can't Help Falling in Love with You', the strong acoustics lifting our voices through the hangar. Later, dressed in bright Indian wear, we join the Haddington Festival Parade, lined up between a group in fancy dress and a catchy samba band. Haddington is the administrative head of the East Lothian County, set along the River Tyne. Though small, it is packed with a whopping 129 buildings of historic significance. Groups like the Haddington Concert Society organise an annual series of concerts open to the public, performed in local buildings.

Birds central

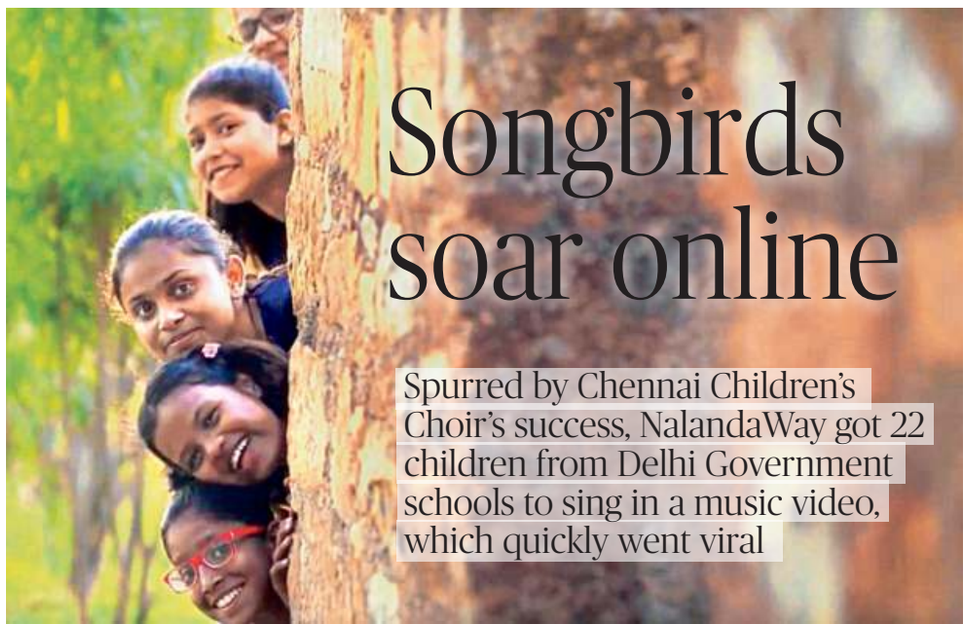
A visit to the Scottish Seabird Centre in North Berwick is another highlight. On a catamaran cruise we see bobbing orange billed puffins and a sky full of Atlantic gannets as we approach the imposing Bass Rock. The rocky island is home to the world's largest population of these stark white birds with black tipped wings, Britain's largest seabird. North Berwick is a quintessential British seaside town, with sandy beaches, colourful cottages and stone houses, and is also the location for the annual 'Fringe By the Sea' in August, a smaller version of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, with a spritz of salty sea air.

Our concert at St John's Church takes us into Edinburgh. We enjoy a guided tour of the innovatively designed Scottish Parliament Building and walk along the Royal Mile, breaking into song at intervals, which elicits some stares and several smiles from people.

We conclude our tour at St Mary's Parish Church, the longest church in Scotland. With its excellent acoustics, the church is a popular venue for concerts and recordings and is a major venue for the Lammermuir Festival held in September. James Waters, co-director of the festival, elaborates on the event's focus on not just music, but also location. "Festivals are as much about place as about programme," he says. We are lucky to experience some of that magic. At St Mary's with its magnificent stained glass windows and lofty galleries, to feel its sound is incredible. We launch into Rabindranath Tagore's, 'Purano Shei Diner Kotha', which he wrote inspired by Robert Burns' 'Auld Lang Syne', the new year anthem. There is no greater thrill than to sing this song in Bengali and English, with a Scottish choir, in the country of its origin.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SCOTLAND INCLUDE

- Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, till July 21
- Fringe by the Sea – August 2-11, 2019, North Berwick
- Edinburgh International Festival, August 2-26
- Lammermuir Festival – across venues in East Lothian, September 13-22



Songbirds soar online

Spurred by Chennai Children's Choir's success, NalandaWay got 22 children from Delhi Government schools to sing in a music video, which quickly went viral

The Chennai-Delhi connect NalandaWay coaches 43,000 children from Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Haryana ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SWETA AKUNDI

For the past week, 14-year-old Faizan has been on cloud nine. News of the success of his first-ever music video has reached far and wide – including his aunt in Lahore, who rang him up at his house in Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi, to congratulate him.

Faizan, along with 21 other children from various Government schools in Delhi, is part of a video mashup of Bollywood song 'Ilahi Mera' and Malayalam film song 'Paranne'. The video features them popping out from behind the walls of the capital city's Jamali Kamali mosque, overlooking the Qutub Minar, singing in pitch- perfect unison. It has garnered nearly 45,000 views so far, and has been shared by the likes of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Two thousand kilometres away, in Chennai, Sriram and his team from NalandaWay are overjoyed. The children in the video belong to Delhi Children's Choir (DCC), an initiative by the Chennai-based NGO. The DCC has been modelled after the Chennai Children's Choir, a well-known group of musically-inclined children from disadvantaged backgrounds in Chennai. "We started DCC last year, hoping to do the same thing we did with CCC– to help disadvantaged children learn visual and performing arts. Inclusion of the Arts in mainstream education makes it less stressful, and more joyful. Every child, no matter what their background, should have access to some form of art," says Sriram.

NalandaWay, through its programme Art Labs, is currently working with 170 schools in Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Haryana.Over 43,000 children go through this programme every year. The CCC recently performed at Serenade Choral Festival in Washington DC, and has been selected for UNESCO's #KindnessMatters global social media campaign. Sriram now hopes the same for DCC.

"For DCC, we auditioned 1,200 children from 250 Government schools in the areas of Ambedkar Nagar, Himapur and Girni, near Saket. Finally, these 22 were selected," he says. The group practises for three hours every Sunday at Kiran Nadar Museum of Art in Select Citywalk. "We teach them songs in different languages: from poems of Bharati in Tamil, to Amir Khusrau in Persian. Everytime we teach them a song in a language that's not their mother tongue, we make sure to explain the lyrics behind them," he says.

As for the selection of song , the team has only one rule. It should be aspirational, says Sriram, explaining their choice of 'Ilahi Mera' and 'Paranne' for this video.

New friends

There are two levels of impact: one, of politicians and celebrities recognising the DCC, and the second, more important, of increasing the children's self-esteem, during these six months of practice for the video. "We were all strangers when we started, but we've spent so much time together that we're all good friends now," says 16-year-old Nandini Premkumar.

She happily recalls how special she felt during the shoot: "There were huge cameras all around us and everyone was cheering us on." Along with it, came the much-sought-after approval from parents, teachers, and friends, spurring her on to pursue an education and career in music.

It was a similar vote of confidence for Faizan, who says, "DCC opened me to the possibilities of music. Before this, we didn't even have a music class in my school." But added to this is the advantage every teenager secretly hopes for: "Ever since the video came out, I have made so many new friends at school! People I didn't know before have started sitting and eating with me during recess."

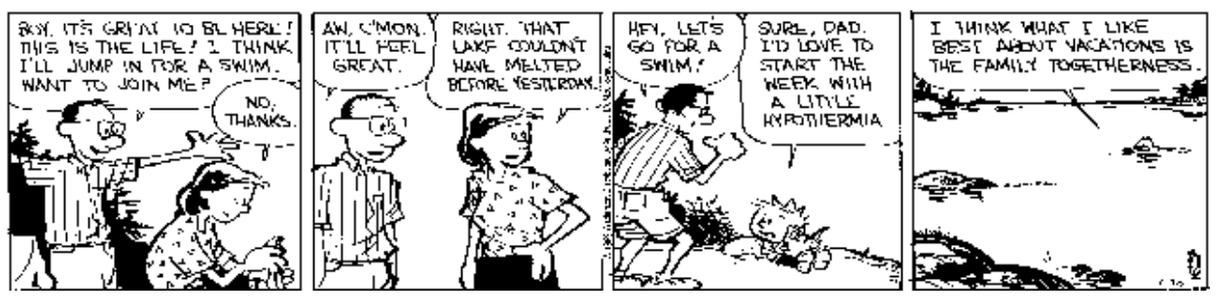
Watch the video at NalandaWay Foundation's YouTube channel

POOCH CAFE

PEANUTS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

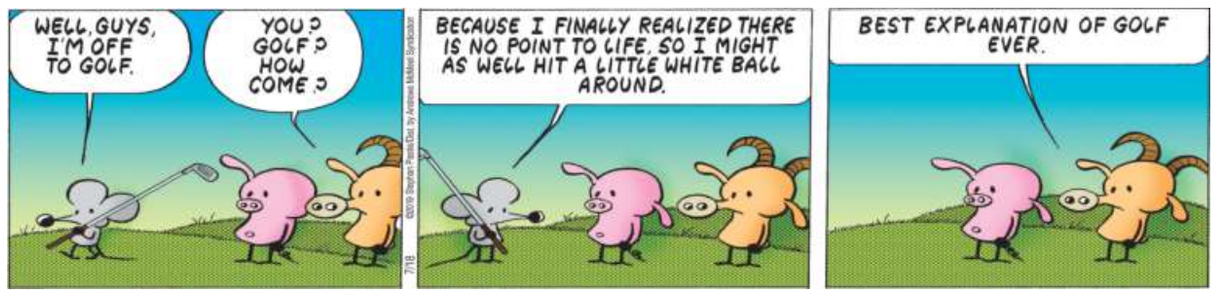
CALVIN AND HOBBES

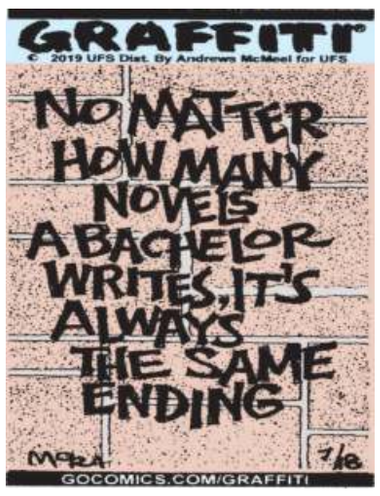


TIGER

WUMO

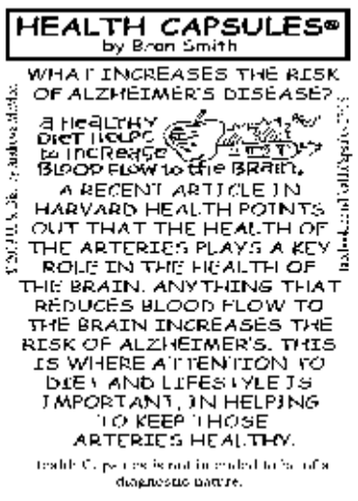
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE





HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Brian Smith



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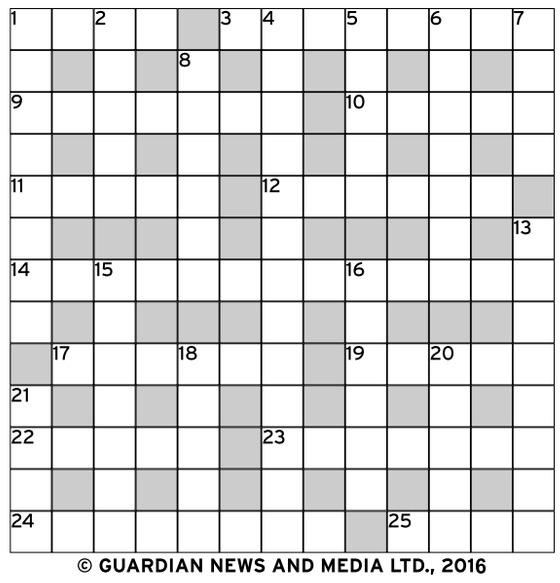

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Across

1 Turning point on which important developments depend (4)
3 Of the chest (8)
9 One who gives up too easily (7)
10 Briefs of two small panels connected by strings (5)
11 Complete (5)
12 In truth (6)
14 Lying between huge collections of stars – a critical gent (anag) (13)
17 Speak indistinctly (6)
19 Revise (3,2)
22 Little, charming and naughty (5)
23 Parthenogenetic (7)
24 Express grumpy opposition (8)
25 Small keyboarding error (4)

Down

1 Casserole of chicken pieces and onions in red wine (3,2,3)
2 Try to avoid (a problem) (5)
4 Oil-fuelled light with a glass chimney for outdoor use (9,4)
5 Highly valued (5)
6 Agreement (7)
7 Scuttler (4)
8 One gazing intently (6)
13 Mexican Pacific resort (8)
15 Until now (4,3)
16 Band worn for decoration (6)
18 Language group of southern Africa (5)
20 Flashy (5)
21 Netting (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 19, 2019.

Solution No. 13124

T	O	M	T	H	U	M	B		R	I	F	T
A		A		I		O		H		D		A
R	O	M	A	N		H	O	O	D	L	U	M
T		M		D		A		R		E		A
	C	O	N	Q	U	I	S	T	A	D	O	R
B		T		U		R		I				I
R	E	H	E	A	T		A	C	U	M	E	N
O				R		V		U		A		D
W	A	L	K	T	H	E	P	L	A	N	K	
B		A		E		R		T		H		P
E	A	R	D	R	U	M		U	S	U	A	L
A		V		S		I		R		N		A
T	E	A	L		A	N	C	E	S	T	R	Y

Musk unveils project on mind-machine interface

Neuralink showcases an early version of a sensor with hair-thin strands that could be implanted in brain

Elon Musk. ▪ AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAN FRANCISCO

Futurist entrepreneur Elon Musk late on Tuesday revealed his secretive Neuralink startup is making progress on an interface linking brains with computers, and said they hope to begin testing on people next year.

Mr. Musk has long contended that a neural lace meshing minds with machines is vital if people are going to avoid being so outpaced by Artificial Intelligence that, under the best of circumstances, humans would be akin to "house cats."

Mr. Musk and members of the Neuralink team laid out progress they have made on their mission at an event held in San Francisco to recruit talent in software, robotics, neuroscience and more.

"Ultimately, we can do a full brain-machine interface," Musk said.

"Achieve a sort of symbiosis with artificial intelligence."

Neuralink unveiled an early version of a tiny sensor with hair-thin strands that could be implanted in a brain through a small incision by a robot built for the high-precision task.

"They are tiny electrodes and the robot is delicately implanting them," Mr. Musk said, noting there could be thousands of the electrodes connected to a brain.

"This is something that is not going to be stressful to put in; will work well, and it is wireless."

The chip will communicate wirelessly with an earpiece, which relays information to a smartphone application. For now, the goal is to let a person with the implants control a smartphone with thought, but the technology could eventually extend to other devices such as robotic arms.

"We hope to have this in a human patient before the end of next year."

Ebola outbreak a global health emergency: WHO

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

The World Health Organization on Wednesday declared the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo a "public health emergency of international concern," a rare designation only used for the gravest epidemics.

The Ebola epidemic in DR Congo, the second deadliest on record, has largely been contained to remote areas, but this week saw a patient diagnosed with the virus in the eastern city of Goma, the first case in a major urban hub.

"It is time for the world to take notice," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, as he invoked the emergency provision (PHEIC), activated by the UN health agency four times previously.

Menstrual cups are safe, reusable and cheap: study

They collect blood rather than absorb it

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Inexpensive and reusable menstrual cups are safe and as unlikely as disposable pads or tampons to leak, according to the first major scientific review of the devices, published Wednesday.

Some 70% of women who have tried menstrual cups said they would like to continue using them, researchers reported in *The Lancet Public Health*, a peer-reviewed medical journal.

A safe, affordable and long-lasting alternative to pads and tampons, in other words, has the potential to change the lives of millions.

The new research – a review of 43 earlier studies gathering data on 3,300 women – is the first to evaluate menstrual cups.

Made from medical grade silicone, rubber or latex, the cups collect blood rather than absorb it, as pads and tampons do. They last from four to 12 hours.

There are two types: a so-called vaginal cup which is generally bell-shaped, and a cervical cup, which is placed around the cervix high in the vagina much like a diaphragm for contraception.

In four of the studies reviewed, the cups were found to be as effective or better at collecting blood than sanitary pads or tampons.

A cup can last for up to 10 years, making it a cheaper alternative in the long run.

The research showed no increased risk of infection. There were, however, five reported cases of toxic shock syndrome (TSS), a potentially life-threatening condition caused by bacteria getting into the body via foreign objects.

Since the overall number of menstrual cup users is unknown, researchers could not determine how this compared with tampons, known to boost the risk for TSS.

The cup is reusable and can last for up to ten years, making it cheaper in the long run that disposable alternatives.

Ingenious technique to eradicate mosquitoes

Uses 2 methods — radiation and bacteria

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

A breakthrough technique harnessing two methods to target disease-carrying mosquitoes was able to effectively eradicate buzzing biters in two test sites in China, according to research published on Thursday.

The mosquitoes targeted are a type that is particularly difficult to control called *Aedes albopictus*, which are a major vector for diseases including Zika and dengue.

The study "demonstrates the potential of a potent new tool", wrote Peter Armbruster, a Professor at Georgetown University.

Researchers harnessed two population control methods: the use of radiation – which effectively sterilises mosquitoes – and a strain of bacteria called Wolbachia that leaves mosquito eggs dead on arrival.

They conducted a two-year trial at two sites on river islands in Guangzhou.

The results were "remarkable", wrote Prof. Armbruster. The number of hatched mosquitoes eggs plunged by 94%, with not a single viable egg recorded for up to 13 weeks in some cases.

Mass rearing of mosquitoes in containers at a company in Guangzhou, China. AFP

And the average number of female mosquitoes – which transmit disease to humans – caught by traps fell by 83 to 94%.

The results were also borne out by a decline of nearly 97% in bites suffered by locals – which in turn shifted attitudes among residents, who were initially sceptical of the project's plan to release more mosquitoes into the local area.

Now, an algorithm for an affordable cricket bat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Using computer modelling and optimisation algorithms, the world's best bat and maybe the most affordable could in the near future roll out from a lab to the cricket ground.

A high performing 'Algobat', closely resembling the finest in the market and at a fraction of the price, is in the works in Canada's University of British Columbia, where scientists have developed a novel algorithm that optimises the geometry of the bat and helps it hit the ball harder and further.

The result is a high performing bat that an aspiring cricketer can get their hands on at maybe just $30-40 and ultimately bring more talent into the sport, the scientists said.

According to Sadegh Mazloomi, who wrote the algorithms, the idea was to optimise the bat's geometry, specifically the back profile so as to minimise the vibration caused by ball's impact.

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION / DIVERSION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION / REGULATION AND RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORK AT TILAK BRIDGE STATION

In order to further strengthen the infrastructure, Northern Railway will undertake the Non-Interlocking work at Tilak Bridge station in connection with 5th & 6th line between New Delhi and Tilak Bridge stations. To execute this work, Railways will take appropriate traffic blocks upto 22.07.2019. Consequently, the following trains will temporarily be affected on the dates shown against each:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)
12419/12420 Lucknow-New Delhi-Lucknow Gomati Express	19 to 21.07.2019
12459/12460 New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi Express	19 to 21.07.2019
14205 Faizabad-Delhi Jn. Express	18 & 19.07.2019
14206 Delhi Jn.-Faizabad Express	19 & 20.07.2019
14207 Paratapgarh-Delhi Jn. Padmavat Express	18 & 19.07.2019
14208 Delhi Jn.-Paratapgarh Padmavat Express	19 & 20.07.2019
14211/14212 Agra Cantt.-New Delhi-Agra Cantt. Intercity Exp.	19 to 21.07.2019
14315/14316 Bareilly-New Delhi-Bareilly Intercity Express	19 to 21.07.2019
14323/14324 New Delhi-Rohtak-New Delhi Express	19 to 21.07.2019
14521/14522 Delhi Jn.-Ambala Cantt.-Delhi Jn. Express	19 to 21.07.2019
14681/14682 New Delhi-Jalandhar City-New Delhi Express	19 to 21.07.2019
15035/15036 Delhi Jn.-Ramnagar / Kathgodam-Delhi Jn. Uttaranchal Sampark Kranti Express	20 & 21.07.2019
19565 Okha-Dehradun Uttaranchal Express	19.07.2019
19566 Dehradun-Okha Uttaranchal Express	21.07.2019
14085/14086 Tilak Bridge-Sirsa-Tilak Bridge Express	20, 21 & 22.07.2019
64088 Hazrat Nizamuddin-New Delhi EMU	Upto 21.07.2019
51911/51912 Delhi Jn.-Saharanpur-Delhi Jn. Passenger	19 & 20.07.2019
54055/54056 Moradabad-Delhi Jn.-Moradabad Passenger	20.07.2019
64012/64013/64014/64016 Shakur Basti-Palwal-Shakur Basti EMU	19 to 21.07.2019
64018 Shakur Basti-New Delhi EMU	19 & 20.07.2019
64031/64032/64034/64036 Ghaziabad-Shakur Basti-Ghaziabad EMU	19 to 21.07.2019
64053 Palwal-Ghaziabad EMU	19 to 21.07.2019
64071 Ballabgarh-Shakur Basti EMU	19 & 20.07.2019
64075/64077/64078/64080 Palwal-New Delhi-Palwal EMU	19 to 21.07.2019
64082 New Delhi-Palwal EMU	19 & 20.07.2019
64087 Hazrat Nizamuddin-New Delh EMU	19 to 21.07.2019
64092 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	19.07.2019
64091 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	19 to 21.07.2019
64098 Shakur Basti-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	19.07.2019
64093 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Shakur Basti EMU	19 to 21.07.2019
64095 New Delhi-Shakur Basti EMU	19 & 20.07.2019
64096 Shakur Basti-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	19.07.2019
64097 New Delhi-Shakur Basti EMU	19 to 21.07.2019
64401/64406/64408 Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	20.07.2019
64403 Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn. EMU	19 to 21.07.2019
64089 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	Upto 22.07.2019
64411 Sahibabad-Delhi Jn. EMU	20.07.2019
64412 Delhi Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	19.07.2019
64418 Delhi Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	20.07.2019
64423/64424/64425/64427/64430/64432 Ghaziabad-New Delhi-Ghaziabad EMU	19 to 21.07.2019
64426 New Delhi-Ghaziabad EMU	20.07.2019
64428 New Delhi-Ghaziabad EMU	19.07.2019
64431 Ghaziabad-New Delhi EMU	19 & 20.07.2019
64439 Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn. EMU	20.07.2019
64445 Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn. EMU/64449/64450 Ghaziabad-New Delhi-Ghaziabad EMU/64469/64470 New Delhi-Panipat-New Delhi EMU	19.07.2019
64491/64492 Palwal-New Delhi-Palwal EMU	19 & 20.07.2019
64493/64494 Palwal-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Palwal EMU	20.07.2019
64569/64570 Kosi Kalan-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Kosi Kalan EMU	20.07.2019
64434 Delhi Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	20.07.2019
64420 Ghaziabad-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	19 to 21.07.2019
64567/64568 Bulandshahr-Tilak Bridge-Bulandshahr EMU	20.07.2019

DIVERSION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Diverted via	Date(s) (from originating station)
12055 New Delhi-Dehradun Janshatabdi	Delhi Jn.	19.07.19
12171 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Haridwar AC Superfast	Agra Cantt.-Mitawali-Aligarh-Khurja-Meerut City	18.07.19
12172 Haridwar-Lokmanya Tilak (T) AC Superfast	Meerut City-Khurja- Aligarh-Mitawali-Agra Cantt.	19.07.19
12204 Amritsar-Saharsa Garib Rath	Ambala-Saharanpur-Moradabad	20 & 21.07.19
12259 Sealdah-New Delhi Duronto Exp.	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi	18.07.19
12260 New Delhi-Sealdah Duronto Exp.	New Delhi-Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad	19.07.19
12274 New Delhi-Howrah Duronto Exp.	Delhi Jn.	20.07.19
12392 New Delhi-Rajgir Shramjeevi Exp.	Delhi Jn.	19 to 21.07.19
12398 New Delhi-Gaya Mahabodhi Exp.	Delhi Jn.	19 to 21.07.19
12484 Amritsar-Kochuveli Express	Adarsh Nagar-Delhi Safdarjang-Okhla	21.07.19
12501 Guwahati-New Delhi Poorvotter Sampark Kranti Express	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi	20.07.19
12561 Jaynagar-New Delhi Swatantra Sainani Express	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi	19 & 20.07.19
12562 New Delhi-Jaynagar Swatantra Sainani Express	New Delhi-Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad	20.07.19
12566 New Delhi-Darbhanga Bihar Sampark Kranti Express	Delhi Jn.	19 to 21.07.19
12581 Manduadih-New Delhi Superfast	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi	18 to 20.07.19
12582 New Delhi-Manduadih Superfast	New Delhi-Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad	20.07.2019
12715 H. Sahib Nanded-Amritsar Sachkhand Express	Okhla-Delhi Safdarjang-Adarsh Nagar	19 & 20.07.19
12903/12904 Mumbai Central-Amritsar-Mumbai Central Golden Temple Mail	Khutbav-Mathura Jn.-Alwar-Rewari-Delhi Jn.-Sahibabad	18.07.2019
14003 Malda Town-New Delhi Express	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi	20.07.19
64095 New Delhi-Shakur Basti EMU	New Delhi-Delhi Kishanganj-Shakur Basti	Upto 22.07.19
14258 New Delhi-Varanasi Kashi Vishwanth Express	Delhi Jn.	19 to 21.07.19
15708 Amritsar-Katihar Express	Ambala-Saharanpur-Moradabad-Lucknow	19 & 20.07.19
18237 Gevra Road-Amritsar Chhatisgarh Express	Agra Cantt.-Mitawali-Aligarh-Khurja-Meerut City	18 & 19.07.19
18238 Amritsar-Gevra Road Chhatisgarh Express	Meerut City-Khurja-Aligarh-Mitawali-Agra Cantt.-	18 & 20.07.19
18507 Vishakapatnam-Amritsar Express	Okhla-Delhi Safdarjang-Adarsh Nagar	18 & 19.07.19
18508 Amritsar-Vishakapatnam Express	Adarsh Nagar-Delhi Safdarjang-Okhla	21.07.19
19023 Mumbai Central-Firozpur Cantt. Janata Express	Okhla-Delhi Safdarjang-Shakur Basti	19 & 20.07.19
19024 Firozpur Cantt.-Mumbai Central Janata Express	Shakur Basti-Delhi Safdarjang-Okhla	20 & 21.07.19
20801 Islampur-New Delhi Magadh Exp.	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi	18 & 20.07.19
20802 New Delhi-Islampur Magadh Exp.	New Delhi-Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad	19 & 20.07.19
22125 Nagpur-Amritsar AC Express	Okhla-Delhi Safdarjang-Adarsh Nagar	20.07.19
22417 Varanasi-New Delhi Mahamana Exp.	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi	18.07.19
22418 New Delhi-Varanasi Mahamana Exp.	New Delhi-Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad	19.07.19
22457 Hazur Sahib Nanded-Amb Andaura Superfast Express	Okhla-Delhi Safdarjang-Adarsh Nagar	20.07.19
11078 Jammu Tawi-Pune Jhelum Exp.	New Delh-Tilak Bridge	18 & 19.07.19
51901 Agra Cantt.-Delhi Jn. Passenger	H. Nizamuddin-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.	20 & 21.07.19
12723 Hyderabad-New Delhi Telangana Exp.	Tilak Bridge-New Delhi	18.07.19
12033 Kanpur Central-New Delhi Exp.	Tilak Bridge-New Delhi	19.07.19
12056 Dehradun-New Delhi Janshatabdi	Tilak Bridge-New Delhi	19.07.19
12203 Saharsa-Amritsar Garib Rath Exp.	Tilak Bridge-New Delhi	18.07.19
64052 Ghaziabad-Palwal EMU	Sahibadbad-H. Nizamuddin	19 to 21.07.19
64055/64057 Palwal-Ghaziabad EMU	H. Nizamuddin-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad	19 to 21.07.19
64109 Dankaur-Shakur Basti EMU	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.	19 to 21.07.19
64167 Palwal-New Delhi-Tundla EMU	Sahibabad-Hazrat Nizamuddin	20.07.19
64419 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Ghaziabad EMU	Hazrat Nizamuddin-Sahibabad	Upto 21.07.19
64434 Delhi Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad	19 & 21.07.19
64443 Ghaziabad-New Delhi EMU	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara	19.07.19
64472/64534 Panipat-New Delhi-Ghaziabad EMU	Sabzi Mandi-Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad	19 to 21.07.19
64901 Kosi Kalan-Ghaziabad EMU	H. Nizamuddin-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad	19 to 21.07.19
64902 Ghaziabad-Kosi Kalan EMU	Sahibabad-Hazrat Nizamuddin	20.07.19
64903 Mathura Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	H. Nizamuddin-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad	20 & 21.07.19
64904 Ghaziabad-Mathura Jn. EMU	Ghaziabad-Sahibabad-H. Nizamuddin	20.07.19
64168 Tundla-New Delhi-Palwal EMU	Sahibabad-H. Nizamuddin	21.07.19

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Short Terminate at/ Originate from	Partially Cancelled Between Stations	Date(s) from originating station
12523 New Jalpaiguri-New Delhi Exp.	at Moradabad	Moradabad-New Delhi	20.07.2019
12524 New Delhi-New Jalpaiguri Exp.	from Moradabad	New Delhi-Moradabad	21.07.2019
12625 Kerala Express	at H. Nizamuddin	H. Nizamuddin-New Delhi	19.07.2019
12626 Kerala Express	from H. Nizamuddin	New Delhi-H. Nizamuddin	21.07.2019
13413 Farakka Express	at Kanpur	Kanpur-Delhi Jn.	18.07.2019
13414 Farakka Express	from Kanpur	Delhi Jn.-Kanpur	20.07.2019
13483 Farakka Express	at Kanpur	Kanpur-Delhi Jn.	19.07.19
13484 Farakka Express	from Kanpur	Delhi Jn.-Kanpur	19 & 21.07.19
64017 Palwal-Shakur Basti EMU	at H. Nizamuddin	H. Nizamuddin-Shakur Basti	Upto 21.07.19
54767 Shri Ganganagar -Tilak Bridge Pass.	at Patel Nagar	Patel Nagar-Tilak Bridge	19 & 20.07.19
54768 Tilak Bridge-Shri Ganganagar Pass.	from Patel Nagar	Tilak Bridge-Patel Nagar	20 & 21.07.19
54769/54770 Tilak Bridge-Rohtak-Tilak Bridge Passegner	from / at Shakur Basti	Shakur Basti-Tilak Bridge-Shakur Basti	20 & 21.07.19
54474 Saharanpur-Delhi Jn. Pass.	at Sahibabad	Sahibabad-Delhi Jn.	19 to 21.07.19
54475 Delhi Jn.-Haridwar Passenger	from Noli	Noli-Delhi Jn.	19 to 21.07.19
54540 Ambala-H. Nizamuddin Pass.	at Meerut City	Meerut City-H. Nizamuddin	20.07.2019
54539 H. Nizamuddin-Ambala Pass.	from Meerut City	H. Nizamuddin-Meerut City	21.07.2019
64105 Aligarh-New Delhi EMU	at Sahibabad	Sahibabad-New Delhi	20.07.2019
64106 New Delhi-Aligarh EMU	from Ghaziabad	New Delhi-Ghaziabad	20.07.2019
64107 Dankaur-Delhi Jn. EMU	at Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn.	20.07.2019
64110 New Delhi-Aligarh EMU	from Sahibabad	New Delhi-Sahibabad	20.07.2019
64113 Khurja-Shakur Basti EMU	at Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad-Shakur Basti	19 & 21.07.19
64151 Aligarh-Delhi Jn. EMU	at Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn.	20.07.2019
64429 Ghaziabad-New Delhi EMU	at Sahibabad	Sahibabad-New Delhi	20.07.2019
64461/64462 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Kurukshetra-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	at / from New Delhi	New Delhi-Hazrat Nizamuddin-New Delhi	20.07.2019
64905 Mathura Jn.-New Delhi EMU	at Palwal	Palwal-New Delhi	19 to 21.07.19
64084 New Delhi-Palwal EMU	from H. Nizamuddin	H. Nizamuddin-New Delhi	Upto 21.07.19

REGULATION / RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS

Train No. 12627 Bangalore City-New Delhi Karnataka Express will be rescheduled by 120 minutes on 18.07.2019 from Bangalore City.

Train No. 12716 Amritsar-H. Sahib Nanded Express will be rescheduled by 120 minutes on 20.07.2019 & 180 minutes on 21.07.2019 from Amritsar.

Train No. 12925 Bandra (T)-Amritsar Ashram Express will be regulated on North Central Railway 30 minutes on 18.07.2019 & will be rescheduled by 120 minutes on 19.07.2019 from Bandra (T).

Train No. 16032 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Chennai Central Andaman Express will be regulated for 45 minutes on 19 & 20.07.2019 at Sonarpur Jn.

Train No. 20503 Dibrugarh-New Delhi Rajdhani Express will be rescheduled by 60 minutes from Dibrugarh on 18.07.2019.

Train No. 20505 Dibrugarh-New Delhi Rajdhani Express will be rescheduled by 60 minutes from Dibrugarh on 19.07.2019.

Train No. 12625 Trivendrum Central-New Delhi Kerala Express will be regulated for 60 minutes over North Central Railway on 18.07.2019.

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138

2309/2019

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