





# Man murders wife, daughter and son before ending his life

Accused claimed responsibility in note; no apparent signs of struggle, say police

ASHOK KUMAR  
GURUGRAM

A 55-year-old former scientist with a pharmaceutical company allegedly murdered his wife, daughter and son by hitting them with a hammer and a sharp-edged weapon, before ending his life in Sector 49 here on Monday morning.

He had lost his job a month ago and was slated to join a company in Hyderabad later this month, said the police.

## 'No specific reason'

"There are no signs of forced entry into the house, ruling out any foul play. The man has claimed responsibility for the murders in a note recovered from his pocket. However, he has not given any specific reason," said Assistant Commissioner of Police, DLF, Karan Goel.

The autopsy revealed that the woman had maximum 19 injuries and her throat was slit. The boy had 12 injuries and the girl had eight.

"All injuries were on the head with a blunt and a sharp-edged weapon," said Deepak Mathur, who con-



Policemen at the scene of the crime in Gurugram Sector 49 on Monday. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

ducted the post-mortem.

## 'No sedatives given'

Dr. Mathur said there was little possibility of the three being given sedatives before the murder.

The bodies of the man's wife, their 21-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son were found in one of the bedrooms, while he himself was found in the living room.

The woman was lying on the floor near the bed, the boy behind the door and the girl on the bed.

The police said there

were no apparent signs of struggle.

The girl was a science graduate and her brother was a Class IX student.

The family had been staying at their present address for around a decade. The woman ran four schools, including one for underprivileged children.

Four pet dogs of the family were inside.

R.K. Mathur, neighbour, claimed that he had last seen the man two days ago. He said the scientist did not seem upset. Mr. Mathur, a retired senior manager with

Maruti Udyog Limited, said relations between the couple seemed normal.

The murders came to light when a domestic help came around 6 a.m., but there was no response to her repeated ringing of the doorbell.

She informed Mr. Mathur, who in turn tried to call up the couple on their mobile phones. "Both the phones were switched off. I knocked on the window glass, but there was no response. We then informed the residents welfare association office and the police were called," said Mr. Mathur.

The police pulled out the grill to the washroom and sent the domestic help inside. Though the door leading to the rooms from the washroom was closed, she spotted blood.

The police then broke open the door.

The family originally belonged to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

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

# City sees highest-ever peak power demand

Electricity discom cites 'cooling load' as main reason behind increase

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Peak power demand in Delhi hit an all-time high on Monday to touch 7,241 MW.

The State Load Dispatch Center's website recorded the spike at 3.29 p.m.

The previous highest peak power demand was recorded on July 10 last year when it reached 7,016 MW.

With an average temperature of over 40 degrees Celsius on Monday, electricity discom BSES stated that "cooling load" was the main reason behind the increase in the city's power demand.

"Almost 50% of Delhi's power demand in summers is because of the cooling load," it added.

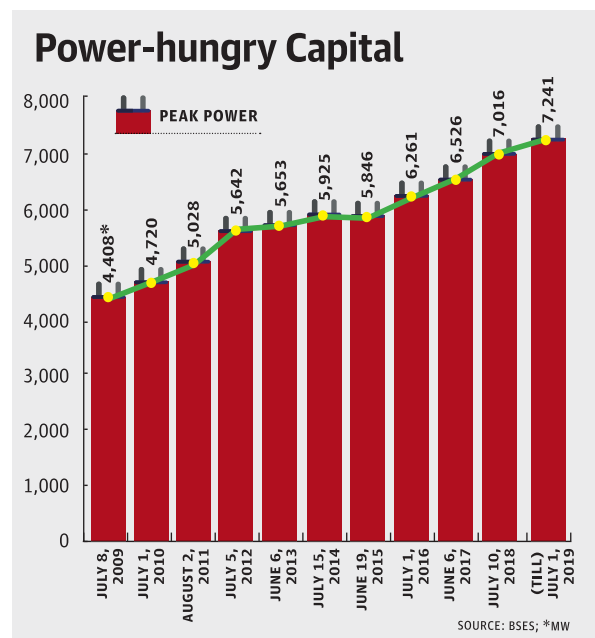
Delhi's peak power de-

mand is more than that of Chennai and Mumbai combined and is over three times that of Kolkata, a BSES spokesperson said. The discom has also estimated that peak power demand may cross 7,400MW this year.

## Arrangements made

In order to meet the demand and transmission requirements, various arrangements have been made, including the use of different forecasting methods which afford high accuracy planning, the discom said.

While peak power demand in Delhi crossed the 6,000MW mark for the first time in 2016, that line has been crossed at least 24 times so far this year.



## Four arrested for murder, robbery cases

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Four persons, including a hardened criminal from Uttar Pradesh – Deepak Tomar, have been arrested for their alleged involvement in several cases of murder and armed robberies, the police said on Monday.

DCP (Special Cell) Manishi Chandra said the other accused have been identified as Harish alias Sanda (28), Umed Sharma alias Tinda (26) and Neeraj Luhach (29), all from Haryana. "On Saturday, the four were arrested on a tip-off. They were in the final stages of planning a gruesome murder," Mr. Chandra said.

## Repeat offender

Deepak from Baghpat allegedly killed a man while trying to murder the village head in Rohtak's Sangi in 2008. For this, he was awarded a life term. In 2010, he conspired another murder from inside the jail.

In 2014, he was given 21-day parole from Bhondsi jail after which he went missing, the police said.

"He committed two murders in Baghpat, one in Jhajjar and robbed a car in Delhi's Nihal Vihar in 2015. He was again arrested in 2016 and remained in jail till July 2018 before being released on bail. He was declared a proclaimed offender," Mr. Chandra said, adding that in December 2018, along with his associates, Deepak killed a rival member after hiring a contract killer.

## Brothers found dead at their house in Janakpuri

'Had graduated from engineering colleges'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Two siblings were found dead at their house in west Delhi's Janakpuri on Monday, the police said.

A call was received at the police control room at 12.30 p.m. regarding the incident after which a team reached the spot and found the two brothers dead. Their father, a railway contractor, is paralysed for the past 20 years and mother died of cancer in March this year.

The father was upset after his wife's death.

Both brothers, who graduated from private engineering colleges, disappeared from the house about one-and-half-month ago.

## Came home at night

They came back on Sunday at 9.30 p.m., the police said. A note was found on the table of their room.

Prima facie no foul play, the police added.

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

## Retired Wing Commander found dead

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A retired Wing Commander was found dead at his residence in Vasant Kunj on Sunday night, the police said. No foul play is suspected so far, they said.

An officer said Deepak Kumar Seth used to live alone. "A call was received regarding death of a man. The police found Seth lying unconscious. He was taken to a hospital where he was declared brought dead. No external injury was found," the officer said. His body was handed over to his wife after post-mortem

## Rise in cases of vector-borne diseases

With monsoon approaching, numbers likely to see a surge

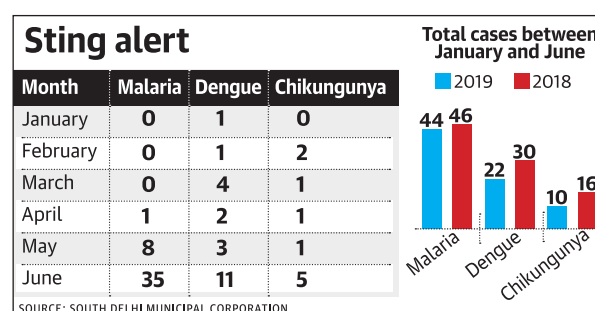
STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Cases of vector-borne diseases – malaria, dengue and chikungunya – has picked up this week, according to a report from the three municipal corporations on Monday.

Last week, 13 cases of malaria were registered, taking the total cases to 44 this year. At the same time last year, 46 cases of malaria were recorded.

Apart from this, there have been eight cases of dengue, taking the total number of such cases to 22 this year, compared to 30 at the same time last year.

Five cases of chikungunya were also reported last week, taking the total to 10,



compared to 16 last year.

## Measures taken

The number of cases of vector-borne diseases is expected to rise during the monsoon, which is expected to arrive later this week.

The three municipal corporations have been undertaking several measures

such as door-to-door to surveys and spraying insecticides to prevent mosquito breeding. The South Delhi Municipal Corporation's report stated that 2,37,466 houses have been sprayed with insecticides. Around 80,165 houses have been sprayed in north Delhi and only 12,542 in east Delhi.





# Naveen urges PM to stop Polavaram project

'May not be possible to change design once completed'

SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to intervene and issue directions to stop construction work on the Polavaram project until all pending issues were resolved.

"If the project is allowed to be completed before resolution of all the pending issues, it will cause permanent injury to the interest of the State of Odisha and its people," Mr. Patnaik wrote.

## 'Stop work order'

The Chief Minister had written similar letters to the Prime Minister in September 2015, November 2017, July 2018 and November 2018 in which he had pointed out that the Union Environment Ministry had kept the 'stop work order' pertaining to the controversial project



Naveen Patnaik. • FILE PHOTO

in abeyance from time to time without taking the views of the State of Odisha into consideration.

He said the 'stop work order' was first kept in abeyance by the Ministry on the request of the then Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister in February 2013.

It is now learnt that the order has been kept in abeyance for two more years, he added.

"It is worth mentioning that once the project is completed there shall be impounding of the reservoir and it may not be

possible to change the design and operating parameters of the project thereafter," Mr. Patnaik said.

## Adverse impact

Stating that the public hearing with regard to the project has not been carried out to date, Mr. Patnaik reiterated that if the construction work is not stopped forthwith, it will have immense adverse impact on the people living in the tribal district of Malkangiri in Odisha.

"The submergence of tribal villages resulting in mass displacement of primitive tribals, flooding of fertile agricultural lands and submergence of large extent of forest area would be irreversible consequences," Mr. Patnaik said, adding that all this can be avoided if an opportunity is given for a final resolution of the dispute pending before the Supreme Court.

# Bengal's State-run hospitals may offer paid services: Mamata

'75% of funds will go to hospital, 25% to the doctors'

SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday proposed that State-run hospitals, both in Kolkata and in the districts, offer payable facilities.

## 'MPs, MLAs can pay'

"For instance, our MPs and MLAs also seek services in the State-run hospitals, but they can pay. There are others who can pay and can go to nursing homes. We are making provisions for 150 rooms at the Woodburn Ward of SSKM Hospital; similar provisions can be made at all other hospitals," she said.

Inaugurating a Trau-



Mamata Banerjee. • FILE PHOTO

ma Care Centre at SSKM Hospital, she said that 75% of funds generated from the paid services will go towards development of the hospital and 25% to the doctors.

The proposal to offer paid services at State-run hospitals has raised questions in medical cir-

cles as to how doctors, who are coping with the huge burden of patients, will also offer paid services. Ms. Banerjee said there was a shortage of 8,000 doctors in the State.

## Special honour

The State government, which in June had to deal with massive protests by doctors that crippled medical services for almost a week, announced Bishista Chikitsa Samman for reputed doctors of the State.

Nineteen doctors of State-run hospitals and 11 from private health facilities were given the award. Nine doctors were given lifetime awards.















## Will provide citizenship to Hindus: Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that the government would bring a Bill in Parliament to provide citizenship to "Hindu refugees" left out of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Mr. Shah made the remark in the Rajya Sabha after Trinamool member Derek O'Brien raised the issue of the probability of 23 lakh Bengali Hindus losing citizenship when the final NRC is published by July 31 in Assam. Nearly 41 lakh people have been excluded from the final draft NRC, of which 36 lakh have filed claims against the exclusion.

"I want to repeat our stand on NRC. We want to stop infiltration and also push every single infiltrator out of the country. As far as Hindu refugees are concerned, we are bringing the Citizenship Amendment Bill to give them Indian citizenship," Mr. Shah said. In its 2019 election manifesto, the BJP said it would compile NRCs across the country. President Ram Nath Kovind's speech this month also mentioned that NRC would be implemented on "priority basis in areas affected by infiltration".

At present, on Supreme Court directions, the Registrar-General of India (RGI) published the final draft of the NRC on July 30 last year to exclude those who had illegally entered the State from Bangladesh after March 25, 1971. The RGI on Monday a month's extension to complete the enumeration process for updating the NRC in Assam.

# Separatists inciting innocent boys: Shah

Minister vows to ensure peace as Rajya Sabha passes resolution extending President's Rule in Kashmir

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah told the Rajya Sabha on Monday that innocent village boys in the Kashmir Valley were lured with money to throw stones at security forces, while the children of those who incited them studied and worked abroad.

He asked the people in the Valley not to be afraid and not be swayed by negative publicity.

"People from the Valley, please come forward and work with the Indian government. Protecting you and your property is our responsibility," he said.

He said he would ensure peace in the Kashmir Valley, and was waiting for the day when Kashmiri Pandits and Sufis prayed together at the



Home Minister Amit Shah speaking during the Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. •PTI

Kheer Bhawani temple.

He said the Lok Sabha and the Assembly elections could not be held together in J&K because giving security to all candidates was impossible.

"The Kashmir issue has been lingering since 1947," he said responding to the discussion on the statutory resolution to extend Presi-

dent's Rule in the State for another six months. "We need a new vision and new thinking to solve it. [Kashmir] Valley is ours, we want it to progress like other parts of the country. But as far as terrorists and separatists are concerned, there is no place for them in this country. We will use tough measures against them."

The President's Rule ordinance expires on Tuesday. The statutory resolution on extending it was passed by the Lok Sabha last week. The Rajya Sabha passed it on Monday.

"Cross-LoC trade was being used to fund guns and ammunition. So many schools, libraries colleges were burnt... two generations of Kashmiri children remained uneducated," he said.

"But what are children of those leaders, on whose directions these schools were burnt, doing? One of their sons studied in Saudi Arabia and is working there at a package of ₹30 lakh per month. Some studied in London... Asiya Andrabi's sons are studying in London and Malaysia... I want to tell the Kashmiri youth, don't be mis-

led by these people."

Participating in the debate, Ghulam Nabi Azad of the Congress demanded that shrill television debates involving Kashmir should be stopped.

Responding to this, Mr. Shah said, "I cannot stop TV channels, we don't want to bring Emergency. There will be peace despite the TV debates, we will embrace the Valley."

**No plebiscite**

"All of Kashmir's problems were due to Nehru declaring ceasefire when one-third of Kashmir was with Pakistan," he said. He went on to ask why the Nehru government went to the UN despite Kashmir's accession to India and agree to hold a plebiscite, "which is in any case out of question today".

## CMs' panel to suggest agriculture reforms

Focus on marketing, investment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will head a new high-power committee to recommend structural reforms in Indian agriculture, including changes to the way farmers market their produce and norms for contract farming and essential commodities. It will suggest measures to attract private investment and modernise the agricultural market system.

The Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, and Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar will be the members of the committee, said an official statement from NITI Aayog on Monday. It will submit its report in two months.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced its formation at the NITI Aayog Governing Council meet in June.

The committee has been asked to "discuss measures for transformation of agriculture and raising farmers' income." It will also suggest modalities for adoption and

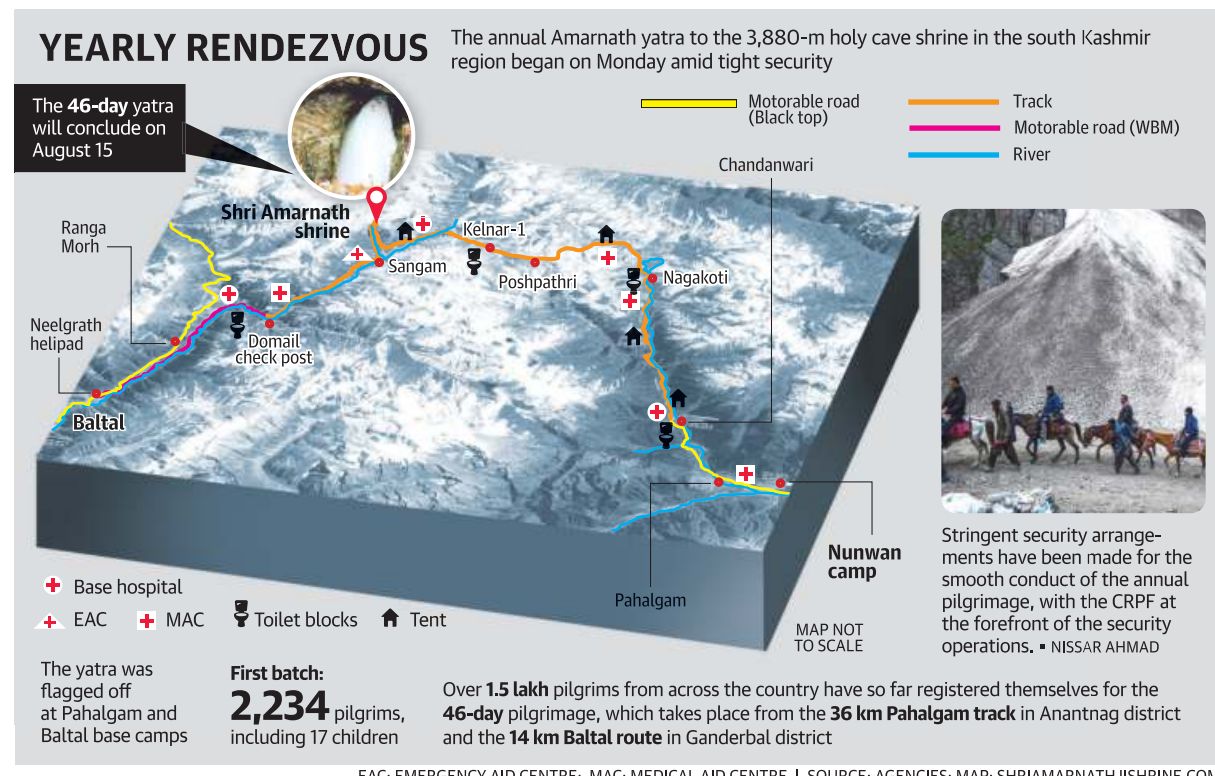


Devendra Fadnavis

time-bound implementation of reforms by the States and Union Territories.

Up for discussion are two model Acts circulated by the Centre to the States: the Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 and the Agriculture Produce and Livestock, Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018.

The panel will also examine various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955 and suggest changes to attract private investment in agricultural marketing and infrastructure. It will also suggest a mechanism for linking market reforms with existing Centrally sponsored schemes such as e-NAM.



## This is the job of the Speaker, says Om Birla

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday told Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal not to take on the job of the Speaker.

The "direction" came after the Minister allowed Supriya Sule of the NCP to seek a clarification on his speech about the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2019.

The Speaker said: "I would advise all MPs to refrain from granting permission to each other to speak. This is the job of the Speaker."

## Trinamool for resolution against lynchings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

The Trinamool on Monday reached out to the Left parties and the Congress in the West Bengal Assembly to table a resolution on the "rise of communalism" and lynchings. West Bengal Mi-

nister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Tapas Roy told presspersons that he had spoken to Leader of the Opposition Abdul Mannan and Leader of the Left legislative party Sujan Chakraborty on tabling a joint resolution in the House.

# Unemployment reports are misleading: Union Minister

Gangwar says job creation is a priority for the government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The unemployment rate in the past five years; cut in interest rates on small savings; illegal means adopted by banks to recover loans; attacks on doctors – these were among the prominent issues raised in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

During Question Hour, Union Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar said that reports on the high unemployment rate were misleading, and said job creation was a priority for the government.

He said the overwhelming mandate to the government indicated that people did not believe such "misleading reports".

When Opposition MPs protested, Mr. Gangwar said he was ready to have a discussion in the House on the job situation. "Employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the government," he said.

Mr. Gangwar assured the Lok Sabha that the govern-



ment would come out with a report on job creation, and said 18.26 crore loans had been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana up to March 31.

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The Minister's response came after Congress member from Kerala Adoor Prakash asked if the government had any master plan to generate more jobs in every sector of the economy.

**Low interest rate**

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury raised the issue of slashing of interest rates on fixed deposits and other small savings instruments, saying nearly two percentage points had been slashed

over the past two years. "This government talks about securing the trust of common people, but after coming to power, it has started hammering them," Mr. Chowdhury said during Zero Hour.

He reminded the Lok Sabha that July 1 was National Doctor's Day and the occasion should be the starting point to build a relationship of trust between doctors and patients' kin. The comments came against the backdrop of attack on junior doctors in Bengal.

**Oil rigs in TN**

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) member T.R. Baalu criticised the Union government in the Lok Sabha over the issue of drilling oil rigs in Tamil Nadu's delta region, and called it "unlawful". Mr. Baalu said they yielded hardly any crude but hurt farmers.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan invited DMK members for a "transparent discussion", and assured them nothing forcible would be done.

## India shares list of prisoners with Pakistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India has asked Pakistan to facilitate visas for a medical team to examine Indian inmates in various Pakistani prisons. The External Affairs Ministry said the Indian request was made during the exchange of list of prisoners on Monday.

By procedure, the Ministry has declared that India held 256 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 99 fishermen in various Indian prisons, and informed that Pakistan held 209 Indian fishermen and 52 civilian prisoners in its custody.

## 5G trials: China urges India to include Huawei

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Calling for India to include Huawei in its 5G trials despite the U.S. government's opposition to the Chinese telecommunications major, a senior Chinese official said New Delhi must not be "exclusive" in its choice.

"Huawei enjoys cutting edge technologies and I think it will best facilitate India's realisation of its dream of building a digital economy," said Yang Yanyi, former diplomat and a current Committee Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the 13th CPCC (Chinese People's Political Consulta-

tive Conference) National Committee.

"We need to guard against the attempt of forces in the west to keep control of science [and] technology, and they cannot stomach the fact that developing countries can also excel in technology," Ms. Yang said.

**No threat**

Pointing out that Huawei already employs more than 8,000 Indians at its plant and R&D facilities in India, Zhu Feng, an academic accompanying Ms. Yang, said Indians "must not over react" to reports on security threats to India.





## IN BRIEF

**SFIO files complaint in Bhushan Steel case**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) filed a 70,000-page complaint in the Bhushan Steel case wherein the probe agency has found "extreme misuse" of the corporate structure by the promoters which reduced corporate governance requirements to paper formalities, sources said. Bhushan Steel had defaulted on loans and the banks had to take a haircut of over ₹20,000 crore as part of the resolution process. **PTI**

**SBI, NIF in pact for funding infra projects**

**MUMBAI**  
India's banking behemoth, the State Bank of India (SBI), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIIF) on Monday to boost availability of capital for infrastructure projects, the bank said in a statement. The scope of the agreement includes equity investments, project funding, bond financing, renewable energy support and take-out finance for operating assets.

**OMCs reduce aviation turbine fuel, LPG prices**

**MUMBAI**  
State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have reduced the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for domestic and international airlines effective July 1. For domestic airlines, the ATF prices were reduced by between ₹3,200 and ₹3,900 per kilolitre in the four metros. They also reduced the price for a non-subsidised LPG 14 kg cylinder by ₹100 and that of a subsidised cylinder by ₹3.

## Auditor sees loss understatement, net worth erosion at McLeod

Marks bulk tea producer's net loss at ₹1,826.1 cr. against ₹4.4 cr. reported earlier

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA**

The statutory auditor of bulk tea producer McLeod Russel India Ltd. (MRIL) has made several adverse observations about the company's 2018-19 financial statements, including a ₹1,821.7-crore loss understatement, a negative net worth, and a trail of inter-corporate deposits (ICDs) for which no provision had been made.

A regulatory filing by MRIL, which has been on an asset-selling spree for over a year, showed that after adjustment for audit qualifications, MRIL's net loss was ₹1,826.1 crore against the ₹4.4 crore reported earlier, while its net worth was ₹147.7



**Way uncertain:** The auditor felt that recovery of ₹1,744.7 cr. of ICDs given to companies was doubtful. **•GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK**

crore negative against ₹1,763 crore shown earlier. The management of MRIL, which has tea estates in Assam, Africa and Vietnam, however, disagreed with most of the qualifications. It said that

its losses were due to the downturn of the tea industry and also operational issues such as increased production costs. The MRIL management said that many of the ICDs extended to group

companies have been repaid and it was looking for further refinancing to address its present liquidity issues.

The statutory auditor – Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP – said at the end of fiscal 2019, ₹1,744.7 crore of ICDs had been given to promoter group companies and other companies. However, it felt that recovery was doubtful considering the financial conditions of these companies. The company had not made any provision for the outstanding amounts.

Drawing attention to recognition of ₹67.8 crore of sundry income by MRIL, it said that these may have been reflected only by book entries.

## Madhu Jayanti in ₹6 cr.-deal for Eveready's tea packet brands

Sees domestic business rising nearly threefold in five years

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA**

Kolkata-based Madhu Jayanti International Pvt. Ltd. (MJJIL) said it sees major gains in the acquisition of tea packet brands of Eveready Industries India Ltd., through a national footprint, especially in rural areas where the brands are well-distributed via EIL's distribution channels.

**Wider price range**

"We expect this buy to give us a single-shot entry into the rural areas and tier 1 and tier 2 towns in 14 States, where we do not have a big presence now. It will also allow us to offer products at a wider price range," Sumit Shah, executive director,

**W** We expect this buy to give us a single-shot entry into the rural areas and tier 1 and 2 towns

**SUMIT SHAH,**  
Executive director, MJJIL

MJJIL, said at a press meet. The ₹6-crore acquisition is set to be formalised on July 4.

Mr. Shah said that he did not expect the turn of events at EIL, where PwC has stepped down as auditor, to cast any shadow on the forthcoming deal.

The 75-year-old MJJIL's business comprises packet teas, tea bags and private labels, with exports at ₹261 crore in 2018-19 accounting for a bulk of its ₹390-crore

turnover in 2018-19.

The company sees its ₹129-crore domestic business rising to ₹350 crore in five years.

It hopes to utilise EIL's distribution channels to sell its tea in rural areas too. MJJIL has tea packaging plant in Kolkata, Guwahati, Coimbatore and Vladivostok in Russia.

In a regulatory filing with exchanges, Eveready Industries India Ltd. said that it would enter into an asset transfer/assignment, licence agreement with Madhu Jayanti International for transfer and/or licence of the relevant trademarks, valued at ₹6 crore and other identified assets relating to packet tea products.

## Allow debt-linked savings scheme, says MF association

Seeks tax parity for retirement, pension schemes and NPS

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI**

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) wants the government to allow introduction of debt linked savings scheme to deepen the bond market and bring parity in terms of tax treatment for pension and retirement schemes of mutual funds and the national pension scheme.

Besides, it also seeks to remove the tax arbitrage between investment products like equity mutual funds and unit linked insurance plans.

As part of its proposals submitted to the government ahead of the Union Budget, the umbrella body

of asset management companies of India has stated that a debt linked savings scheme (DLSS) can be introduced on the lines of equity linked savings scheme (ELSS) that will aid in the government's plans of increasing investment in the infrastructure segment.

"It is proposed to introduce 'Debt Linked Savings Scheme' on the lines of Equity Linked Savings Scheme to channelise long-term savings of retail investors into corporate bond market, which would help deepen the Indian bond market," the AMFI paper stated.

"At least 80% of the funds collected under DLSS shall

be invested in debentures and bonds of companies as permitted under SEBI Mutual Fund Regulations," it added.

The industry body has further suggested that the government can provide tax benefits for investments up to ₹1.5 lakh in DLSS with a lock-in period of five years, similar to a tax-saving bank fixed deposit.

The association has further requested the government to do away with the levy of capital gains tax in instances where an investor switches within the same scheme like moving from growth option to dividend or vice versa.

## Liberty Steel buys Arcelor's Europe assets

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI**

Liberty Steel said on Monday it had acquired seven steel making units and five service centres from ArcelorMittal in Europe for ₹740 million (around ₹5,782 crore), according to a company statement.

Indian-origin metals tycoon Sanjeev Gupta-owned company has acquired the major integrated steel works at Ostrava in the Czech Republic and Galati in Romania as well as rolling mills at Skopje (North Macedonia), Piombino (Italy), Dudelange (Luxembourg) and two plants near Liege in Belgium, it said.

These seven sites employ over 14,000 people.

## Reliance Infra plans to lease out Mumbai corporate office building

Company is in talks with PEs to raise about ₹3,000 crore

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI**

Reliance Infrastructure is planning to monetise its corporate office 'Reliance Center' located in Santacruz East, Mumbai, to pare its debt.

"Reliance Infrastructure will continue to own the premises and monetisation will be by way of long-term lease. The company will utilise 100% of the proceeds for debt reduction," the company said in a statement.

The company is in talks with a group of global private equity firms, including Blackstone, to raise about ₹3,000 crore from the asset monetisation plan.

Reliance Center is spread



**Money spinner:** Reliance Center (in pic) is spread across 6.95 lakh square feet area. **•PRASHANT WAYDANDE**

across 6.95 lakh square feet area on a plot of 15,514 sq m.

The office is adjacent to Mumbai's Western Express Highway and is in proximity to Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport Terminal, the Bandra-Kurla-Complex

business district, and close to the upcoming Santacruz Metro Station. The staff operating from the centre would be relocated to multiple properties owned by the group across Mumbai, including Ballard Estate.











# On the money

A team of Delhi high-schoolers have made their mark at an MIT-led global youth entrepreneurship platform with their low-cost home automation device

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

When they joined the LaunchX club in their school in July last year, Neil Dey (17), Akaash Parthasarathy (14), Aryan Srivastava (14), and Aryan Chand (15) thought their interest in tech would carry them through. They were in Class XI, and the rest were in Class IX.

Once in the programme, this band of students from Shri Ram School, Aravali, Gurugram, realised there were different nuances within tech that appealed to each of them. LaunchX, an independent high-school-level offshoot of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Launch, is a fully planned course-load, alongside regular school work. Its mission is "to empower young people to build the future", and to give them "the entrepreneurial skills and mindset to start real companies".

## Coming together

Through the pre-programme test and course work phases, Dey found that he engaged with tech best through a business development perspective; Parthasarathy realised he was good with numbers and with money; Srivastava, that he has a knack to understand the tech market; and Chand, his passion for the nitty gritty of the tech itself.

It is this alchemy of talents, brought together as their startup-in-the-making Swifi, that saw them through the Asia finals of LaunchX in Bangkok this March. Here, Swifi, which makes affordable home automation systems with manual control options in case of Wi-Fi failure, was given the Top Inventor and Global Finalist titles, pushing them to qualify for the main summer LaunchX programme at MIT later in May.

Both these events were like *Shark Tank*, the popular American reality TV show that gives aspiring entrepreneurs a chance to pitch their products to a panel of insanely wealthy investors. Except here, the young entrepreneurs get sustained mentorship and connections instead of investors.

"The idea is to help us prep for and build an actual company, which solves an existing problem in the market at the end of the day. It's not just about a 'school project'," explains Chand.

## The solution

Home automation, the tech that lets you switch your electrical appliances on and off remotely, isn't really a new concept at all. But its adoption rate in India is low and slow. The sheer expense of making a home 'smart' is the primary reason.

"This adds to the mindset that people have right now, where they just don't see the point of home automation. Not only is it convenient, but it also helps you gain insights into your power usage patterns, especially if the

**Affordable tech**  
Swifi has been thoughtfully created to fill a market gap in home automation

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## THINKING OF PRIVACY

Swifi believes that "eventually, we're moving into a world where every little bit about us is going to be available to everyone." Having said that, they have thought of the data that their devices collect. "We're doing everything to protect privacy — the data is not even going to be accessible to us, only to the device," Dey says.

device comes with an app, like ours does," says Dey. "People are more willing to experience it if it's a small investment, so cost-efficiency is a massive selling point."

To tackle this price barrier, Swifi sources all parts of their standard switch-board-sized device from the local electronics market. This reduces their overheads. Additionally, instead of investing in an injection mould right away to make the device, they're currently only 3D-print-

ing. "We'll only invest in a one-time injection moulding once this is finalised," Dey says.

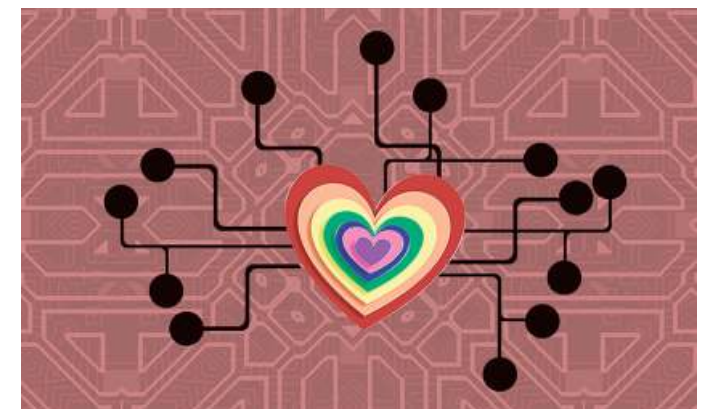
Giants like Philips Hue offer only individual smart lights between ₹2,500 and ₹3,000. Another competitor, Sonoff, has a device much like Swifi's, which can control four to eight smart appliances for a price of ₹8,000; however, Swifi's device distinguishes itself in this segment not only with a lower price (₹2,500 to ₹3,000), but also by offering control to bigger appliances like air conditioners and geysers.

The team has also added a remote-control for the devices, in addition to their compatibility with smart assistants like Google Home and Alexa, as well as an in-house app.

Still self-funded and helped along through the resources of family and friends, the four students behind Swifi are now planning to participate in national competitions such as Technext, an ICT conclave by the Punjab Public School in Nabha, Patiala. They will also soon start a crowd-funding campaign to be able to take it to market. The immediate aim is to start selling their devices by the first quarter of the 2020 fiscal year.



## WANDERING AROUND THE WEB



DIVYA KALA BHAVANI  
**Only for online besties?**

I recently came across a survey done by Snapchat, the app which is defunct on my phone. The Friendship Report, commissioned in partnership with Protein Agency, polled 10,000 people in the age group of 13 to 75 from Australia, France, Germany, India, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the UK and the US. In India, 2,004 respondents participated in the survey in April 2019. The results say, "Indians have on average six best friends". Best Friends are when you stay 'in touch' with someone via Snaps for two months in a row. Seeing 'six' seems like a lot of work to me; my friends know I appreciate them, already. Then it claims "Gen Z is turning away from large friendship circles." This is true; the digital age has made cliques redundant. We now have a friend for movies, a friend for ranting with, a friend we call a 'work friend'. A 25% portion of said-Gen Y believes chatting through apps has brought them closer to their friends.

Cheesily enough, "73% of Indians say that video and photos help them to express what they want to say in a way that they can't with words." With TikTok and Dubsmash being the platforms where the multimedia does the talking for you, why not? You can admit your true feelings to your friend through a poorly lip-synced version of 'Channa Mereya.' The statement in the survey of "love is central to friendship in India" had me clueless. But the explanation had me nodding and then laughing out loud,

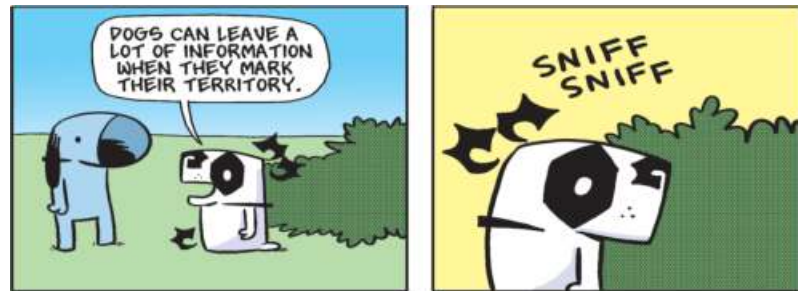
"Indians are most ready to fall fast for a friend, 23% became best friends at 'first like'," as if this is *Kuch Hota Hai*. Wasn't Rahul just the worst, though?

## #WeMetOnTwitter

Over the weekend, for barely a blink of a second, the #WeMetOnTwitter was trending, before the cricket hype started. The hashtag has been alive on the platform, complete with its own automated little blue heart next to it, for as long as I can remember, but I found myself welling up at some of the newer stories, from friendships to marriages with kids. Storyteller @darthdevi shared with the hashtag, "We were following each other for a while and I decided to slide into his DMs in 2017. He was in Dubai then. We now live together." More such tweets circulated, enough to make me feel so sweet and yet so sickly. However, I would have loved to have seen more LGBTQIA+ posts around the hashtag, not just for Pride Month but through the years. Some, however, weren't so happy. @clumsyassdani shared, "Please listen carefully, Twitter is not a dating app!" and @bricapii responded, "Ma'am you're wrong Twitter is the new dating app #WeMetOnTwitter." Well, I guess that settles that. Then there were the tweets which had me choking on my Pepsi (not sponsored). @drunknibba says, "Guys I think it's time to make it official and let you all know that @depression and I are engaged. #WeMetOnTwitter."

Rants and rambling across cyberspace

## POOCH CAFE



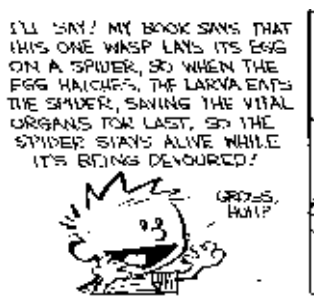
## PEANUTS



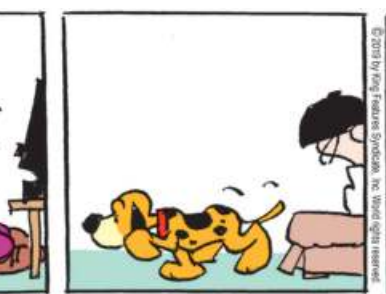
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## CALVIN AND HOBBS



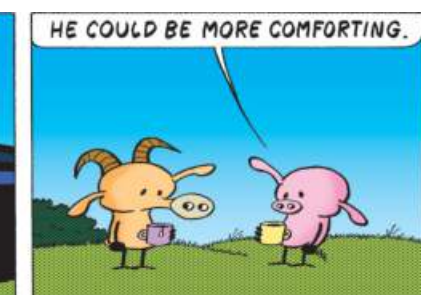
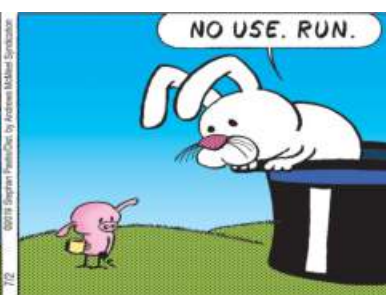
## TIGER



## WUMO



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



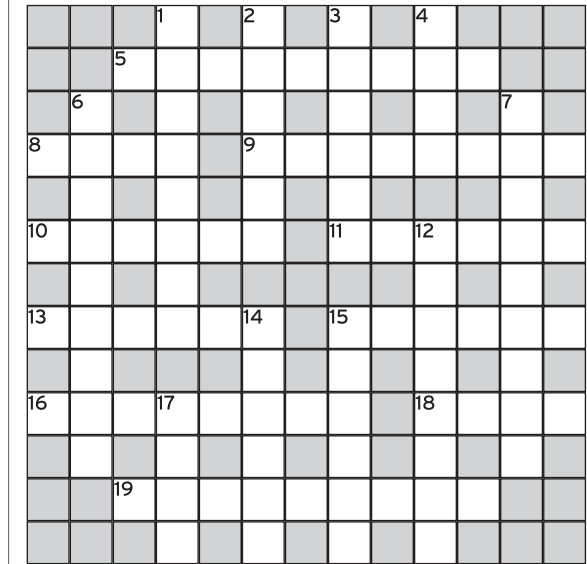
## GRAFFITI



## HEALTH CAPSULES

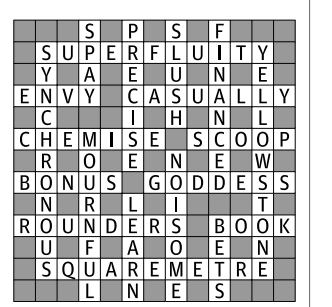
by Brett Smith  
WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF LOW VITAMIN D?  
THE BEST WAY TO MAINTAIN HEALTHY VITAMIN D LEVELS IS TO GET 15-20 MINUTES OF SUNLIGHT DAILY.  
LOW VITAMIN D LEVELS CAN RAISE THE RISK OF HEART DISEASE, DIABETES, CANCER AND OSTEOPOROSIS. SIGNS OF LOW VITAMIN D INCLUDE: DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, MOOD SWINGS, IRRITABILITY, WEIGHT GAIN, FATIGUE, MUSCLE CRAMPS, JOINT PAIN AND FREQUENT COLDS OR FLU.

## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13111



- 4 Fairy of Persian folklore (4)
- 6 Size (9)
- 7 Without offspring (9)
- 12 Relevant (8)
- 14 More profound (6)
- 15 Duty list (6)
- 17 (Fruit of the) blackthorn (4)

- Across
- 5 Eve of All Saints' Day (9)
- 8 Girl (of Richmond Hill?) (4)
- 9 Tea party — official function — heated argument (8)
- 10 White tearfully (6)
- 11 Annually (6)
- 13 Looked fixedly (6)
- 15 Small wave (6)
- 16 Homeric wanderer (8)
- 18 Sliding window frame (4)
- 19 Short work of fiction (9)
- Down
- 1 Jewish festival celebrated in March or April (8)
- 2 Worldwide (6)
- 3 A score (6)



Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 3, 2019.

Solution No. 13110

