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on Sunday

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NEARBY

Ashoka University V-C steps down

NEW DELHI

Academician Pratap Bhanu Mehta announced on Saturday that he was stepping down as the Vice-Chancellor of Ashoka University due to "personal" reasons. The university said in a statement that Prof. Malabika Sarkar will be the new V-C.

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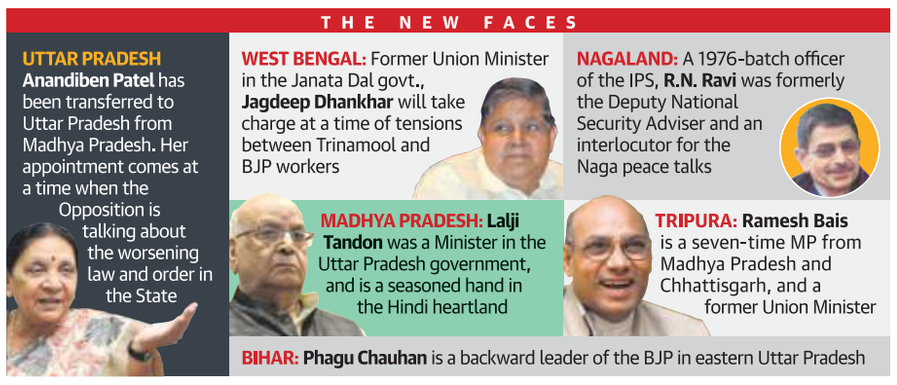
Four new Governors appointed

Anandiben Patel moved from Madhya Pradesh to Uttar Pradesh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a major reshuffle, President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday transferred two Governors and made four new appointments across six States. New Governors will take charge of the Raj Bhavans in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland and Tripura.

"The appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge," a communiqué from the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.



Madhya Pradesh Governor and former Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel has been transferred to U.P., while the former interlocutor for the Naga talks R.N. Ravi has been appointed Nagaland Governor. The reshuffle and choice of Governors is politically significant as they are among the first recommendations from the Home Ministry after BJP president Amit Shah took charge.

Though appointed by the President, the Home Ministry is the nodal Ministry for the selection of Governors, who act as a bridge between the Centre and the States. Senior Supreme Court advocate and former MP Jagdeep Dhankhar will be the new Governor of West Bengal, replacing Keshari Nath Tripathi.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit passes away

Tributes paid to veteran Cong. leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Minister of Delhi Sheila Dikshit passed away on Saturday at the Fortis Escorts Heart Institute after suffering a cardiac arrest. The veteran leader and head of the Delhi unit of the Congress was 81.

The last rites of the three-time Chief Minister will be conducted on Sunday at the Nigam Bodh ghat. Several leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, paid homage to Dikshit at her Nizamuddin East residence.

Congress leaders said Dikshit's body would be kept at the residence till Sunday morning for citizens to pay their last respects and will be taken to the party office before the cremation.

The Delhi government has announced a two-day official mourning as a mark of respect for the longest serving Chief Minister of the Capital. Dikshit served as Chief Minister for 15 years from 1998-2013 and was subsequently appointed the Governor of Kerala.

Sheila Dikshit

Politically active until her death, she had unsuccessfully contested the recent Lok Sabha elections from North-East Delhi.

Earlier, as a legislator, she represented the New Delhi constituency in the Delhi Vidhan Sabha.

A capital transformed

President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Modi, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal were among those who condoled her death.

"Her term in office was a period of momentous transformation for the capital for which she will be remembered," tweeted President Kovind in his tribute.

Mr. Modi described her as someone who was "blessed with a warm and affable personality who made notable contribution towards Delhi's development'.

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AFFABLE LEADER ▸ PAGE 10
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German envoy: RSS is a mass movement

Says as a German, he was conscious of its history during the 1930s-40s

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Terming the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) a "mass movement" in India, German Ambassador Walter Lindner said his visit to the RSS headquarters in Nagpur was part of his attempt to understand the "Indian mosaic".

Speaking to *The Hindu* about criticism over the visit, including an online petition that is calling for his resignation or recall, Mr. Lindner said he had visited Nagpur to review progress in the city's Metro project which Germany has helped finance, and decided to also meet RSS Sarsanghchalak (chief) Mohan Bhagwat.

SPECIAL

"I went to educate myself about the organisation," he said. "I had read very negative and very positive articles about it, everything from its social engagement to accusations of fascism, and I wanted to make my own impression. So I asked Mr. Bhagwat many questions."

Mr. Lindner's visit was considered unusual as very few foreign diplomats have made interactions with the RSS public, though a group of ambassadors had met Mr. Bhagwat in Delhi some years ago. In a tweet about his meeting, Mr. Lindner had said the RSS, "Founded [in] 1925, it is [the] world's largest voluntary organisation – though not uncontroversially perceived throughout its history."

Walter Lindner

Explaining the comment, Mr. Lindner said that as a German, he was conscious of the organisation's history during the 1930-40s, including the inspiration some of its leaders had drawn from Germany's Nazi movement and had discussed that with Mr. Bhagwat.

"I asked many questions on radicalism, and there are no simple answers to these questions," the Ambassador said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

NIA conducts searches across T.N.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A day after getting custody of 16 persons, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted searches at more than a dozen places in Tamil Nadu on Saturday as part of its probe in the Ansarullah module case.

The searches were conducted at five locations in Ramanathapuram district, two locations in Theni district and one location each in the districts of Chennai, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Nagapattinam and Thiruvarur, the NIA said.

50 documents seized

During the searches, one laptop, seven mobiles, five SIM cards, three memory cards, one hard disk drive, two pen drives, one Internet dongle, nine CDs/DVDs and about 50 documents were seized from the houses of the 16 accused. The seized materials would be submitted before the special court for NIA cases, Chennai, and the digital devices would be subjected to cyber-forensic examination, it said.

NIA DSP Radhakrishnan Pillai supervised the operation lasting about four hours.

PHONES SEIZED ▸ PAGE 10

CAPITAL CONG.QUEROR

(From left to right): Sheila Dikshit taking oath as Delhi Chief Minister in December 2003; inspecting the progress of the Delhi Metro at Shastri Park in 2004; during the inauguration of high-capacity bus service in 2005; administering polio drops to a child in 2005; at the opening of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium after renovation in 2010; and (inset picture) with her son Sandeep Dikshit and grandchildren at her residence in 2004. ▪ PHOTOS BY SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY, R.V. MOORTHY AND SANDEEP SAXENA

She who changed the face of Delhi

Sheila Dikshit was as transformational for the Capital in terms of development as her leadership was defining for its politics

JATIN ANAND
DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Defeat marred the beginning as well as the end of her political innings in Delhi – but the electoral success that came Sheila Dikshit's way in between was as transformational for the Capital in terms of development as her leadership was defining for its politics.

The 81-year-old was the face of three successive Congress regimes which oversaw the construction of around 70 flyovers, including the ongoing Barapullah project, the operationalisation and expansion of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) network in addition to a shift of the city's diesel-propelled public bus fleet en masse to compressed natural gas (CNG) over 15 years between 1998 and 2013.

In fact, Dikshit even managed a shift in the address of political power per se in the city by bringing the Delhi Secretariat to its current location at the players' building near ITO from the Old Vidhan Sabha in Civil Lines which now functions as the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

"For me, the Delhi Secretariat is her. She made the building in her own image – beautiful, elegant, hospitable, and supremely comfortable. At every turn in the city, there is something good to be found which bears her stamp. Was very fortunate that I got to speak to her just a couple of days ago, she happened to call, requesting to help someone. RIP Sheila Dixit Ma'am [sic]," Varsha Joshi, a 1995-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre currently posted as Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation, wrote in tribute to veteran Congress leader in a Facebook post.

Ms. Joshi, then posted as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of East Delhi's Gandhi Nagar, happens to be the bureaucrat who signed off on Dikshit's election affidavit for her maiden electoral contest from Delhi – as the Congress candidate for the 12th Lok Sabha elections from the East Delhi parliamentary constituency – in 1998, which, however, she lost by a very slim margin.

"I still remember the grace with which she approached me seeking my signature for an affidavit to file her nomination papers. I worked with her on many occasions after she was elected Chief Minister in the Assembly elections later that year. She believed in taking everyone along while moving forward... an amiable personality, I believe a lot of the forward-looking politics of the Capital is her legacy," Ms. Joshi said.

As many as 21 years later, Dikshit would return to the other side of the Yamuna – this time as the Congress' candidate from the North East Delhi parliamentary constituency which used to be a part of the East Delhi parliamentary constituency till 2008 but was carved out post-delimitation – to packed public meetings eager to hear what the party's local leadership dubbed *Vikas ki Devi* (goddess of development) had to say.

A force to reckon with

Here she would, after seeking votes for the Congress, ask her audience to recall that the Congress' three successive governments were the force behind the Delhi Metro and the Signature Bridge – to thunderous applause and nods of approval. Though she lost what was fated to be her last electoral battle, that she continued to be a force to reckon with would be proved by the fact that she garnered around 29% of the total vote share.

Retired IAS officer Ramesh Negi, who worked in various capacities in the Dikshit government for 11 years, remembered her as a leader with personal connect and a "subtle anger" that was followed by smiles and cups of tea.

"The first time I met her was in 2001 when I returned to Delhi from a posting in Daman & Diu. The first thing she said to me was to ask if I had been allotted a house since I had been transferred. That was the personal aspect she focused on," said Mr. Negi.

At work, Mr. Negi remembered the three-time Chief Minister as having "subtle anger". "When she was angry with me, she would start by calling me 'Negi ji', otherwise it was *beta*."

Mr. Negi recalled an instance in 2008 when he was the Delhi Transport Corporation chairperson and the procurement of 2,500 low-floor buses for the Commonwealth Games was being processed.

"We were having trouble with the negotiations as the prices quoted by the companies were high. She called the top officers for a meeting and said "if you can't finalise this in 10 days, I will tell the Prime Minister that it is because of these three officers. But, after that, she smiled and had a cup of tea."

When the buses were finally procured and the Opposition BJP raised allegations of corruption, the Chief Minister herself went to the Central Vigilance Commission to explain that all was above board, Mr. Negi said.

Tweets

Hard to believe-My mentor and a mother like figure to me #SheilaDikshit ji is no more. Delhi can never forget her contribution I will always thankfully remember the way she groomed me as a young politician and granted me valuable learning experience under her guidance! OmShanti
AJAY MAKEN, FORMER DELHI CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Extremely saddened to hear about Smt. Sheila Dixit ji passing away. She was a 3 time CM of Delhi during which she made it one of the best megalopolises in the world. A huge loss for the @INCIndia family & the country. My condolences & prayers to her family.
P.C. CHACKO, AICC GENERAL SECRETARY

Very saddened to hear of Mrs Dixit's passing away. She was a woman of culture and finesse as I remember her. She was a delight to converse with. Delhi owes her a lot. She will be remembered for all that changed in Delhi under her leadership
KIRAN BEDI, BJP LEADER

Was deeply saddened to hear about Sheila ji's demise. A remarkable woman, former CM of New Delhi and a keen admirer of all art forms. We never discussed politics but had long talks on music and poetry. May her soul rest in peace and heartfelt condolences to her family.
LATA MANGESHKAR, SINGER

I'm deeply saddened to hear about the untimely death of Sheila Dixitji. A fierce champion of the people, she dedicated her life to better Delhi. A huge loss for the capital. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends
GAUTAM GAMBHIR, BJP MP

'She taught us how to conduct ourselves gracefully in politics'

Leaders recall her rapport across party lines

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Tremendous willpower, love for Delhi and a thorough statesman who ensured that there can be "grace in politics", is how three-term Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit's party colleagues and political opponents, who arrived at her Nizamuddin East residence, remembered her on Saturday.

Reminiscing about the days of working with the former CM, Kiran Walia, a close aide of Dikshit said, "She had tremendous willpower and loved Delhi immensely. She was a mother figure to us and taught us the tricks of politics. While most people think that politics is a dirty game, she never used it like that. She taught us how to conduct ourselves gracefully in politics."

Attachment to city

"She was attached to the city like no other person was. She would want things rectified as soon as she saw something wrong. Twice she had sent me to R.K. Puram flyover at midnight to ensure that people sleeping under it were taken to night shelters," she added.

CM Arvind Kejriwal, who arrived at Dikshit's residence along with his Deputy Manish Sisodia said, "Even though we were political rivals, I always found her to be very affectionate every time we met. Her death is a huge loss for the city and the people of Delhi will always remember her for her contribution."

Stating that the relationship with Dikshit extended beyond party lines and even involved discussions about "good parathas," BJP MP Vijay Goel said, "She won everyone's heart through the work she did and through her smile. At one point she struggled within her party but emerged victorious even then. The last time I spoke to her was when the Congress-Aam Aadmi Party alliance talks were on and I tried to dissuade her against it."

Vijender Gupta, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly said, "Even though we have had numerous confrontations, she regarded it as competition and treated everyone well above party lines. No matter how aggressive I have been against her at times, it never felt so whenever we met."

Manoj Tiwari, North East Delhi MP, who contested against Dikshit in the Lok Sabha election said that she was a "great leader who taught everyone the essence to fight elections."

"When I met her after the election, she had told me that we are not personal enemies but political rivals. This is something I will remember forever. The news of her demise is something that the people of Delhi will have to come to terms with," Mr. Tiwari said.

The longest serving CM that Delhi has had will always be remembered for the Capital's development and her strive to "work till the last breath," said Congress leaders Ahmed Patel and Jagdish Tytler. "I met her two days ago and even then she had said that she will work till her last breath and that is exactly what happened. Her demise has left a huge vacuum in Indian politics," said Mr. Patel.

Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari, who also reached Dikshit's residence said, "She loved Delhi and Delhi loved her back."

Finding new leader a challenge for Delhi Cong.

Uniting the divided house is another major task for the party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

With the void created by the sudden demise of Sheila Dikshit, the Congress faces the uphill task of looking for a leader who can fill into her shoes, ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls slated in less than six months.

The new leader also has to deal with the challenge of uniting the faction-ridden Delhi unit, which had already put Dikshit and other leaders, including P.C. Chacko, at loggerheads on a host of issues.

Although Dikshit enjoyed confidence of the party leadership, the opposition to her was evident when she and several Congress leaders were on different page on whether to have a pre-poll tie-up with the Aam Aadmi Party for the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

"None in the current crop of leaders matches up to the popularity and appeal of Dikshit. The three working presidents Haroon Yusuf, Devender Yadav and Rakesh Lilothia are relatively junior to other senior leaders like J.P. Agarwal, A.K. Walia and Subhash Chopra," said a leader.

"The sudden demise of Dikshit badly hurts Delhi Congress which is totally unprepared for it," the leader said.

From being wiped out and relegated to the third position in every major election since 2013, the party saw some hope after it managed to dislodge the AAP and secure second position in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The Congress was on number two position in five seats.

Dikshit was also gearing up for the State Assembly polls scheduled to be held in January-February next year.

Now, the party has to hunt for a new leader to lead the organisation ahead of the polls. Former DPCC chief Ajya Maken had resigned on health grounds. Arvinder Lovely, who has also served as the DPCC chief in the past, has recently come back to the party after a brief stint at the BJP.

Sheila's passions: western music, films, books

Sheila Dikshit was quite fond of Western music since her youth and would sit near the radio waiting for her favourite songs to be aired. She also developed a fascination for footwear and had a good collection. She loved watching movies and her first film in theatres was *Hamlet*. In the midst of hectic political activity too, she would take out time to watch a movie and saw *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* 20 times. Dikshit mentioned about these in her autobiography *Citizen Delhi: My Times, My Life* published last year. Her favourite books were *Alice in Wonderland, Through the Looking Glass, What Alice Found There* and the Sherlock Holmes series. PTI

Her project that promoted participatory democracy

The Bhagidari scheme, started by former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, involved people, including resident welfare associations and civic society, in the decision-making process. It was an initiative aimed at promoting participatory democracy. In an event organised by the think tank, ORF, in October 2008, Dikshit had said the idea behind this scheme was to involve people in the democratic process.

When the Bhagidari scheme was launched, about 11 citizen groups were identified. It later grew to more than 2,000 groups. Under the scheme, monthly meetings were held with the RWAs, which Dikshit addressed personally through videoconferencing. Citizens complained about their problems and officials listened. PTI

When an unwell Dikshit wanted to quit

In the winter of 2012, Sheila Dikshit underwent her second angioplasty and her family wanted her to quit politics but then the horrific December 16 gang rape took place and she made up her mind not to "run away from the battlefield". After she complained of fatigue and bouts of breathlessness, doctors confirmed a 90% blockage in her right coronary artery, and she underwent the procedure. "After the Nirbhaya incident, I was in a bind. My family, which had seen my distress throughout that period, urged me to step down as planned earlier, but I felt that such a move would be seen as running away from the battlefield... Someone had to take the blame," she wrote in her autobiography. PTI

Her last instruction: protest at BJP office

As the Delhi Congress chief, Sheila Dikshit's last instruction to party workers was to stage a protest outside BJP headquarters if the standoff between party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and the U.P. government did not end on Saturday, said a former Cabinet colleague. On Friday, the Delhi Congress had sent out a message in Dikshit's name, urging party leaders and workers to come for a mass protest at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg against the detention of the Priyanka Gandhi in U.P. She was missing from the protest, which was, instead, led by Haroon Yusuf, the working president of the Delhi Congress. On Friday evening though, she instructed her party members to again stage a protest the next day if the standoff did not end. PTI

DELHI Timings

SUNDAY, JULY 21			
RISE	05:37	SET	19:19
RISE	22:18	SET	09:16
MONDAY, JULY 22			
RISE	05:37	SET	19:18
RISE	22:50	SET	10:08
TUESDAY, JULY 23			
RISE	05:38	SET	19:18
RISE	23:21	SET	11:00

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	37	29
Safdarjang	37	29
Palam	36	28

Delhi Palam Today
35°C A hazy and humid morning. Day will be warm with cloudy sky. Chances of light patchy rain/shower.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Dry and warm weather with humid conditions to continue. Night will be slight uneasy.

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THE HINDU
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Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	124	Gurugram	139
Ghaziabad	126	Faridabad	74
Noida	116	Greater Noida	144

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

IN BRIEF

36 held for consuming liquor on Noida roads

NOIDA

Three dozen people have been arrested here for consuming liquor at public place and creating nuisance, police said on Saturday. The arrests were made on Friday night during an inspection PTI

DELHI TODAY

Music: "Nazarana", a Ghazal concert by Shabab Khan, Shakeel Ahmed Khan and Rakhi Chatterjee at Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, 6 p.m.

Music: An evening Bengali and Hindi melodies by Sayani Palit, a classical vocalist, at Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Shifting Expression" solo art show by Sujata Kar Saha at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Exhibition: "Rendezvous with Nature", a group painting exhibition by Jasbeer and Simrit Luthra at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Screening: "Bauls of Bengal", an English documentary film screening at Gulmohar Hall, IHC, 7 p.m.

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

Drug haul: Zakir Nagar house was den for 3 years

Neighbours believed accused were into gold melting business

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

The persons arrested by the Special Cell on Thursday for their alleged involvement in an international heroin smuggling racket were residing in the Zakir Nagar house for the last three years, the neighbours said.

At the five-storey building in Zakir Nagar's Gali No. 21, the accused had rented the house on the four floor with an attached terrace which was off limits for occupants of lower floors. The accused were allegedly running a heroin reconstitution unit at the residence.

An occupant of the building who owns the third-floor house and refused to be named said that the men had been living in the accommodation for the last three years.

She said that she was scared and didn't wish to divulge further details.

Never visited house
Another resident of the second-floor house who have been living on rent since January said that all the building occupants were aware that the men were into the business of melting gold.

"We never visited their house but we were told by other neighbours that there are some instruments in the house that the men use for melting gold," said the 31-year-old man.

The neighbour also claimed that they could never really get to know who was actually living in the house as several men kept visiting and staying. "A lot of men used to come and go. But they were all well-behaved and quiet so we never really suspected anything amiss," the man's wife said.

The buiding where the accused were running a heroin reconstitution unit on the fourth floor.
▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The neighbours claimed that they never saw the men carrying any boxes or packets that looked suspicious. "We never saw any cars being driven by them or being owned by them. They would sometimes use a bike though. Perhaps, they were carrying out their nefarious activities in the wee hours when everyone was asleep," the man said.

'Kept to themselves'
All the neighbours and other residents of the street claimed that they never suspected the accused because they were "quiet men who kept to themselves". "They were never visited by anyone who looked like family members or any woman. We might have initiated to interact if there was any female," the woman said.

> **We never saw any cars being driven by them or being owned by them. They would sometimes use a bike though. Perhaps, they were carrying out their nefarious activities in the early hours when everyone was asleep**
> A NEIGHBOUR

The grocery store owner and the man who irons clothes in the street also said that they were never visited by the men.

The police said that Shinwari Rehmat Gul (30) and Akhtar Mohammad Shinwari (31), both residents of Afghanistan's Jalalabad, Vakeel Ahmed (36) and Raees Khan (43) from Delhi and Dheeraj alias Deepak (21) from Faridabad were arrested on Friday.

A total of 150 kg of Afghan heroin worth ₹600 crore was recovered.

Taking advantage of the spice trade between India and Afghanistan, jute sacks filled with spices entered India, once empty, were picked up from the mandis by gang members and brought to the processing unit, where they were put in chemicals and the heroin extracted.

2 held for smuggling narcotics, vehicle seized

Cab belonging to a popular aggregating company was used for the business

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A cab, running with a popular aggregating company, being allegedly used to transport drugs was seized by the police. Two persons, including the driver, have been arrested.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said that the accused have been identified as Giriraj Kishore (34), resident of Nangloi and Bhagwan Das (24), resident of Bareilly.

Tip-off
The police claimed to have received a tip-off on Saturday regarding drug peddlers in Swaroop Nagar area after which a trap was laid and the cab was stopped in which the two accused were travelling.

"On checking of the car, 65.1 kg. of poppy straw was recovered from the car," Mr. Sharma said.

The police said that Giriraj has been driving the cab for the last two-three years and met Das last month who lured him into the smuggling trade.

"They used to transport the NDPS substance from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi at night to avoid identification," the DCP said.

Speeding truck kills father, son

Eyewitness notes vehicle's number that helps police nab driver

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old man and his five-year-old son were killed when they were hit by a speeding mini-truck in north-east Delhi's Nand Nagri on Saturday morning. The accused has been arrested, the police said.

DCP (North-East) Atul Thakur said that the victims have been identified as Rajpal (45), and his son Shiva, residents of Hathgai near Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

The police said that Rajpal, a labourer in Shahjahanpur, had come to Delhi with his family to meet their elder daughter who is married and lives in Nand Nagri. The family was crossing the road near Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) Depot when the incident happened.

"A PCR call was received at 5.21 a.m. regarding an accident near DCT depot. The victims were rushed to GTB Hospital where they were declared brought dead," Mr. Thakur said.

Enquiry revealed that Rajpal and his son were walking at a distance from the wife and daughter. The truck hit the father-son.

An eyewitness managed to note the truck's registration number which helped police nab the accused within a few hours. The vehicle has also been seized.

Court acquits 6 persons in dowry death case

Rejects testimonies of victim's parents

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has acquitted six persons, including the husband of the deceased, in a dowry death case. They were charged with poisoning the victim to death when her father failed to meet the demand for dowry.

The doctor, who conducted the post-mortem, said in his report that the victim died of lead poisoning but he was not able to describe the physical properties of lead or fatal dose of lead poison in his cross-examination during the trial of the case, the court noted.

Clueless on symptoms
He also could not comment on the clinical symptoms in case of lead poisoning, though he was conversant with the term 'chronic poisoning of lead,' the court said.

"Though the doctor agreed to the literature on lead poisoning read over to him in the court that said it occurred over a period of time in various circumstances but he could not comment on the exact manner of death of the deceased," the court further said.

"In view of the testimonies of medical experts, the testimonies of family members of the deceased in respect of circumstances surrounding the death of the deceased are not reliable. Hence, in my considered opinion, in the absence of clinching evidence, the death of the deceased was not in abnormal circumstances," Additional Sessions Judge Kuldeep Narayan said.

The Judge also rejected the testimonies of the parents of the victim.

"On the whole, the testimonies of the victim's parents are not sufficient to establish that the deceased was harassed or treated with cruelty by the accused persons for dowry. They also deposed contradictory facts regarding the treatment of the deceased, particularly by accused Sharwan [husband of the victim]," the Judge said.

"The blanket allegations levelled against all the accused persons appears to have been made by the victim's parents out of vengeance without any foundation. In the absence of any positive evidence, therefore, in my considering opinion, the prosecution also failed to bring home the charge under Section 498A [harassment for dowry] IPC," the Judge said.

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

Always In Hurry?

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Trying To Save Minutes Can Cost Precious Lives

Avoid wrong side driving.
Red light jumping can cause serious accident.
Zig Zag driving is Dangerous for you and others.

DP/9126/19

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* Series 1: Know about EVM/VVPAT

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* Other thematic facts about 2019 Elections will be published in next series.

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Shaikh Md Zaib Zakir	283
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MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
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BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
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Bihari
Chhattisgarhi
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Kannada
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Malayalam
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MALAYALAM

KERALA TAMIL Viswakarma Gold Smith girl 12-9-1995, Aswathy/167 cm, employed IT, Bangalore seeks alliance from parents of employed well settled boys of same caste. 9495849754.

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA (G.S) 36/162 Avittom,Chennai Settled Sn System Engg in MNC.Seeks educated & Employed Groom CNB .09445651626, 9790739037

VISWAKARMA (GOLDSMITH) girl 28/168 cms, Ayilyam, completing Ph.D Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, parents in Trivandrum. Contact: 9446483026, 8078238050

NAIR GIRL 23/160 fair, goodlooking BE (Electronics & Comm) Software Engineer MNC Chennai Ph: 8939617555

HYD Based Nair Girl, 1982 Dec,Veg. Software Eng. Nair/Brahmin/Veg similar Working Groom :- 9553389111, Email :- kanakakumar21@gmail.com

NRI

TAMIL HINDU Vellalar Divorcee 46 MS,SWE,US Employee, Son17yr seek US Employee Groom.Ct: 9940623480

MUDALIAR CANADIAN CITIZEN
28/160, Registered Nurse, working in Toronto, seeks Educated Boy (Engineer / Doctor / SW professional) & willing to settle in Canada. Caste No Bar
ramadosss@focussedconsulting.com

TAMIL

INTER CASTE RC 29/162 BE (E & I) Working Corporate Co Seeks Educated, Employed Groom RC/CSI 94459 31257

TAMIL

TAMIL MUSLIM Girl B.Sc, B.Ed. Kumari Dist.Religious. 9840114786, 9444955793.

KULALAR 26/167 Poosam Kadagam BTech(IT),MBA,ProfsnlOffr,Bank,chennai seeks Well Settled Groom.9443262222/vnsabapathy.creed@gmail.com

Hindu Nadar Swathi Tulam 25/159 fair M.Sc,Mphil (PhD) Lip Correction done seeks Suitable Groom. Ct:9566800695

Hindu Adi-Dravida 24/165 B.Arch Good Job in Railway Chennai seeks Graduate Employed in Central Govt/ Bank. Ct:044-25500001 / 9003140743

CHETTIAR PATTINAVAR 29/155 BE MNC, Anna University MIT Campus 18L p.a, Good Looking, Seeks Suitable well educated groom. Caste No Bar. Cont: 8056239541 / 9717747071

SC 26/164, B.E MBA, Fair.Seeks working Govt / PVT Groom with good family.Ct:9444991091

YADAV BRIDE 38 BSc., Smart, Bank Job Well Settled in Kilpauk Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 73389 64190

SC, AD, 24, Fair, Govt. Doctor, MBBS, Rs.75000.p.m. seeks Doctor Groom. CNB. Ct: 6369222735. mail: murthy_murthy2@yahoo.com

1000 CRORES (Caste No Bar) 23/ M.S., Own Dhall Mills Supplies all over India & Abroad, (Well known company in India) Commercial Complex etc, fair girl Seeks Groom. Caste No Bar. 8939550566

MUDALIAR, 23,B Tech, 5'4" Good look, working seeks suitable groom CNB, Ct. 8778514465/ 7200866346

TEXTILE 1000 CRORES, Mudaliyar 21 / M.B.A., Own Cinema Theatres, Malls etc. Well to do, FairOnly Daughter, Seeks Grooms. 9962868165

V.FAIR 26 BE, IT Professional, 170/ Kettai Sozhia Vellalar seeks groom. Ct: 0431–2473535/ 9486644133

Hindu SC AD 23/154 BE Bharani, Mesham, Fair, Trichy. Seeks employed fair groom. 9442539235, 9445217880

SEEKING ALLIANCE for SC/AD bride, 35 yrs/153cm, B.Tech, Bharani/ Mesham, working Sr.Consultant in a reputed IT firm.Caste No Bar. Ct 8056404941/04449595634

TAMIL

INTERCASTE Hindu 25/162 M.Pharm Grad from affluent Industrialist family in Cbe seeks suitable Groom preferable working Abroad caste no bar. Ct: 98424 53500

F–DKVSC, M–REDDY, Age:37 BA Slim Fair expects any diploma/degree, private/govt Business,Caste no bar, ct:9003225310 mail:ipmin2019@gmail.com

SOZHIA VELLALA 39/167 Uthratadi BE MBA empld SW Chennai Divorcee no encumbrance seeks educated groom. Subsect no bar. 9283433069/ 9840329160

VANNIYAKULA SHATHRIYA 28/158 Karthigai BE working in Salem, as Asst. Manager in Nationalised Bank, Rs50Kpm, Seeks suitable groom 8056221963

MUDALIYAR SWATHI 37/165 BE MBA (IIM) working–TCS, Rs 27Lpa, Seeks Professionaly Qualified Groom, Sub Sect acceptable Ct: suhamano@yahoo.com

HINDU PILLAI, Asst.Prof, ME, 27/155 Uthiram seeks Er/Dr Groom. CT:7418211136. mail:meetpdp@gmail.com

VALLUVAN M.Tech 30/168 Revathi raghu dosham working in MNC Caste no bar Ct:9443138503

SOZHIA VELLALAR NV 33/153 Aswini BE, MBA SW Sr. Manager Chennai 30 LPA seeks BE/ME/MS up to 36 Sbsect No bar Contact : 96295 77698, 80560 44796

SC AD 29/172 BE MBA(B Schl) non IT 11 L pa Poosam Kadagam WellSettled Fmly seeks suitable Groom from good Fmly. Ct: 9840401929 / 9840607125

UDAYAR UTRATATHI 25/168, MBBS, Working in UK, seeks Same Caste any Professional groom. Ct: 94864 77377

YADAVA PILLAI, 27/157, Ashwini, BE employed girl, seeks suitable, prof. qlfd groom (b/w 28-31 yrs) from educated & well settled family. Ct: +919632244118.

ATHIVARADHAR INVITES: Chennai Mudaliar Girl BE, 28yr, 158Cm Kettai, Expect Salary or Business, Equal Other Caste. Ct: 9884495722, 9444401987

HINDU NADAR T.N.Govt. Job, M.A.M.B.A., 30-6-1984 Punarpoosam K.K.DIST.8122899793 / 7200728108.

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annaiayodhya@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR 36/165CM M.Com, Ph.D Divorcee no issues, Seeks good Job PG groom. Reply BHP Email to: paandiyanraajam@gmail.com

HINDU AD 38 Yrs Ph.D Central Govt job 12 Lakhs pa seeks suitable Groom. CT: 8270946508.

HINDU, SC, 29YRS / 152CM, GOVT Doctor, 7lacs PA, Fair, Caste no bar, Contact: 8870298975

TELUGU

Kapu 29 Yrs B'Ful Girl Software Engineering 2nd Marriage Salary 1 lakh seeks suitable Groom Ct: 9666563435

GAJULA BALIJA 23/170 Anusham Fair Slim B.Com (ACS) seeks BE High Class same caste clean habits 9445895188

KAMMA 25, 168, BE/SWE, MNC, Chennai Uthrattathi, Affluent Family seeks Groom from Same Caste below 30 years. Ct:7823988999 yjtilak@gmail.com

BALIJA/GAVARA 26/160 M.E Energy Engg,Lecturer,Chennai (Only Daughter) Punarpusam.Seeks Govt,Bank Groom 26 to 30yrs. Ct:9444147074,9940697055

TELUGU

NAIDU PADHMA Velama, Graduate, 1981, Aswini, Mesham, Seeks Decent Settled Family Only. Ph: 9380157836

KAMMA 2ND year PG Doctor bride (5', 26y) looking for PG Doctor / Professional groom. Call 78925 82151

KAMMA DOB 1980 Fair Height 5.5 MS USA wanted Groom Kamma Settled USA – 6300816810 / 9848444371.

BALIJA NAIDU Pooratadi 26/157 fair BE MS empld– Germany seeks groom empld– Germany Caste NoBar 9940679859

✔ **1984/GIRL** /BE /V.Fair /SW.ENGR/ Chennai Needs a suitable working Brahmin Boy. Ph: 9791111321

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SMU 30 /BDS Slim Emp. Chennai settled 3yr Son Khula seeks, BDS/BE Ch. Groom Watsapp 9841388975, 9841384247

✔ **SMU SYED** parents seeks suitable professional well settled groom with good family values preferably settled in abroad for their younger daughter 24/160, born & studied in middle east, B.E, working in Bengaluru MNC. Contact gulshan.sssk@gmail.com / 9841576943 & W-Up 0097455946987

33 YR divorcee no child seek well placed groom ct 7338756162

MUSLIM URDU, 37, 154cm 2nd Marriage No Issues Asst. Professor Govt. Job Suitable Groom Wanted. 9025067019

SMU 29/ 5.7ft Ayur.Dr (PG) V.Fair, Elite seeks tall,Handsome, PG Grooms from India/ Abroad PG– 9344087122.

SMU PARENTS Seeking allaince Daughter 28/168 M.D final year. Preferably Post Graduate Doctors. 9791106339

SMU 34/170 Unmarried Wheatish Graduate Working USA (Citizen) highly Qualified Family seeks Preferbly to settle in USA groom.Ct:+12155350491 Email: iqbalsyed2003@yahoo.com

SMU 24/160 Chennai, B.Tech, Fair Bride Seeks Well Qualified & Well Settled, Good Looking Groom 9176343757

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BRAHMIN, 35, 173 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 9380019628

BRAHMIN, 30, 180 cms, Management Professional, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a retired Magistrate. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 8695668994

MUDALIYAR, 25, 172 cms, Businessman, BE, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from same community. Contact: 9362295019

PARKAVA KULAM, 31, 168 cms, Businessman, B.Com. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Trustee Director. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from any community. Contact: 9344351215

REDDY, 26, 180 cms, Businessman, BE from a reputed Institute. Lives in Bangalore. Father is into Business. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from Telugu Reddy community. Contact: 9342569117

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 24, 168 cms, B.E. Lives in Karaikudi. Father is a Correspondent. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 7871502020

BRAHMIN, 27, 152 cms, Marketing Executive, MBA. Father is a Director. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 8695668994

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MUSLIM, 34, 163 cms, Divorced, Consultant Physician, MBBS/PGD in Endocrinology and Diabetes. Lives in London. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from any Muslim community in UK/Karnataka/Maharashtra. Contact: 9380019628

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HINDU NADAR 29/165 IIS,Asst Director AIR, Govt of Ind. Seeks Dr/ Engr/ Class A Officer. CNB Ct: 9282430427

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TAMIL

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CSI–AD– 35/150CM. M.SC, Sr.Copy Editor Presently not employed, Chennai Seeks suitable Groom Ct: 9840149374/ 8754549326 manuel.engg@gmail.com

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SC CHRISTIAN 27/160 MBBS, MD (Dermatology),onlydaughter,ownhouse Wellsettled Family at Chennai seeks PG Doctors.6381421161/ 9840723333 Email ID: balubharatgas@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN medium built fair 30/5.6 B.Tech Emp. Contact glbride88@gmail.com

CSI NADAR 27/160 fair BE MS(Ireland) Student seeks employed preferably Tirunelveli Nadar. Ct: 9442370857

35, Udayar, RC, Software Engg, Chennai. Contact Number: 9884696616

RC VELLALAR 29 / 160 M.Sc, M.Phil, Asst Professor Tiruchy Hertiage College. Seeks Suitable Match RC Preferably settled Trichy Below 33 yrs. Contact : 7708879406 / 0431 2302556

CSI VELLALAR, 34/165cm,divorcee(no issues)research consultant & project manager at California(U.S citizen)seeking a professional,God fearing groom willing to settle in U.S. For more information. ct:8056266803

Tamil Muslim Very Very Fair / BE / 29/175cm married at the age of 14 years and got divorced within short period seeks well educated employed broad minded groom below 35years. Email Id: emessrubbers@yahoo.com, Contact: 94862 77087 .

CSI–NADAR/ 23YRS/ 164CM/ BDS/ Dentist/ Upper Middle Class/ Seeks Groom/ Age 24–32/ Only Medical field/ India or Abroad/ CT : 9940644193

CHRISTIAN 33 MBA Seperated having 5yr old girl, seeks broad minded groom. Widower / Divorcee. 9962697526

TAMIL

CNB 43/168CM, BE, Uthiram, not working, issueless divorcee, seeks suitable groom. Ct: 9600159071

TAMIL, VANIYA Chettiar, Oct 1989, 161cms 59kgs, MD Paediatrics, Wheatish, Non–Veg, Father Retd. GM, Chennai seeks groom 30–32yrs, same community, PG Doctor, Clinical branch, fair, Non–smoking ,Teetotaller, good family background. Ct: 8939296375

SOZHIA VELLALAR Pillai/Barani 31/162 Govt. Doctor. MBBS, Pursuing MD (Ped.), seeks suitable Dr./Engr./Bank Officer/Govt. Employed groom between 32-35yrs. Ct: 9944227062

VANNIAR JAN 78 MCA Officer Govt Bank seeks well placed groom Contact :9489042676

34/166 cm, Senaithalaivar, Kettai B.D.S., seeks good educated groom from a reputed family. (Mudaliyar, Pillai- Doctors / Engineers preferred) contact: 9159945608,9944207234.

39 SC (DKV) Divorcee B.Tech Asst. Mngr MNC 7L / annum, seeks suitable person. Contact: 9445115944

UDAIYAR (CASTE No Bar) 27/165, MBBS,MS(Opthol), Own Hospital in Coimbatore, Affluent Family,Seeks Doctor/Business, 8870020504, 8925019776

SC, ADIDRAVIDAR, 26, MBBS, WORKING in PHC. Wants suitable Groom. 8220664704/9442670165, mohanaraj1294@gmail.com.

HINDU NADAR Poosam Kadagam 22/153, Fair, B.Tech-IT, Only Daughter Chennai seeks Well Educated Employed / Business Groom.Ct: 9840942228

PILLAI GIRL, 27/168, CA, MNC B'lore seeks prof. qlfd boy Ct: 7502005558, v.kavitha2008kk@gmail.com

CHENNAI BASED Hindu Bride 25yrs 165cm seeks suitable Chennai based Groom with Clean Habits. Caste No Bar. Ct: 91505 85554

DOCTOR BRIDEGROOM wanted for a doctor girl doing Internal Medicine Residency in USA Hindu Nadar girl 25 yrs,very fair,165cms hailing from rich family. Expecting P.G.Doctor boy with clean habits and good family background from same community. Contact with horoscope & Biodata@cell: 94430 53474/ Email: drpjeypee@yahoo.in.

HINDU SC 32/151 Uthiradam Asst. Director, SAI– GOI seeks well settled groom. Caste no bar. Ph: 8826377843

SEEKING Alliance from Chennai based PG bridegrooms for Masters in Social work bride Pillai 34/168 Thiruvonam. Any Pillai Caste,Ct:09840959157

TAMIL

1982,AFFLUENT IYENGAR Tall Fair Beautiful Girl,Sadamarshana,Revathi seeks grooms in India USA. 9940166933

SEEKING ALLIANCE for Hindu Nangudi Vellala. Elder Bride 29+/172cm, working in RBI, M.Tech, Pooradam. Younger Bride working in Bank of India, 26+/167cm, MBA, Moolam seeks Any Bank Employee Groom. 9443961930, 9486656530.

HINDU PILLAI B.Com MBA 29 Visakam Fair Employed in Chennai. Seeks Profesionaly Qualfied Groom. 9790904426

HINDU 28/162CM Fair, M.E(IT) employed in TATTI. Seeks Groom 29–32yrs employed in Govt./PSU/Bank. Ct: 9444229142 (or) geethanlc2501@gmail.com

SOZHIA VELLALAR NV 29/160, Ayilyam B.Tech, Software, seeks M.Tech/ M.E/ M.S upto 32 years sbsect No bar. Ct: 9787773346/ 9600047380.

US employed 35 yrs SC/AD, S/W Engineer seeks alliance preferably US Visa holder. Ct 9994681634

AGE 26 BE MBA Govt Bank Asst Mngr 60,000pm Upper Middle class.Only one Daughter Good looking. 9360395175

MUDALAIYAR 27/165 Fair judge (dist munsiff) seeks suitable professional Caste no bar. Contact– Mb: 9360849671 Email: mathiusha1963@gmail.com

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TAMIL, 57, divorce, fair, handsome, clean habits. Grade 1 officer; well educated & settled. Annual income Rs. 20 lakhs. Looking for a not working, beauteous, honesty, poor divorcee & widow bride. Caste , religion and language no bar. Apply with photos. Ct: himalaya 497@gmail.com.

DIVORCEE

ANY MARITAL status BRAHMIN bride for Tamil brahmin Divorcee 49yrs MA Software French MNC Bangalore 10lakhs/year Ct:9591904754

DOCTOR

DOCTOR GOVT.55YRS, Christian, Widower, Healthy, Seeks: Widow, Divorce. Email: drrajkumar62@yahoo.com

Hindu Vellalar divorcee, no child, 31, affluent orthopaedic surgeon. Looking for good looking doctor bride, from same status from same or related caste. M: 9443131342

MALAYALAM

HINDU PULAYA boy 31 MCA Kannur Dt. residing at Coimbatore, seeks proposals. 8129784705, 9600222477

BENGALURU EMPLOYED Nair Groom CA/ MBA Below 29years Malabar Origin for 24years Chennai Based Nair Girl, 163cm, Utrattathi, Slight Dosham, Working as Sr Analyst In Investment Bank. Contact : 8122861412

NAIR 35/178 Makeeram BE Divorcee earning handsomely well settled in Chennai seeks smart bride. 9941410890

MARATHI

MARATHI BRAHMIN, 32, MBA, Gautama Gotra,175 CM, seeks educated and employed bride Ph:9962581127

TAMIL

INTER CASTE 33/162 B.TECH. M.B.A working in MNC seeks educated bride RC/CSI 9884825317

INTERCASTE VELLALAR Christian(RC) M.B.A/31/175 cm Manager MNC seeks Hindu/Christian bride working in Chennai,Ct:9884600667

RC BOY 30/173 MS, Engr USA, seeks alliance from fair, slim RC girl 24 to 27 Yrs Engineer/ MS working in Bangalore/ USA. Ct/ Watsapp: 9980163714

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 31/173 cm, B.E., M.B.A.(IIM), MNC Bangalore, 27 Lacs per annum seeks Educated, Employed and Fair Bride. Contact: 99942 47184.

RC VELLALAR 42 MBA Senior Mgr Govt. Bank fair pious God–fearing physically challenged Polio left leg self supportive seeks God–fearing girl. 9840166013

TAMIL RC Christian, working as a software consultant based in London, 172 cms, 68 kgs, BE–ECE, 36 yrs, Vishwakarma Kammalar, Father: Rtd BHEL, Mother: House wife. Well settled and seeks bride from good Catholic Tamil family. 9840041207/ 9962987455

CSI DKV Caste No Bar BE MS (USA) Aug 78/ 173 God fearing propertied clean habits Divorcee issueless seeks suitable Bride 944400 5940

HINDU PALLAR 32/170 BE MBA Fair CitiBank Chen IT Support seek Same Sect working FairBride.Ct:9940972228

Christian 45/177 B.Com Govt Job Chen 70K.pm Divorcee seeks Bride CasteNoBar.8825897792/7845791450

TAMIL

INTER CASTE Parent 31/182 Revathi BE MBA DyMngr,Ch seek EductdBride Dr.Nathan- 9840678020 / 9884898829

BRAHMIN 38/160 MS MBA Business Seeks Pretty Veg bride Remarriage with issue acceptable Geetham 9884858014

HINDU AD PR 27/175 B.Tech NIT, IIM MBA wkg IBM B'lore seeks MBBS/ IIM/ IAS/ M.Tech bride Ct:9442181645

TAMIL VISHWAKARMA Rohini 38 BE, ECE, USA Well Settled Software Professional. Working Bride Preffered, from SameCaste or Equal other Caste. Contact: 9941876621 / 9841403396

✔ ***SAIVA PILLAI*,** 26, M.Tech, Star Thiruvonam, Rasi Maharam from Kumbakonam, Currently Working in MNC Chennai,Seeks fair educated Bride, Age btw 21 to 24, Ct: 9489773845

MUDALIAR, 29/175, MBBS, MS, Doctor, Pvt.Hosp, Chennai, 100000PM, Elite Fmly, Sks Dr / Eng, 91501 53813

2000 CRORES Kungu Vellalar 27/B.E. (Big Group of Companies India) , Educational, Medical , Engineering College, Own Buses, Hospitals ets. Groom Seeks Bride. Chennai 9176042697

✔ **BRAHMIN INTERCASTE** /Tamil /Well Settled Boy@Chennai/34 yrs /157CM/ mirugasirisham/fair & good looking/ BE, 25+Lacs/year, Ph:94434–33046, jayseeni@gmail.com

VanniyaKula Kshatriya 31/180 BE, MS(UK) 60kpm@ Chennai own house seek Educated Bride Well Settled Fmly 9498337384 / muralibabl@gmail.com

RETIRED SENIOR, Executive Parents SC, Adi Dravida Tamil require Doctor/ Engineer bride for Son 32 Years, B.E, M.Tech SWE in MNC Bangalore. Salary 65K per month. Ct: 09449941927, 080 25660728, parasuraman.udhay7@gmail.com

PILLAI 33/170 Anusham BE Mech, Singapore, sevvai dosham, seeks suitable Bride. CT: 094427-94092.

SAIVA PILLAI Barani 37/164 M.Com, MFM, SWE, MNC, 1.5 Lpm seek Good lookingEmploydVegBride.6383055706

HINDU PALLAR 39/178, M.L., Judge Seeks Suitable Bride with any degree Ph: 9443253274 / 9486347607.

VISWAKARMA 45, F.Marriage Business, UG. seeks bride below 40. Widow/divorce also. 9444353748 (W) Chennai.

HINDU SC, Caste no bar, BE, MBA, 45,Manager,NLC,Govt.of India seeks alliance,any graduate from decent family,no dowry Cont:9487140882

VANNIYA KULA Kshatriar(Nayakar) Wealthy, Propertied, 28/177 B.Tech (SRM), IT Professional, MNC. Only son of former Bank Officer seeks alliance from Educated, Fair, Slim Girl from the same community. Parents of Chennai based / origin preferred. Send BHP : sundha.loknath@yahoo.com

SC AD Age 30/170Cm BE MBA Car Co., Chennai, Rs.65,000/– PM seeks Suitable Bride. Caste No Bar. 9444400971

Naidu Pooratadhi 40/173 Unmarried BE MNC 10Lpa seek BrideCasteNobar 7868998710 / srirairam5@gmail.com

INTER Caste parents only son ME, Ph.d, 33yrs Asst Prof Pvt College Vanniar prfd. ct: 9894465319, 9842210607

KONGU Vellala Gounder 33 Anusham, 2-Chevvai, works as Civil Engineer Ausralian Govt, Seeks educated bride from the same community. Ct: 9843663614, 9363128485

HINDU 39 Divorce No issue clean habit CNB manager MNC chennai own house 9444804953,7397358267

GOVT BANK Senior Officer/ME/40/ Fair/166 Handsome Salary reputed HinduSC Family Seeks Unmarried Slim&Fair, anyDip/Degree Bride from decent Hindu Family CNB NoDemands 7550090019

TAMIL

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR Boy 28/173 cm, Hastham, ME, working in Google Hyderabad, seeking well educated girl (preferably vegetarian) from respectable family. Father is a retired Colonel from Army. Contact 9490393807

Mudaliar Divorcee 34/165 Poorattathi Kumbam MDDDVL Doctor seek Educated Bride.SubsectNoBar.8122110793

HINDU NADAR widower 53 ACA 2Lakh pa., Finance Manager at Coimbatore, seeks life partner Ct: 8870004199 / skajey@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR 34/170 Thiruvathirai Mithunam BE. MBA Dy Manager HR MNC Chennai seeks qualified employed affluent family 9443472053.

KARUNEEGAR UNMARRIED 30 yrs/ 5.9 Ht (MBA) 4 laks 9962586144/ kmm7089@gmail.com

WANTED BRIDE35 to 39 years for fair groom aged 48 yrs, 6 feet, chennai based. computer engg graduate with mba degree any caste is ok, groom belong to kamma naidu, divorced, no issues interested contact 9787302360 rvjay2004@gmail.com send biodata and photo

KAVARA NAIDU, 33, BE, MBA, Bank Manager, Uthiratathi. Seeks Suitable Educated Bride. Ph: 9443172955

CASTE NO bar. Thevar 38 bachelor BE SW Engr MNC 14L/pa seeks well educated good family bride. 9080471654

ISAI VELLALAR/ Sengunthar, 30, Sadhayam, Ph.D, Asst.Professor, 90K pm, seeks suitable bride. 8523973041

HINDU REDDY, 28/6' BE RBI 60,000/ per month. Father-Reddy, Mother-Nair. Astham fair seeks suitable girl from Reddy community. Ct+ 919787463508

MUDALIAR CAST no bar 36/173 Fair Teetotlr Professional Govt.Job 2Lac/month Dr.Parents, Innocent divorcee. Ct: 8778934848, bst9199@gmail.com

COIMBATORE BC 36/155 MBA HR employed in MNC, CBE, 7Lakh/Annum, legally divorced (no issue) expects qualified slim & short girl. 27 to 32 years, no interest in horoscope, CNB. Call: 94430 60030, 98431 69594.

AGE32 BE MBA Indian Bank Mngr 80, 000pm upper middle class. Need:Any Graduates from Good Family 8248257396

IYER ATHREYA (Ph.D),M.E,32, Hastham Asst–Professor Pvt 6–L pa. own House. any Brahmin Emp.Girl 9943069711

SC–AD DHANUSU Moolam 35/165, BE, AVP(HSBC) divorcee, Seeks affectionate & understanding match Caste No Bar Ct: 9840272370 / 9710903052

MUDALIAR, 34,DIVORCE,M. TECH,5'10",16 Lacs p.a,No issues, seeks suitable bride CNB Ct:7200866346/8778514465

Iyer Vadamal Poosam 38/175 Unmarried CateringBusiness chen seek bride any Brahmin/one of the parents must be Brahmin.9840964861/ 9841982562

ALLIANCE FOR our only son an innocent issueless divorcee without any financial commitments Iyer/ Vadamal/ Kousigam Krithigai(2P) Vrishabam 43yrs 172Cms/77kgs Fair/ Handsome/Teatotaller Pure vegetarian looking 10yrs young with clean habits traditional & accomodative working Academics seeks a suitable decently educated employed/ unemployed never married Girl Iyer/ Iyengar subsects no bar aged 37–43years & willing to settle at Hyd/ Kandi No Expectations simple marriage Ct: 8754463854 vembushantha@gmail.com

BRAHMIN 36 BE LLB 13L/pa Sr. Manager Diamler Sankruthi Marriage Expense accepted all veg ok CNB 6369157055

IYER ATHREYA Nov83 Pooram 165 M.Tech 10L p.a chennai seek any Brahmin Bride.Horoscope optional 9940360931

VADAMA, NON–KAUSIKA Bride For Moolam, 30,5–11 Very Fair Wisconcin MBA Groom Working In An MNC In Bangalore.Response Invited From Fair Good Looking Well Settled Employed Girls Willing To Relocate. Call 9789892417

ANY SOUTH indian brahmin. Divorcee without child ok. Groom 41 years. Bharadwaja gothram. Danusu rasi. Moolam star. Clean habits. Working in Bahrain. Simple marriage. Ph: 9940178242. Email: sudeendar@gmail.com

BRAHMIN BRAHACHRANAM N Kaysbham Iyer Moolam 4 /1973/ Diploma working in Pvt Organstn any girl 9840023524

IYER BHARADHWAJAM Uthiram, 37yrs/ 180cms, BE, MNC Chennai 15 Lakhs per annum, Own House at Chennai seeks any Brahmin Girl. Ct: 09445222214

TELUGU BRAHMIN,38, MCA, Project Lead HCL Technologies Madurai, seeks any brahmin girl, 9487851429

IYER BOY with clean habits and good family background Sep 1977 , M.Com., C.A , Athreyam working in International Financial Institution. Contact 9223737837 / 94884 65065.

TAMIL IYER Boy, 35 , Koundinya , Moolam , BE– IT Analyst, Bangalore, Mob num –9686123030, LL– 080–26695729, Subset no bar

VADAMAL/HARITHA/THIRUVONAM/NOV1978/ MCA/PROJMGR TCS Chennai/27L PA/ Fair teetotaler seeks never married Brahmin girl min 2yrsdiff/ 9444385411/9600096079.

WANTED BRIDE from Australia or Ready to Relocate, for Iyer, Kousikam Swathi 36/176cms well qualified working senior level position MNC as Associate Director Sydney. Contact: 81246 03478 / 99622 70792 (Aus:+61411200690) email: kssrini42@gmail.com

PILLAI, 30/173cm, M.Arch (Architect), Asst. Professor-55K pm and addtional Architecture establishment seeks suitable employed PG, B.E., Pillai/ Mudaliar Bride. 98944 24773, 94427 83404

Housing society told to pay ₹9 lakh

Possession of flat was promised in 2010

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum here has directed a Multi-State Cooperative Housing Society of Police Officers to compensate a complainant by paying over ₹9 lakh after a flat booked by the latter in a Faridabad project was not delivered despite the passage of the stipulated time period.

Complainant Praveen Kumar Luthra moved the consumer forum alleging deficiency on the part of the housing society as it failed to deliver possession of the flat that was scheduled to be ready by 2010.

"The complainant opted for a 3-BHK flat [and] a sum of ₹9,50,000 was paid on various dates commencing from the year 2006. The [co-operative] continued raising demands ignoring the query of the complainant regarding the stage of construction, accomplishment of the project and the tentative period for delivery of possession," the consumer panel observed while noting the allegations made in the complaint.

Denied allegations

The cooperative housing society denied all the allegations made while stating that the deadline of 2010 was not mentioned.

However, noting that "there was considerable delay in completion of the project," the Bench held, "In such circumstances, the complainant is entitled for refund of the entire amount paid, that is ₹8,50,000 with a 10% interest from [November] 2014 till the date of realisation..."

CSR awards to focus on women empowerment

18 corporate houses will be recognised

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

The third edition of The CSR Journal excellence awards will celebrate the theme of 'India First' with a focus on women empowerment on July 22 at the Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.

Across six categories, 18 corporate houses will be recognised for their excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility. "Here, at *The CSR Journal*, through fair and responsible reporting [in digital, broadcast and now print format] and initiatives such as 'Social Welfare & Growth Awards' and 'Excellence Awards', we are trying to fulfil our role as individuals and as a team. Our core vision is of 'Making Corporate Social Responsibility every Individual's Social Responsibility," said Amit Upadhyay, Editor-in-Chief and Director, *The CSR Journal*.

The six categories include education and skill training, women empowerment and child welfare, health and sanitation, environment, agriculture and rural development and sports. As part of the process, hundreds of nominations had been received from across the country's corporate houses and the top projects in each category were shortlisted based on the programme's impact, sustainability and scalability.

The CSR projects from Ambuja Cement, Godrej Properties, Hindustan Zinc, Mahindra & Mahindra (Auto, Farm Equipment and Agri Sector), Societe Generale, Tata Power, Tech Mahindra, Aditya Birla Capital and YES Bank are among those which had been shortlisted.

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UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one Male **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown**, **Address: Unknown** was found near Gol Dak Khana Park, Ashoka Road, Tikona Park, New Delhi on **18.07.2019 at 02:10 pm.** and admitted to RML Hospital where he declared dead in the jurisdiction of P. S. Parliament Street, New Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 18A dated 18.07.2019** at P. S. Parliament Street, New Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age:** 40 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **ID Mark:** A tattoo of Trishul on right hand, **Wearing:** Blue Shirt and black colour pant. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Parliament Street, New Delhi
DP/2044/NDD/19 Ph.: 011-23361100, 8750870521

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad.

1. E-Tender No. : 213-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Transporting of all sorts of small fittings, tools & plants, consumables, switches, CMS crossing, SEJs, Glued joint etc. heavy materials on emergency basis in concerned to IOW & PWI Stores by road with Trailor or Trucks including loading, unloading, leading, stacking from any depot or workshop over Indian Railway under SSE(PW)/TD/Dhanbad. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,57,53,893.43, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,28,800/-.
2. E-Tender No. : 214-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of side pathway in Steel Girder Bridges of Bridge No. 10UP, 96(North), 96(South), 8(South), 1 and 2GD under SSE (Bridge)/DHN in GMO-BRKA section and siding line of Dhanbad Division. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,96,53,016.03, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,48,300/-.
3. E-Tender No. : 215-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of side pathway & changing of corroded/Loose rivets in Steel Girder Bridges of Bridge No. 20, 106'A', 106'B', 109, 9, 11, 31, 32, 35 & 44 in CPU-SKTN-MHDA section under SSE (Bridge)/Daltonganj in Dhanbad Division. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,55,02,965.66, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,27,500/-.
4. E-Tender No. : 216-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of side pathway & changing of corroded/Loose rivets in Steel Girder Bridges of Bridge No. 4, 17, 65, 78, 79, 88, 95, 111, 130, 148, 159, 252, 262'B', 281, 312, 314, 327, 346, 360, 361 & 362 in GHD-CPU section under SSE (Bridge)/Daltonganj in Dhanbad Division. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,85,30,302.61, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,42,700/-.
5. E-Tender No. : 217-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of side pathway in Steel Girder Bridges of Bridge No. 310UP, 278DN, 253UP, 210UP & 199DN in BRKA-GHD section under SSE (Bridge)/Daltonganj in Dhanbad Division. 07 (Seven) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹80,27,377.68, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹1,60,600/-.
6. E-Tender No. : 218-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of side pathway in Steel Girder Bridges of Bridge No. 187(UP), 187(DN), 202(UP), 202(DN), 345(UP), 345(DN), 416(UP) and 416(DN) under SSE (Bridge)/Dhanbad in Pradhankhanta-Manpur section (GC) in Dhanbad Division. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹2,04,58,326.27, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,52,300/-.
7. E-Tender No. : 219-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Replacement of flat type bearing by centralized bearing of Bridge No. 345(8x18.30M) UP & DN, 416(1x12.20+2x 9.14M), UP & DN in PKA-MPO section Br. No. 10 DN line (5x18.30), 96(3x12.20M), 174 (2x12.20+3x18.30M), 238(18x12.20M) in GMO-BRKA section and Bridge No. 6 (1x12.20M) at Sirka siding under SSE (Bridge)/DHN in Dhanbad Division of E.C. Railway. 11 (Eleven) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,53,47,654.98, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,26,700/-.
8. E-Tender No. : 220-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Changing of rusted members, replacement of bolts by rivets and rusted/loose rivet and strengthening of Br. No. 20A (ROB) (1x33.60) between SJA-ANJE at Km. 10/2-4, Br. No. 34A UP & DN between station TET-NPJE at Km. 280/17-19, Bridge No. 202(UP & DN) (5x18.30M) between PSB-SMND at Km. 374/27-29 and 117(9x18.30) between station BKRO-GMIA at Km. 43/9-11 under SSE(Bridge)/DHN in Dhanbad Division of E.C. Railway. 11 (Eleven) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,43,11,097.85, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,21,600/-.
9. E-Tender No. : 221-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Perodical painting of Bridge Girder of Bridge No. 8 (South), 10UP, 10 DN, 117, 75, 77, 83(RUB), 106, 109, 110(ROB), 115, 129, 131, 156, 183, 11, 14(ROB), 16, 22, 31, 32, 35, 42, 55, 80, 81, 108, 127, 146, 152(RUB) under SSE(Bridge)/Dhanbad and Bridge No. 253 & 2 under SSE(Bridge)/Daltonganj in Dhanbad Division for year 2019-20. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹48,90,733.75, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹97,800/-.
10. E-Tender No. : 222-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Metalising of Bridge No. 10UP, 10DN, 117 under SSE(Bridge)/Dhanbad in Dhanbad Division for year 2019-20. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹48,26,155.82, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹96,500/-.
11. E-Tender No. : 223-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Augmentation of capacity with improvement of landscape around GT-5 & 6 at Barkakana. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹99,85,823.38, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹1,99,700/-.
12. E-Tender No. : 224-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Hiring of Truck for transportation of P.way materials under SSE (P.Way)/CRP under Asstt. Engineer(2)/E.C. Railway, Gomoh. 36 (Thirty Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹21,11,315.03, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹42,200/-.
13. E-Tender No. : 225-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : (Balance work) :- Repairs, renovation of PF No. 1 & 2, Stn. Building, W/Hall, Toilet, Leanto shed with seating arrangement including tap watering etc. at KCKI, CNF, MAZ, HHG & CPDR under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Rly, Daltonganj. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,18,28,339.23, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,09,200/-.
14. E-Tender No. : 226-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Increase of CSR of running line by shifting of Track Circuit and related work over Dhanbad Divison under Sr. DEN/I/DHN. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹6,05,232.47, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹12,100/-.
15. E-Tender No. : 227-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Improvement of cutting and drain cleaning in the section Koderma-Maheshmunda under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Railway, Koderma. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,76,44,859.73, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,38,200/-.
16. E-Tender No. : 228-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Construction of boundary wall of staff quarter at KQRT, DNWR and JAUA, Providing RDSO standard channel height gauge in between Kawar and Maheshmunda under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Rly., Koderma. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹58,71,968.71, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹1,17,400/-.
17. E-Tender No. : 229-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Improvement of circulating area and fencing at NGRH and SLIA, Construction of central drain at SLIA and NGRH and balance side drain work at NGRH, Providing and improvement of water supply of all stations and quarter by providing deep tube well and pipe line under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Rly., Koderma. 10 (Ten) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹2,34,01,112.34, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,67,000/-.
18. E-Tender No. : 230-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Construction of remaining work of goods shed at NGRH under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Rly., Koderma. 11 (Eleven) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹3,94,09,761.12, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹3,47,100/-.
19. E-Tender No. : 231-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Casual sleeper renewal, shallow/deep screening and other miscellaneous P.Way work between Koderma to Arigada under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Rly., Koderma. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹77,78,316.62, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹1,55,600/-.
20. E-Tender No. : 232-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Repairs and Renovation to staff toilet in DRM Building and to ladies toilet in various departs & supervisors office E.C. Railway Dhanbad under Asstt. Engineer(I), E.C. Rly., Dhanbad. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹62,20,281.46, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹1,24,400/-.
21. E-Tender No. : 233-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Extension of R.L PF of SDBH-2, SNMY-1 & PEH-1 of 350M length under Asstt. Engineer(2), E.C. Rly., Dhanbad. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,01,43,001.61, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,00,700/-.
22. E-Tender No. : 234-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Repairs to floor, wall panneling, window & ceiling etc. of different section of personal, account, signal audit & others in DRM office Dhanbad. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹2,64,91,647.16, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,82,500/-.
23. E-Tender No. : 235-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : OBRA-Replacement of 35 units type-II quarters at Obra under ADEN/CPU. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹3,79,85,008.00, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹3,39,900/-.
24. E-Tender No. : 236-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of pit line drain at SGRL under ADEN/CPU. 04(Four) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹18,37,607.53, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹36,800/-.
25. E-Tender No. : 237-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Extension of platform at NVA, MMLN, CTQ & DMX station with all required passenger amenities in the section of ADEN/LTHR. 18 (Eighteen) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹2,12,50,206.15, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,56,300/-.
26. E-Tender No. : 238-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Extension of platform at BRWD, KCKI, MAZ, CNF & Kajri station with all required passenger amenities in the section of ADEN/DTO. 18 (Eighteen) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹2,07,14,406.90, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,53,600/-.
27. E-Tender No. : 239-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Extension of platform at KLRE & MGME station with all required passenger amenities in the section of ADEN/LTHR. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,69,40,432.52, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,34,700/-.
28. E-Tender No. : 240-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Extension of platform at RCGT, BENDI & KMND station with all required passenger amenities in the section of ADEN/LTHR. 18 (Eighteen) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,55,91,129.29, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,28,000/-.

Date & Time for closing and opening of e-tender : Date of closing of e-tender at 17.00 hours on 19.08.2019. Date of opening of opening of e-tender from 12.00 hrs. on 20.08.2019. Website particulars : http://www.ireps.gov.in. No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

PR/0811/DHN/Engg./T/19-20/328 Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)/ECR/Dhanbad

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	21.07.2019
12459/12460 New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi Express	21.07.2019
14211/14212 Agra Cantt.-New Delhi-Agra Cantt. Intercity Exp.	21.07.2019
14315/14316 Bareilly-New Delhi-Bareilly Intercity Express	21.07.2019
14323/14324 New Delhi-Rohtak-New Delhi Express	21.07.2019
14521/14522 Delhi Jn.-Ambala Cantt.-Delhi Jn. Express	21.07.2019
14681/14682 New Delhi-Jalandhar City-New Delhi Express	21.07.2019
15035/15036 Delhi Jn.-Ramnagar/Kathgodam-Delhi Jn. Uttaranchal Sampark Kranti Express	21.07.2019
19566 Dehradun-Okha Uttaranchal Express	21.07.2019
14085/14086 Tilak Bridge-Sirsa-Tilak Bridge Express	21 & 22.07.2019
64088 Hazrat Nizamuddin-New Delhi EMU	upto 21.07.2019
64012/64013/64014/64016 Shakur Basti-Palwal-Shakur Basti EMU	21.07.2019
64031/64032/64034/64036 Ghaziabad-Shakur Basti-Ghaziabad EMU	21.07.2019
64053 Palwal-Ghaziabad EMU	21.07.2019
64075/64077/64078/64080 Palwal-New Delhi-Palwal EMU	21.07.2019
64087 Hazrat Nizamuddin-New Delhi EMU	21.07.2019
64091 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	21.07.2019
64093 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Shakur Basti EMU	21.07.2019
64097 New Delhi-Shakur Basti EMU	21.07.2019
64403 Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn. EMU	21.07.2019
64089 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	upto 22.07.2019
64423/64424/64425/64427/64430/64432 Ghaziabad-New Delhi Ghaziabad EMU	21.07.2019
64420 Ghaziabad-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	21.07.2019
18508 Amritsar-Vishakapatnam Express	Adarsh Nagar-Delhi Safdarjang-Okhla	21.07.19
19024 Firozpur Cantt.-Mumbai Central Janata Express	Shakur Basti-Delhi Safdarjang-Okhla	21.07.19
51901 Agra Cantt.-Delhi Jn. Passenger	Hazrat Nizamuddin-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.	21.07.19
64052 Ghaziabad-Palwal EMU	Sahibabad-Hazrat Nizamuddin	21.07.19
64055/64057 Palwal-Ghaziabad EMU	Hazrat Nizamuddin-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad	21.07.19
64109 Dankaur-Shakur Basti EMU	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.	21.07.19
64419 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Ghaziabad EMU	Hazrat Nizamuddin-Sahibabad	Up to 21.07.19
64434 Delhi Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibad	21.07.19
64472/64534 Panipat-New Delhi-Ghaziabad EMU	Sabzi Mandi-Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad	21.07.19
64901 Kosi Kalan-Ghaziabad EMU	Hazrat Nizamuddin-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad	21.07.19
64903 Mathura Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	Hazrat Nizamuddin-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad	21.07.19
64168 Tundla-New Delhi-Palwal EMU	Sahibabad-Hazrat Nizamuddin	21.07.19

DIVERSION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Diverted via	Date (s) (from originating station)
12204 Amritsar-Saharsa Garib Rath	Ambala-Saharanpur-Moradabad	21.07.19
12392 New Delhi-Rajgir Shramjeevi Exp.	Delhi Jn.	21.07.19
12398 New Delhi-Gaya Mahabodhi Exp.	Delhi Jn.	21.07.19
12484 Amritsar-Kochuveli Express	Adarsh Nagar-Delhi Safdarjang-Okhla	21.07.19
12566 New Delhi-Darbhanga Bihar Sampark Kranti Express	Delhi Jn.	21.07.19
64095 New Delhi-Shakurbasti EMU	New Delhi-Delhi Kishanganj-Shakurbasti	Upto 22.07.19
14258 New Delhi-Varanasi Kashi Vishwanath Express	Delhi Jn.	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)
12524 New Delhi-New Jalpaiguri Exp.	from Moradabad	New Delhi-Moradabad	21.07.19
12626 Kerala Express	from H. Nizamuddin	New Delhi-H.Nizamuddin	21.07.19
13484 Farakka Express	from Kanpur	Delhi Jn.-Kanpur	21.07.19
64017 Palwal-Shakur Basti EMU	at H. Nizamuddin	H. Nizamuddin-Shakur Basti	Upto 21.07.19
54768 Tilak Bridge-Shri Ganganagar Pass.	from Patel Nagar	Tilak Bridge-Patel Nagar	21.07.19
54769/54770 Tilak Bridge-Rohtak Tilak Bridge Passenger	from/at Shakur Basti	Shakur Basti-Tilak Bridge-Shakur Basti	21.07.19
54474 Saharanpur-Delhi Jn. Passenger	at Sahibabad	Sahibabad-Delhi Jn.	21.07.19
54475 Delhi Jn.-Haridwar Passenger	from Noli	Delhi Jn.-Noli	21.07.19
54539 H. Nizamuddin-Ambala Passenger	from Meerut City	H.Nizamuddin-Meerut City	21.07.19
64113 Khurja-Shakur Basti EMU	at Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad-Shakur Basti	21.07.19
64905 Mathura Jn.-New Delhi EMU	at Palwal	Palwal-New Delhi	21.07.19
64084 New Delhi-Palwal EMU	from H.Nizamuddin	H. Nizamuddin-New Delhi	Upto 21.07.19

REGULATION/RESCHEDULING OF TRAIN

Train No. 12716 Amritsar-H. Sahib Nanded Express will be rescheduled by 180 minutes on 21.07.2019 from Amritsar.

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.

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NARMADA, WATER RESOURCES, WATER SUPPLY AND KALPSAR DEPARTMENT
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 02 of 2019-20

The Tenders are invited on behalf of governor of Govt. of Gujarat by the office of the Executive Engineer, Ambica Divison, Navsari for Improvement of canal Total 02 (Two) Works in B-2 form through online e-tendering system.

No.	Sr. No.	Name of Works
1.	(1)	Improvement of existing irrigation infrastructure works on Onjal Minor @ ch. 3500 mt. to 6220 Mt. & Its System Estimated Cost. Rs. 1,29,92,169.26
	(2)	Improvement of existing irrigation infrastructure works on Dandi Minor @ ch. 2560 mt. to 7926 Mt. Estimated Cost. Rs. 1,82,10,553.66
2.	Tender Downloading date & Time	Date 22/07/2019 To Date 21/08/2019 Up to 18.00 Hours.
3.	Tender Uploading date & Time	Date 22/07/2019 To Date 21/08/2019 Up to 18.00 Hours.
4.	Physical Documents Submission of EMD Tender fee & other Documents during office hours.	Dt. 22-08-2019 to Dt. 30-08-2019 at 18.00 Hrs. In the office of the Executive Engineer, Ambica Division, opp. Tata bag, Near Parsi Hospital, Lunsikui, Navsari-396445, Phone No:-02637-258054
5.	Tender Opening date for online tender received	Dt. 31-08-2019 at 12.00 Hrs. in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Surat Irrigation Cricle, Near M.T.B. Collage, Athwalines, Surat (0261 2668760)
6.	For Inquiry Contact Office Address	Executive Engineer, Ambica Division, opp. Tata bag, Near Parsi Hospital, Lunsikui, Navsari-396445, Phone No:-02637-258054

The bid documents will be available on web site **www.nprocure.com** & **www.statetenders.com**

Detail Tender Notice can be seen on office Notice board & www.statetenders.com For detail Contact office during working days & hours.

MAHITI/NAV/150/2019

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Engineering Department - OPEN TENDER, Date: 18.07.2019. e-Tender on behalf of The President of India acting through Sr. Divisional Engineer (Co-ordination), Divisional Railway Manager (Works), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for the following works:- **(1) NIT No.: DRM-W-JBP-149-2019; Name of Work with Location:** Provision of Track mounted Automatic Gauge face lubricators on new line in Katni-Singrauli section. **Approx. Cost of the Work:** ₹ 91.44 lacs; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,82,900/-. **(2) NIT No.: DRM-W-JBP-150-2019; Name of Work with Location:** Replacement of RCC slab by PSC slab of bridge no. 1321/1, 1232/1, 1102/2, 1103/1, 1105/1, 1128/1, 1150/1 and 1249/1 in Katni-Singrauli section. **Approx. Cost of the work:** ₹ 77.46 lacs; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,54,900/-. **Completion Period:** 06 months for installation and 03 years for execution for Sl. No. 1 and 12 months for Sl. No. 2. **Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender (Up to 15.00 Hrs. on):** 16.08.2019 for each. **Tender to be Opened at 15.15 Hrs. on:** 16.08.2019 for each. The complete information of the above **'e-Tender'** is available on website **"https://ireps.gov.in"** and also placed on the Notice Board of the Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Office, West Central Railway, Jabalpur. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tenders.

रेल यात्रा के दौरान शिकायत हेतु **138** एवं सुरक्षा हेतु **182** पर संपर्क करें

Man lynched for 'stealing peacocks'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEEMUCH

A 58-year old man has been allegedly beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of stealing peacocks in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district, police said on Saturday. Nine people have been arrested in connection with the case.

The incident occurred on Friday night in Lasudi Antari village when some locals noticed four persons fleeing after allegedly stealing peacocks. "While three of them managed to escape, the mob caught hold of Hiralal Banchhda, a Dalit, and thrashed him," said Superintendent of Police Rakesh Kumar Sagar. He died in the hospital during treatment.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

J. SUBBALAKSHMI, 78, wife of late T.N. Jayaraman, Madipakkam, passed away peacefully at the residence of son, J. Chandrashekhar, Dwarka, Delhi, on 19.7.2019 (M) – 9868916826

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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

'Plastic' measures for a real hazard

As acres of agricultural fields in villages on Haryana border and parts of Delhi turn into open plastic markets, the authorities are yet to wake up to the environmental and fire risk posed by these illegal units

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Acres of agricultural fields divided into plots and filled with plastic waste ranging from broken chairs and vehicle parts to toys; a network of slushy roads connecting the plots, crowded with people breaking, cutting, washing and segregating plastic waste – these are the scenes at an illegal plastic market operating in a Haryana village near Delhi border.

Despite a National Green Tribunal ban and ₹25-crore fine on the Delhi government in 2018 for failing to crack down on illegal plastic markets in Tikri Kalan in Delhi and nearby villages, several such markets are running openly in and around the Capital. They pose environmental and fire risk as they do not adhere to any safety norms.

The Hindu found two such markets operating in Bahadurgarh, Haryana. One market – near Geetanjali colony – was spread across 30-40 acres of agricultural field, while the other – near Chhotu Ram Nagar colony – straddled at least 15 acres. Hundreds of men and women were working in these markets. In Delhi, a smaller market was operating on an agricultural field in Mundka village and at least 12 plastic segregating units were seen in residential areas in Mundka, Tikri Kalan, Jharoda Kalan and Kamruddin Nagar.

A view of illegal plastic segregation units in a Haryana village, a few metres away from the PVC market in Tikri Kalan in Delhi. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

Waste burning

In all these villages, plastic and rubber wastes were found dumped on the roadside and at many places, burnt patches were seen next to the dump. Trucks and autorickshaws carrying different types of plastic were a common sight there.

In June, the Delhi Fire Service station in Tikri Kalan received at least 29 calls of fire in plastic and other wastes, according to records accessed by *The Hindu*.

Tikri Kalan has a legal PVC market on DDA land. Officials claimed this market is the "seed" which has grown and spread to nearby areas, unchecked by authorities. Scrap plastic from these markets are taken to the agricultural fields in Haryana and burnt there. Plastic and rubber are essentially set on fire for two reasons: first, to get rid of waste that has no value, and second, to extract metal embedded in them.

Fire risk

Additional Divisional Officer, Delhi Fire Service, A.K. Jaiswal, who is in-charge of Jwalapuri, termed the illegal plastic units in Delhi "dangerous" and said that many fires in the area are started on purpose. "While some fires are caused due to someone throwing a cigarette or *beedi* on plastic waste lying by the road, we also get cases where the fire has been set to retrieve metal from plastic and it goes out of hand," he said. Asked about action taken against people who start the fire, an officer at the Tikri Kalan fire station said: "We get calls from fire control room and when we reach the spot, we never find anyone to explain how the fire erupted."

"The workers set fire to the plastic and then alert the fire department that it has spread. This is how it works every time," said Jeet Singh, a resident of Mundka village. Tarun Pawaria, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bahadurgarh, said the administration is aware of one illegal market in Haryana near the Delhi border.He, however, said he was not aware of the second market.

Jatin Goyal, SDM, Punjabi Bagh in Delhi, said, "In December and January, we undertook a huge drive to clear illegal plastic segregation units in the area [in Delhi]. All these units on agricultural land, in godowns, and in compounds with boundary walls are illegal."

The workers at the illegal markets in Haryana said they moved to the area after the Delhi government cracked down on them in December last year. "I used to work at Tikri Kalan earlier. Now, we take [scrap] plastic from the PVC market [in Delhi], segregate them into different grades and sell them at a higher price [to wholesalers]," said Rajesh Kumar from Uttar Pradesh.

Way forward

According to experts, closing down these illegal units is not the solution. Chitra Mukherjee, head of advocacy and policy at Chintan, an NGO, said, "If these people do not handle plastic waste, it will end up in landfills. They should be put in touch with training institutes to improve their skills."

Swati Singh Sambyal, programme manager at the Centre for Science and Environment, had a similar view. "The government has to regulate the markets and semi-formalise the sector. Where else will all this waste go?"

Residents fume as plastic scrap burns in open fields

Illegal melting units too a menace

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

A few minutes past midnight, a fire starts on a plot, fenced off with bamboo sticks, in the middle of a field in Kanonda village in Haryana. A mound of wrappers, spread over at least 150 sq m, is set on fire by five workers. As the flame spreads, thick black smoke billows into the sky. This is the second consecutive night when plastic waste has been burnt on the plot.

Despite the NGT ban on burning of plastic, it continues unabated in Haryana villages.

"Tempos filled with plastic and rubber scrap unload here. The dump is set afire every night," complained Ram Kumar, 65, a resident of neighbouring Bomnoli village, who grows wheat and mustard. "This practice of late-night burning has been going on for the past six to seven months," he added.

Mr. Kumar claimed there are at least 10 such plastic burning sites in Kanonda village. The smoke from the fire has a very strong smell, said Ganshyam, 60, from Chitrakoot in U.P., who works at a brick kiln close to the burning site in Kanonda. "I am a labourer. I have no option but to bear it," he said.

Satveer Singh, 60, from Bomnoli, said the plastic is burnt in the open, but people ignore it thinking the smoke is coming from the brick kiln. He claimed that the brick kilns too burn plastic. "They use both coal and plastic and there is a lot of pollution due to it," he said. "Even in our sputum there are black particles."

Asked about the action taken by the district administration, Bahadurgarh SDM Tarun Pawaria maintained that "it is the responsibility of the pollution board [to monitor the fires and the residue]".

Inside melting units

While burning of plastic in the open has been a cause for concern for villagers, the situation is no better for those residing near melting units operating out of buildings. *The Hindu* visited two areas where at least a dozen plastic melting units operate illegally - one near Chhotu Ram Nagar Colony in Bahadurgarh, Haryana and the other in Kamruddin Nagar in Delhi - causing health risk to workers and residents.

Duri Yadav, a 35-year-old man from Bihar working in one such unit in Bahadurgarh, said: "I face problems due to the pollution, but what can I do?"

In Kamruddin Nagar, the units have been operating quietly ever since the crackdown on illegal plastic units in December last year.

Residents living near the melting units in Haryana said they were worried about the harmful effects of the fumes. "Our village is right next to it [the units]. The work goes on here day and night," said Surender Singh, a police officer, who lives near Haryana-Delhi border.

Satish Kumar, the petitioner on whose complaint the NGT imposed a fine ₹25 crore on the Delhi government, said the practice of burning plastic and rubber will continue till the PVC market in Tikri Kalan continues to supply scrap material. "The market has to go from here for the residents to breathe easy," he insisted.

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READ FRONTLINE EVERY FORTNIGHT

71% voting in Patkura bypoll

Polling peaceful, brisk despite intermittent drizzle, overcast skies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

An estimated 71% of the over 2.44 lakh voters exercised their franchise on Saturday amid tight security in the election to Odisha's Patkura Assembly seat, where polling had been postponed twice in the past two months.

Polling was peaceful and brisk despite intermittent drizzling and overcast skies. Long queues of voters were sighted in each of the 309 polling booths in the constituency.

Around 71% turnout was recorded at 6 p.m. and the final percentage was likely to go up as a large number of voters waited in the queue, Deputy Collector (Election) Sambit Satpathy said.

Polling was delayed at seven polling stations due to malfunctioning of EVMs and resumed after the glitches were rectified, Kendrapara Collector Samarth Verma said.

Villagers stand in a queue to cast their vote during the by-election for the Patkura Assembly constituency in Kendrapara district of Odisha. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

10 candidates in fray

The constituency, which comes under the Kendrapara Lok Sabha seat, witnessed high-voltage campaign with the ruling Biju Janata Dal and the Opposition – Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress – as major contenders. A total of 10 candidates were in the fray.

While the BJD had fielded Mr. Agarwalla's widow Sabitri Agarwalla as its nominee, senior leader Bijoy Mohapatra was the BJP nominee and Jayanta Mohanty was the Congress candidate.

All three candidates had engaged their senior leaders in their campaign to woo the voters. The campaigning in the constituency virtually continued since April till it ended two days ago.

While Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Pratap Sarangi campaigned for Mr. Mohapatra and Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Niranjan Patnaik sought votes for Mr. Mohanty, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had organised a roadshow in the constituency to seek votes for Ms. Agarwalla.

The counting of the votes will be done on July 24. The outcome will be crucial for Mr. Mohapatra who has failed to win any Assembly election since the BJD ticket given to him to contest from Patkura was cancelled at the last minute before the 2000 Assembly elections in the State.

(With PTI inputs)

Drones, choppers keep eye on Kanwar Yatra in 3 U.P. districts

Mobile hospital vans, anti-terror squads deployed for safety

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

From drones and helicopters to antivenom, the administration in three districts of Uttar Pradesh that witness the maximum surge of devotees during the annual Kanwar Yatra have made elaborate arrangements to ensure an incident-free event.

The yatra, which started on July 17, takes place during the month of Saawan (July-August) of the Hindu calendar and sees lakhs of Shiva devotees bring Ganga water from Haridwar to offer it to Shivlings in their respective towns and villages.

The yatra started on July 17. ▪ FILE PHOTO ▪

Added significance

The event has assumed added significance since the BJP came to power in the State.

Ajay Shankar Pandey, the newly-appointed District Magistrate of Ghaziabad, reiterated the Chief Minister's promise of giving the event as much importance as the Kumbh Mela. "We want to make it a safe and respectable experience for the devotees," said Mr. Pandey, who has been transferred from Muzaffarnagar.

As the yatra is gathering pace in Meerut, SSP Ajay Sahni said on Saturday that two Anti-Terrorism Squads have been deployed for the security of devotees. "A team of 50 commandos is ready to tackle any extreme situation," he said.

Those unhappy with STF chief can leave: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday said the decision to reappoint IPS officer Harpreet Singh Sidhu as the chief of the anti-drugs Special Task Force has been taken amid reports of narcotics becoming an issue again in the State. Mr. Sidhu was the first chief of the STF set up by the ruling Congress government in 2017. But he was removed last year following reports of a tussle between him and the then Director General of Police Suresh Arora. Taking note of reports indicating resentment over the posting of Mr. Sidhu again, the CM said anyone not happy with the development was welcome to leave the State and seek deputation with the Central government.

Sidhu's resignation from Cabinet accepted

Punjab CM forwards it to Governor; retains Power portfolio for the time being

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday forwarded the resignation of Navjot Singh Sidhu from the State Cabinet to Governor V.P. Badnore, who conveyed his acceptance of the same.

Ongoing tussle

Bringing a denouement to the ongoing tussle between the two leaders, the Chief Minister retained the Power portfolio, which was allocated to Mr. Sidhu, for the time being. A government spokesperson said the Chief Minister, who had been indisposed for the last two days since his arrival from Delhi, accepted Mr. Sidhu's one-line resignation on Saturday and sent the same to the Governor for formal acceptance.

Mr. Sidhu had sent his resignation on June 10 to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and tweeted the same more than a month later. Thereafter, he had tweeted that he would formally send his papers to the Chief Minister, in whose Cabinet he had been allocated the Power Ministry as part of a reshuffle after the Lok Sabha election. He finally sent his resignation to the Chief Minister's official residence.

'Singled out unfairly'

After the Cabinet reshuffle on June 6, the Chief Minister divested Mr. Sidhu of the Local Bodies portfolio and allocated him the Power and New and Renewable Energy Sources portfolios.

However, Mr. Sidhu, instead of taking charge of the new Ministry, approached the party's central leadership to express his displeasure and said he was being singled out "unfairly" in the Cabinet rejig on the pretext of the party's "poor performance" in the urban areas of the State in the general election.

Capt. Amarinder had recently said if Mr. Sidhu did not want to do his job, there was nothing he could do about it.

2 school students injured in detonator blast

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Two students of an upper primary school in Odisha's Ganjam district were grievously injured on Saturday when a detonator found by them near the school campus accidentally went off. The incident occurred at Magura village under Aska police station limits.

State School and Mass Education Minister Samir Dash directed the Ganjam District Education Officer to conduct an inquiry and submit the report within a week.

Both the injured students were first admitted to the Aska community health centre and later shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur as their condition deteriorated. One of them is in Class VII while the other is in Class VIII.

School headmistress Babita Acharya said the incident took place around 10 a.m. during the recess and midday meal break.

5 held guilty of triple murder in U.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)

A special court here on Saturday held five men guilty in a 2007 triple murder case in Bhaju village, an official said.

The accused – Ravinder, Anuj, Nitu, Sanjay and Bijender – were held guilty of killing a woman pradhan of Bhaju village, Sukhbiri, her son Dharmendra and her dalit servant Ramesh.

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Notice Inviting E- Procurement

NIT NO: 01/PM(E)/MKRSS EU/RNN/PROCUREMENT / Suchana Vibhag / 19, Dated -15.07.2019

The Unit Incharge, MKRSS Electrical Unit invites for and on behalf of Managing Director U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. online item rate bids in two bid system for the following work:
Name of work : **SITC OF FIRE FIGHTING & SPRNKLER SYSTEM WORK AT "Pt. DEENDYAL UPDHAYAY SUCHANA BHAWAN "LUCKNOW"**
Estimated Bid Value : Rs. 95.64 Lakh, **Earnest Money : Rs. 1.91 Lacs, Period of Completion : 6 months from agreement, Last time and date of submission of bid : 06/08/2019** on **Dt._ 03:30 PM**
The bid forms and other details can be obtained / downloaded from the website: http://etender.up.nic.in **The NIT is also available on** http://www.uprnn.co.in

Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences
Raebareli Road, Lucknow - 226014 (U.P.) India,
Phones : 0522-2668004-8, 2668700- 800- 900, Fax: 91-0522- 2668017, 2668078

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIT)

Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Lucknow invites e-tender in two parts (Technical Bid and Financial Bid) for **'Cafeteria/Canteen at Vishramalya, New OPD and Apex Trauma Centre'**.

E-tender in this regard shall be available on the website **'www.etender.up.nic.in'** from **22.07.2019** to **21.08.2019**. In addition, this NIT shall also be available for information only on the website of the Institute **'www.sgpgi.ac.in'**.

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(Under Taken of Jharkhand Government)
Corporate Id No – U51228JH2010SGC014519, TIN No - 20520108277
Ground Floor, Excise Building, Near New Police Line, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008
E-mail :- jsbcl.jharkhand@gmail.com

Ref. No:–J.S.B.C.L./04/Tender **Ranchi, Date :–** 18 / 07 / 2019

VERY SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Separate technical and financial bids are invited for registered & reputed firm for engagement of security guard & Services for JSBCL of Jharkhand for One Year on annual Contract extendable upto Three Years.

Tender document with terms and conditions may be obtained from 18/07/2019 to 28/07/2019 during any working days between office hours (10.00 am to 05.00 P.M.) on payment of Non- Refundable amount of Rs. 1,000/- (Rs. One Thousand Only) by Demand Draft in Favour of Jharkhand State Beverage Corporation Limited payable at Ranchi.

The tender will be received up to date 28/07/2019, 05.00 P.M. and will be opened on date 29/07/2019 at 03:00 P.M. in presence of tender or their authorized representatives.

Details May also be seen on official website www.jsbcl.in/Tender **Sd/-**
General Manager (Operation)
Jharkhand State Beverage Corporation Limited
Jharkhand, Ranchi

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PR 212257 Excise (19-20)_D

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **(1) Tony Owvizo**, S/o **Sh. Owvizo, (2) Edith Owcizo, W/o Sh. Tony Owvizo**, both R/o **H.No. G-52, Gali No. 1, Dabri Extn. New Delhi** has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 46/14 u/s 376D/120B/506/109 IPC, P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **(1) Tony Owvizo, (2) Edith Owcizo** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **(1) Tony Owvizo, (2) Edith Owcizo** has absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **(1) Tony Owvizo, (2) Edith Owcizo** of **FIR No. 46/14 u/s 376D/120B/506/109 IPC, P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi** are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **23.08.2019.**

By order
Ms. Anu Grover Beliga,
Addl. Session Judge,
Patiala House, New Delhi

DP/6977/SW/19(Court Matter)

JHARKHAND COMMUNICATION NETWORK LIMITED
(A SPV under DoIT& e-Gov, Govt. of Jharkhand)
Registered Office: H/No. – 347, Project Building 3rd Floor, HEC Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
CIN: U74999JH2017SGC009474, Contact:0651-2446147

NIT {Tender Ref.:- JCNL-09/2019}
Tender

Jharkhand Communication Network Ltd. invites online bid through e-Procurement process from eligible firms/agencies for **"Selection of Agency for Set up of Block Infrastructure for BharatNet Phase-II Project"** based on scope of work as mentioned in re-tender document. The bid shall be downloaded/submitted online from the Website **http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in**. The bidder(s) should have necessary portal enrolment with their own Digital Signature Certificate:-

(a)

S.N.	Name of Work	EMD	Cost of Tender Document	Period of Validity
1	**"Selection of Agency for Set up of Block Infrastructure for BharatNet Phase-II Project"**	**Rs. 10,00,000/-** (Rupees Ten Lakhs only) in the form of Demand Draft or Bank Guarantee in favour of **CEO, Jharkhand Communication Network Ltd.** Payable at Ranchi, Jharkhand	**Rs. 10,000/-** (Rupees Ten Thousands Only) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of **CEO, Jharkhand Communication Network Ltd.** Payable at Ranchi, Jharkhand	**180 Days**

(b) Period of availability of tenders online date & time bidding on-line/last date ofseeking clarification /date of opening of tender papers are as given below:-

S.N.	e-Procurement Officer	Place of Opening and Pre-Bid	Availability tender on-line for bidding			Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid
			Bid Downloading Date	Pre-Bid Meeting	Date and time of Online Bid Submission	
1	Sri Anurag Lakra Call No. +91-9430732109 Or Email id: **jcnl.itdept@gmail.com**	Jharkhand Communication Network Ltd. 3rd floor, Project Bhawan, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004	**From 20/07/2019 at 02:00 PM to 19/08/2019 at 01:00 PM**	**26/07/2019 at 04:00 PM**	**From 30/07/2019 at 02:00 PM to 19/08/2019 at 03:00 PM**	**20/08/2019 at 04:00 PM**

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P.R.212120 Information Technology(19-20)-D

Sd/- CEO
Jharkhand Communication Network Ltd.
Ranchi, Jharkhand

Government of Jharkhand Water Resources Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Waterways Division, Chaibasa

Email Address :- eewwdchai-cer-jhr@nic.in
Short e-Procurement Notice
e-Tender Reference No.:- WRD/WWD/CBSA/F2-02/2019-20
Dated. 15-07-2019

1.	Name of the work	Repair of Buildings , Boundary Wall, PCC road, HYDT and Pump House work Under Waterways Sub-Division, at Chaibasa Camp Kharsawan
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 1,45,10,000/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Five Lakh, Ten Thousand Only.)
3.	Tender Fee & EMD	i. Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Only.) and ii. Rs. 2,91,000.00 (Rupees Two Lacs Ninety One Thousand only.)
4.	Period of Completion	3/4 Years /270 Days
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	05-08-2019 at 9.00 Hrs.
6.	Date / Time for download/Upload of bid documents	05-08-2019 at 9.00 Hrs. to 14-08-2019 at 17.00 Hrs.
7.	Last Date/ Time/ Place for receipt of bids (Tender Fee, EMD and Bid online Submission Receipt)	16-08-2019 at 10.00 hrs to 15.00 Hrs. in Executive Engineer, Waterways Division, Chaibasa.
8.	Date/Place of Bid Opening	16-08-2019 at 15.00 Hrs. in Executive Engineer, Waterways Division, Chaibasa.
9.	Name & address of office Inviting tender (Procurement Officer)	Executive Engineer, Waterways Division, Chaibasa
10.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	M. No. 9431103735
11.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	M.No. 8292322880

Note :- Only e-Tenders will be accepted. Estimated cost may Vary.
Further details can be seen on website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Waterways Division, Chaibasa

PR212118 West Singhbhum(19-20)D

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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
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Advertisement No: 30 **Dated: 20-07-2019**

Recruitment Notice

Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company (JUIDCO) Ltd., a company under the administrative control of Urban Development & Housing Department, Govt. of Jharkhand, is engaged in the different infrastructure development work, such as, (i) Water Supply Projects (ii) Sewerage, Septage & Drainage Projects (iii) Flyovers, Roads, Bus Stands ISBT & Transport Nagar (iv) Parks Project & Development of Water Bodies (v) Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yougna (PMAY) (vi) Iconic Buildings (vii) Namami Gange Projects etc.

JUIDCO is looking for energetic and hard working candidates having vast experience of relevant works at different levels and having good knowledge of drafting, examining and processing of **BID Documents**, who can provide results within prescribed time and agrees to abide by the rules and regulation as framed by JUIDCO for its employees from time to time.

CURRENT VACANCIES

Sl.	Name of Post	Remuneration	No. of Post
1	Dy. General Manager (Building)	**For Deputation** [Present scale with all benefits with maximum upto15% deputation allowance] **For Absorption** [One Slab above the present scale with all benefits] **[For Direct Contractual Recruitment]** Enhancement of salary 10 - 20% on previous salary, subject to maximum limited of Rs. 2,25,000/-)	2 (1 UR, 1 ST)
2	Project Manager (Works & Planning)	**For Deputation** [Present scale with all benefits with maximum upto15% deputation allowance] **For Absorption** [One Slab above the present scale with all benefits] **[For Direct Contractual Recruitment]** Enhancement of salary 10 - 20% on previous salary, subject to maximum limited of Rs. 1,50,000/-)	5 (3 UR, 1 ST, 1 BC 1)

Detailed terms and conditions, Eligibility criteria along with the application Performa can be downloaded from our official website **juidco.jharkhand.gov.in** at Resources Head under Job Opportunities Section.

Last date for receiving the application is 10-08-2019 till 5:00 pm. (On all working days from 10.00 A.M to 5.00 P.M except holidays).

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P.R.212221 Urban Development and Housing(19-20):D

Sd/-
Project Director (Administration)
JUIDCO Ltd.

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Information Technology and E-Governance
Jharkhand Mantralaya, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004

Corrigendum-II
Tender Ref. no.:- IT/UID-Rate Contract-2014(Part File)-001
Advertisement PR No.:- 210096

SL No	Bidding Document Reference (Number/Page)	Mentioned in RFP	Proposed Suggestion of the Committee
		ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	
1	CHAPTER 1: Eligibility Criteria of Tenderer/ Bidder page no.6	The successful bidder must have an office in Ranchi, Jharkhand. In case the successful bidder do not have the office in Ranchi, Jharkhand at the time of bidding and if they awarded the tender they must establish an office in Ranchi, Jharkhand within 60 calendar days from the awarded of tender.	The successful bidder must have an office in Jharkhand and their presence in Ranchi, Jharkhand. In case the successful bidder do not have the office in Jharkhand and their presence in Ranchi, Jharkhand at the time of bidding and if they awarded the tender they must establish an office in Jharkhand along with their presence in Ranchi within 60 calendar days from the awarded of tender.
2	Chapter1: Point no.2 Scheduled of Invitation to Tender, Page no. 7	(e) Last date and time for submission of bids and scanned copy of DD for Tender Fee and DD of EMD: **24.07.2019 till 06:00 PM.** (f) Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender is on or before (Hard Copy): **26.07.2019 at 12:00 Noon.** (g) Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **26.07.2019 at 4.00 PM**	(e) Last date and time for submission of bids and scanned copy of DD for Tender Fee and DD of EMD **(Online)**: **12.08.2019 till 06:00 PM.** (f) Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender is on or before **(Hard Copy)**: **14.08.2019 at 12:00 Noon.** (g) Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **14.08.2019 at 4.00 PM**
3	CHAPTER 2:Scope of Work page no. 08 point no. v	For each quarter of the annual contract period, on annual basis, performance certificate from DoIT shall be obtained by the vendor. The bills along with the monthly reports and performance certificate on prescribed performance shall be submitted to the office of Secretary, Department of IT & e-Gov., 3rd Floor, Project Bhawan, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834004 immediately after expiry of the each quarter for the release of the payment. Payment will be released subject to deducting penalty, if any. The vendor will maintain complaint details in respect of all user requests/ complaints. Complaint register shall also be maintained by the vendor at all such places. This will be a precondition for processing of Bills. Also monthly review meeting on the activity will be a must to attend and sort out issues with mutual discussion	For each quarter of the annual contract period, on annual basis, performance certificate from DoIT shall be obtained by the vendor. The bills along with the monthly reports and performance certificate (from the District Project Officer (DPO), UID of respective district) on prescribed performance shall be submitted to the office of Secretary, Department of IT & e-Gov., 3rd Floor, Project Bhawan, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834004 immediately after expiry of the each quarter for the release of the payment. Payment will be released subject to deducting penalty, if any. The vendor will maintain complaint details in respect of all user requests/ complaints. Complaint register shall also be maintained by the vendor at all such places. This will be a precondition for processing of Bills. Also monthly review meeting on the activity will be a must to attend and sort out issues with mutual discussion
5	CHAPTER 3 :Technical Bid page no. 10 point no. i	Details of Office(s) of successful bidder in the state of Jharkhand.	Details of office in Jharkhand and the presence in Ranchi of successful bidder in the state of Jharkhand.
6	CHAPTER 3 :Technical Bid page no. 11 point no. g	If the L1 price quoted by more than one bidder then the bidder who have more offices in Jharkhand would be given preference. If the number of Offices in Jharkhand is same for more than one L1 bidders than reverse auction will be conducted between L1 bidders.	If the L1 price quoted by more than one bidder then reverse auction will be conducted between L1 bidders.

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PR 212157 (Information Technology) 19-20 (D)

Sd/-
(Vikas Kumar)
Under Secretary to Government

A ND-NDE

IN BRIEF

Vignan varsity honorary doctorate for Ilaiyaraaja

GUNTUR

Celebrated film music composer R. Ilaiyaraaja is among the distinguished personalities who will be awarded the honorary doctorate by Vignan Deemed to be University at its seventh convocation to be organised on the institution's campus on July 27.

Sabarimala temple to be closed today

PATHANAMTHITTA

The Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala witnessed heavy rush as a large number of devotees undertook pilgrimage, braving heavy rains in the forests, on Saturday. The It will be closed after the Athazhapuja on Sunday, marking the culmination of the five-day monthly rituals.

Release of water from KRS to Tamil Nadu triggers protests

No water for crops, say farmers; raise slogans against Karnataka government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANDYA

The Bengaluru-Mysuru highway witnessed gridlocks on Saturday as farmers held protests against the discharge of water to Tamil Nadu at Srirangapatna, Induvalu, Mandya, Maddur, and other places.

The outflow from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) in Karnataka to Tamil Nadu was increased at the rate of 4,802 cusecs on Saturday evening.

Coming to a halt: Farmers blocking traffic on the busy Bengaluru-Mysuru highway on Saturday. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Precarious level

The farmers raised slogans against the Karnataka government, Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, and Minor Irrigation and district incharge Minister C.S. Puttaraju.

The farmers said they had been demanding water to save standing crops in the district. But the government that had not taken any steps to help them was discharging water to Tamil Nadu. They wanted the the water release stopped immediately as the level at the KRS was precariously low due to a weak monsoon. The reservoir level stood at 90.03 ft on Saturday morning, as against the full level of 124.80 ft. The reservoir had attained almost maximum level on the same day last year.

While Saturday's live storage was just 7.575 tmcft, there was 38.2 tmcft on this day last year.

Boat operations curbed

Boat operations have been suspended at the Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Karnataka from Saturday for an indefinite period, as the flow in the Cauvery has significantly increased.

A senior Forest Department official told *The Hindu* that it was not advisable to continue the operations considering the safety of visitors. However, there won't be restrictions on their entry to the sanctuary.

Tourists take boat rides to watch migratory birds and their nesting from close quarters.

Four missing fishermen return, search continues for 3 others

Met Dept. has forecast heavy rainfall for Kerala up to July 24

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Anxiety gave way to relief on Saturday after four fishermen from the district who were reported missing in the sea returned safely, nearly three days after they left Vizhinjam in a small, outboard engine-rigged boat.

Monsoon fury: Waves breaking on the Valiyathura Pier in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. ▪ S. GOPAKUMAR

Louis and Benny from Puthiyathura and Yesudasan and Antony from Pulluvila returned to Vizhinjam shortly after 11.30 a.m., escorted by seven other fishing boats despatched by the Vizhinjam parish to search for them.

According to the men, they were stranded in deep sea after pummelling waves damaged both outboard engines on their boat. They could get them restarted only on Saturday morning, after which they had headed home.

High alert

The three fishermen from Neerody, Kanyakumari, who went missing in the sea off Kollam district are yet to be found. Coast Guard, Navy and the Marine Enforcement continued the search on Saturday, the Coastal Police, Neendakara, said.

Meanwhile, the coastal areas in Kerala remained in a state of high alert for the second consecutive day on Saturday as high waves battered seawalls and threatened to devour large tracts of land.

The southwest monsoon drenched most parts of the State, leaving low-lying areas flooded. The India Met Department has issued a heavy rainfall warning for Kerala up to July 24.

TTD mulls change in VIP break darshan timings

'The proposal will bring relief to ordinary pilgrims'

G.P. SHUKLA
TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) management, which is upbeat following the abolition of 'classifications' in the VIP break darshan, is now focussing its attention on effecting viable changes to make the new system foolproof and acceptable to all.

In one such proposal, senior TTD officials hint at rescheduling the timing of VIP darshan and fixing it during the later part of the day.

At present, the VIP darshan is allowed between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m., depending on the day during the week.

The officials, on condition of anonymity, have suggested 11 a.m. as the appropriate time for VIP darshan.

They feel that the rescheduling, if properly implemented, will bring relief to ordinary pilgrims confined in compartments since the previous night, as they will be the first to be allowed for darshan in the early hours. This could bring down waiting hours.

Secondly, the management will be relieved of the pressure of providing accommodation for the visiting dignitaries, as they can stay back at Tirupati the previous night.

Black market sale

Tirumala-based TTD Special Officer A.V. Dharma Reddy said the categorisation of VIP darshan had contributed to a flourishing black market.

Securing L1 darshan tickets had become a status symbol and devotees were ready to shell-out astronomical costs to satiate their 'ego'.

"Our efforts are to nullify this notion and implement a uniform system, and eliminate the black market," he said.

Hyderabad gets facility to sequence 30 genomes a day

It costs around ₹1 lakh to sequence one genome using this facility

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) facility, fourth such facility in the country, which can sequence 30 human genomes a day, was inaugurated by Union Minister of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), a CSIR lab in Hyderabad, on Saturday. It costs around ₹1 lakh to sequence one genome using this facility.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurating the Next Generation Sequencing facility in Hyderabad on Saturday. ▪ PTI

The Union Minister said that this state-of-the-art genome sequencing facility would be of help, especially to patients suffering from rare genetic disorders.

CCMB scientists said earlier it used to take two to three weeks to sequence one genome, and it was a costly process.

"We had a smaller machine which was not as efficient. Besides, it became obsolete as the company which manufactured the machine, has been closed down. This (NGS) is top most model," said Dr. K. Thangaraj, chief scientist at CCMB. The facility includes cutting edge technology for high throughput (number of samples tested) genome sequencing, which also facilitates diagnostic related sequencing of transcriptome and exome (parts of genome that are expressed in cells) of clinical samples.

Much of the existing body of knowledge for therapies for these diseases comes from studies done with Caucasian populations.

This facility would help in generating large-scale genomic data from Indian populations, which was critical for genetic diagnosis and therapy.

The CCMB can now sequence up to 30 human genomes or 384 diagnostic samples in a day.

Syro-Malabar priests call off protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Priests of the Syro-Malabar Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly called off a three-day-old protest, including hunger strike by senior priest Father Joseph Parekkattil, on Saturday after assurances from the permanent synod of the Syro-Malabar Church that their demands will be met.

This included a promise that the probe in the "forged documents" case would be concluded at the earliest. The case relates to probe into documents allegedly forged by the anti-Cardinal group to implicate him in financial deals.

One killed in building collapse in A.P.

STAFF REPORTER
CHITTOOR

A construction worker from Kolkata was killed on the spot, and two others were seriously injured when an under-construction building of the Tirupati Municipal Corporation collapsed near Municipal Park here on Saturday.

According to information, a group of workers were working at the site, an additional structure to the existing pump house.

While the ground floor was finished, work was in progress on the first floor.

Two workers were on the first floor, while one person was collecting material on the ground floor when the ceiling caved in. The two workers on the first floor rolled down and were injured.

The person who was working on the ground floor was crushed to death.

Nature's artwork

A view of the natural arch formation at the Mangamaripeta Beach in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. Geological scientists and INTACH want it to be notified as geo-heritage. ▪ K.R. DEEPAK

At 73, she goes home-to-home to promote the reading habit

Meet Umadevi Antharjanam from Chengannur in Kerala

SAM PAUL A.
ALAPPUZHA

She is fond of books, enjoys long walks, and wants to inculcate the habit of reading among the younger generation.

At an age when many wish to live through their retirement in relative comfort, Umadevi Antharjanam, 73, hailing from Budhanoor, near Chengannur, finds delight in delivering books from the village library to the readers at their doorstep, that too on foot.

A 'field librarian' with the Kalaposhini Library in Budhanoor for the last 13 years, Umadevi delivers books -- including short stories, novels, children's fiction, magazines and so on -- to around 200 members, mostly children and women.

Umadevi Antharjanam

She says age-related ailments are taking a toll on her but she wants to encourage the habit of reading among the villagers.

"Reading can make a person a better human being. By regularly distributing books to children at their homes, I help them read more books ," Umadevi says.

As the majority of the members she serves are students, this avid book lover uses weekends to reach out to them.

According to Umadevi, working as a field librarian has helped her overcome difficulties following the death of her husband more than a decade ago.

"I was a tuition teacher once. After the death of my husband, I struggled to make ends meet. When the job was offered by the Budhanoor panchayat president, I accepted it wholeheartedly," she says.

Gopi Budhanoor, president of the library, says Umdevi's love for books has kept her going. "She loves books and want others to cultivate the habit of reading. Even at 73, she is sincere in her work," he added.

Naidu's camp office revamped to welcome new A.P. Governor

Biswa Bhusan Harichandan to be sworn in on July 24

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The erstwhile A.P. Chief Minister's camp office here is being converted into Raj Bhavan, which will be Governor-designate Biswa Bhusan Harichandan's official residence from July 24 when he is scheduled to be sworn in by the Acting Chief Justice of A.P. High Court, C. Praveen Kumar.

It will be the third revamping of the building that originally housed the Irrigation Department's circle office and for a while housed the High Court of the State following bifurcation.

Addressing the media after visiting the Raj Bhavan on Saturday, Chief Secretary L.V. Subrahmanyam said Mr. Harichandan was scheduled to visit Tirumala on July 23 and reach Vijayawada later that evening.

He would stay in the Raj Bhavan and be sworn-in at 11.30 a.m. the next morning.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and other dignitaries would receive the Governor at the Gannavaram airport. Personnel of the Armed Forces would give the Governor a ceremonial welcome.

He would then have darshan of Goddess Kanakadurga atop Indrakeeladri.

Since the Legislative Council and the Assembly were in session, written requests had been made to the Chairman and Speaker respectively to allow MLCs and MLAs to attend the swearing-in programme.

Mr. Subrahmanyam said the Governor's residence would be on the first floor and changes had been made as per his suggestions.

Governor's Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena would assign duties to the officers and staff of Raj Bhavan coming from Hyderabad. Director General of Police Gautam Sawang was supervising security arrangements and permanent security posts were being set up around the building.

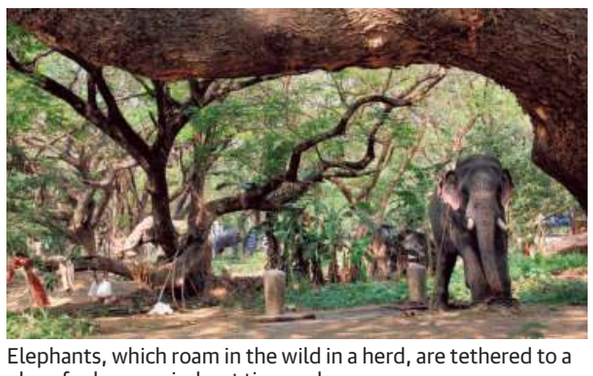
Euthanasia for critically ill elephants on the cards?

New draft rules will also look into aspects such as diet, rest and treatment of animals in captivity

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

What would one do with a captive elephant that is critically injured or ill and cannot regain its health? One cannot just leave it to die a painful death.

The draft Kerala Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules, which is being given the finishing touches, is believed to have suggested euthanasia for critically ill elephants, a first-of-its-kind recommendation.



Elephants, which roam in the wild in a herd, are tethered to a place for long periods, at times, alone. ▪ K.K. NAJEEB

The Chief Wildlife Warden can order the animal to be put down, on a recommendation from an expert committee, which will have two expert veterinarians and representatives from the Society for Prevention of Cruelties to Animals and the State Animal Welfare Board, sources said.

Minister's assurance

Incidentally, Kerala has the highest number of captive elephants, 507 by the latest count.

Recently, replying to a question in the Assembly, Forest Minister K. Raju had announced the State government's intention to amend the rules in the wake of increasing instances of harassment of elephants. The new rules would ensure that the captive elephants are looked after well and given proper diet and rest. The amendments will also prescribe guidelines to be followed when they are paraded for functions, he said.

Food and foot care, suggested P. O. Nameer, Head, Wildlife Division of the College of Forestry, Thrissur, are the two areas that require special attention in captive elephants.

There should be a conceptual change in the food given to elephants. They should be given the food that caters to their biological needs and not something that is convenient for the owner, Mr. Nameer says.

Foot care

The practice of checking the feet of the animal and disinfecting it, which is followed in many western countries, should be followed here too.

Tethering should be reduced to the maximum possible extent and the elephants should be allowed to move freely. They should also have access to drinking water round the clock, he suggested.

Rules for mahouts

Mahouts may have to get themselves registered with the department. A mahout in charge of an elephant shall not shift to another animal without the consent of the Forest Department.

Shifting mahouts frequently causes distress to animals, pointed out a senior functionary of the Forest Department.

IN BRIEF

T.N. CM launches water management mission

CHENNAI

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Saturday unveiled the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission, a people's movement to conserve and manage water and to ensure that there was no water crisis in future.

Villagers attack police party, two injured

BHOPAL

A man was shot and two policemen injured on Friday when around 200 villagers pelted stones on a police party that was out to arrest 40 persons in Kalapipal village of Guna district, the police said.

The police have registered cases against the attackers, but no arrests have been made so far.

The policemen have been discharged from a hospital and the injured villlagers are being treated.

Abandoned baby saved by stray dogs

CHANDIGARH

In a shocking incident in Haryana — infamous for its skewed sex ratio — a newborn girl, wrapped in plastic, was dumped by a woman in a drain near Kaithal town, police said. A pack of stray dogs pulled the wailing infant out of the drain and started barking. This alerted passers-by who called the police. The whole incident was caught on a CCTV camera nearby. "We are trying to establish the identity of the woman," said a police official. IANS

T.N. expenditure on subsidies down: CAG

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government's expenditure on freebies and subsidies came down marginally in 2017-18, according to the State Finance Audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). From ₹16,092 crore in 2016-17, it came down to ₹15,230 crore in 2017-18, the report said.

Colistin banned in animal food industry

Experts call it a significant move in targeting development of resistance to the antibiotic

RAMYA KANNAN
CHENNAI

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued an order prohibiting the manufacture, sale and distribution of colistin and its formulations for food-producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements.

Intensivists across the country are rejoicing as the move is a "massive victory" for the movement against anti-microbial resistance. Colistin is a valuable, last-resort antibiotic that saves lives in critical care units and in recent years, medical professionals have been alarmed by the number of patients who have exhibited resistance to the drug. Therefore, any move to ensure that arbitrary use of colistin in the food industry, particularly as growth supplements used in animals, poultry, aqua farms, would likely reduce the antimicrobial resistance within the country.

The order, issued on Friday, directed manufacturers of colistin and its formulations (since it is also used to treat humans) to affix a label on the container reading thus: Not to be used in food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements: on the package, insert and promotional literature.

Late last year, researchers from Apollo Cancer Hospital, Chennai, and Christian Medical College, Vellore, claimed, in a paper in the *Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance*, that samples of raw food lifted from across

Cutting down on the use of colistin in animals improves the chances of reducing resistance to antibiotics. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Chennai had tested positive for colistin-resistant bacteria. One of the authors, Abdul Ghafur of Apollo Hospital, is now dancing in joy. "It is a huge, massive, victory. This is what we have been campaigning for, for years. It is one broad sweep to ensure colistin does not enter the food we eat, and thereby, we don't develop resistance to the antibiotic," he says.

A number of experts seem to use superlatives in their response. "This is fantastic, a significant move in targeting the development of resistance," says V. Ramasubramanian, infectious diseases expert, and medical director, Capstone clinic. "Excessive use of any drug leads to resistance. If you can cut the use of colistin as a growth factor in animals and limit it to therapeutic usage only, the chances of developing resistance to it goes down," he explains, while pointing out it might be a challenge to implement the order.

Dr. Ghafur says awareness programmes need to be conducted for farmers, telling them about the danger of using colistin in feed. "Most are not aware of the presence of colistin, since it comes mixed in the feed. However, we have had discussions with associations of poultry farmers and they have not objected to removing colistin from the mix." Also, he argues that since the bulk of colistin (nearly 95%) is imported from China, it would also be easy to stop importing it within a short time.

M.P. yet to form tiger protection force

State recorded highest number of deaths due to poaching from 2012 to 2018

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Having resolved to constitute a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) more than seven years ago, Madhya Pradesh is yet to constitute the battalion, even as the State has registered the most number of tiger deaths due to poaching since 2012.

According to an agreement, signed among the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the State's Chief Wildlife Warden and field directors of Bandhavgarh, Kanha and Pench tiger reserves on February 10, 2012, the State Forest Department was supposed to raise, arm and deploy the force in the reserves within two years of the agreement.

However, in the absence of an independent elite unit to protect tigers in the State, 30 deaths due to poaching have been reported between 2012 and 2018. The causes of 16 of the total 141 deaths, including natural and unnatural ones, reported in the

On the decline: 30 deaths due to poaching have been reported in the last six years in the State. ▪ PTI

State during the period are being investigated, according to the NTCA.

Out of the 14 deaths reported in the State this year, one case was due to poaching.

Days of glory

Famous as the 'Tiger State' at least until 2006 when it boasted the most number of tigers with an estimated 300 in its six reserves, Madhya Pradesh lost out to Karnataka in 2010 and fell behind Uttarakhand too in 2014, according to the Status of Tigers in India report.

"Unlike these States which have contiguous forests, Madhya Pradesh has a patchy cover running through fragmented reserves and human habitations, and therefore it's a challenge to protect tigers and prevent man-animal conflicts here," says U. Prakasham, State Chief Wildlife Warden.

He says more than 50% of the deaths in the State categorised as deaths due to poaching happen outside reserve limits. "Often, tigers get electrocuted upon contact with high tension wires laid by farmers to protect their fields from wild boars," he says.

"Usually, poor tribals living along the fringes of the reserves are made scapegoats for an incident of poaching," claims wildlife activist Ajay Dubey. "The main obstruction to tiger corridors and natural habitats is caused by big landlords whose encroachments in the form of resorts and farmhouses have been altering the lives of tigers and tribals alike."

Stating that during a review meeting with the Forest Department 10 days ago he had directed it to expedite the formation of the STPF, State Minister for Forests Umang Singhar said, "We'll emulate the Gujarat model of wildlife conservation wherein locals have been roped in and mortalities have been successfully brought down."

Pratap Bhanu Mehta

Ashoka varsity V-C steps down

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

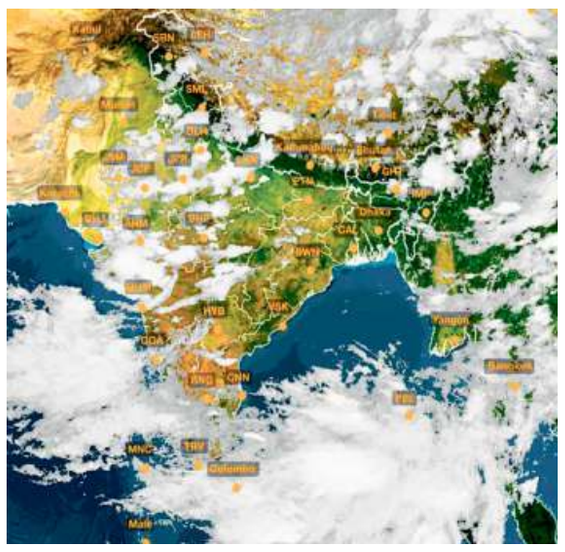
Academician Pratap Bhanu Mehta announced on Saturday that he was stepping down as the Vice-Chancellor of Ashoka University due to "personal" reasons.

Following the announcement, which will be effective from August 1, the University said in a statement that Prof. Malabika Sarkar will be the new VC.

"After much deliberation, I decided that I need to return to more full-time academic life," Mr. Mehta said in a letter addressed to the members of the Ashoka community.

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 Sunday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Kerala, Mahe, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Konkan, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Gujarat, Marathawada, West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	6.2	36.0	27.3	Kozhikode	105.4	27.2	22.8
Ahmedabad	–	41.0	29.5	Kurnool	12.0	33.0	24.8
Aizawl	1.0	29.9	20.7	Lucknow	13.6	37.4	27.0
Allahabad	–	38.7	29.4	Madurai	–	37.0	27.8
Bengaluru	–	27.7	20.6	Mangaluru	69.0	27.2	22.4
Bhopal	22.7	32.9	23.6	Mumbai	0.2	32.5	26.7
Bhubaneswar	0.3	33.7	26.8	Mysuru	–	27.2	20.2
Chandigarh	2.6	31.5	27.1	New Delhi	–	36.7	28.8
Chennai	–	34.7	26.2	Patna	–	37.8	29.2
Coimbatore	1.3	32.2	21.8	Port Blair	14.0	31.3	24.4
Dehradun	–	32.6	24.6	Puducherry	1.0	35.6	25.2
Gangtok	58.0	22.8	18.2	Pune	1.0	30.5	22.2
Goa	78.3	29.4	24.5	Raipur	13.3	32.7	25.0
Guwahati	–	36.0	26.2	Ranchi	–	33.6	23.4
Hubballi	–	26.0	22.0	Shillong	8.7	26.9	16.3
Hyderabad	25.7	31.0	22.6	Shimla	6.1	24.7	16.7
Imphal	2.4	30.0	18.6	Srinagar	–	31.4	17.0
Jaipur	–	35.8	27.2	Thiruvananthapuram	20.9	30.7	22.3
Kochi	45.6	27.8	23.8	Tiruchi	–	36.8	27.0
Kohima	9.4	27.6	17.0	Vijayawada	–	31.5	25.9
Kolkata	–	34.9	28.4	Visakhapatnam	2.2	33.5	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	–	168	82	88	–	
Bengaluru	8	53	53	25	61	
Chennai	15	37	43	107	–	
Delhi	22	54	60	105	234	
Hyderabad	26	27	18	70	62	
Kolkata	2	23	10	46	59	
Lucknow	4	29	51	136	–	
Mumbai	14	20	11	36	106	
Pune	68	8	67	40	40	
Visakhapatnam	14	34	23	62	74	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Yamunanagar, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 171 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Haldia, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

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

Report on compensation for blast victim sought

Maharashtra asked to provide details

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) asked the Maharashtra government to submit an action-taken report (ATR) in a case where a 1993 Mumbai blasts victim has claimed no compensation was paid to him in all these years.

According to the NHRC proceedings of July 15, the Maharashtra Chief Secretary has been asked to submit the ATR in four weeks. If the report is not recieved within the specified time frame, the NHRC said it would summon the Chief Secretary in person.

On July 4, the NHRC had lodged a case based on the complaint of Mumbai resident Kirti Ajmera, a victim of the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts.

Mr. Ajmera's complaint, filed by laywer Utsav Bains, alleged that he had not been given any compensation by the government.

Living dangerously

Killer wheels: A hog deer scampers for life after being hit by a speeding goods carrier when it tried to cross National Highway 37 inside the Kaziranga National Park in Assam on Saturday. As flood waters receded, animals started returning to Kaziranga from the Karbi Anglong Hills. Park officials say 16 hog deer have been run over by vehicles so far. ▪ PHOTOS: RITU RAJ KONWAR

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE COASTAL MANAGEMENT (NCSCM)
(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
Anna University Campus, Chennai 600025.
Ph: (+91) 44 22200600, Fax: (+91) 44 22200700, email:careers@ncscm.res.in

Advt. No:HR01/2019
Advertisement for the selection of Project Staff
Walk-in Interview

NCSCM requires Project Staff in various projects on contractual basis. Further details relating to application procedure, eligibility criteria, interview dates, etc., may be obtained from the website

http://www.ncscm.res.in/cms/careers/careers.php.

– Director, NCSCM

'Medical device manufacturers exaggerating import numbers'

Some domestic players trying to get customs duty hiked: association

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"The growth in imports of medical devices is being purposely exaggerated by a section of the domestic manufacturers to suit their agenda of seeking a hike in customs duty," noted a release issued by the Medical Technology Association of India (MTaI), which represents research-based medical technology companies in India.

The association noted that a section of the domestic manufacturers were presenting the value of imports of 2018-19 as being 25% higher than the previous year.

"The numbers are being presented in rupee terms, which is an erroneous measure as the value of rupee has depreciated sharply and therefore it does not present the correct picture. During the fiscal 2018-19, there was a sharp decline in INR to the extent of about 15% at its peak and if a full year's average is considered, the rupee depreciated by 8.5% in fiscal 2018-19 over the previous fiscal. Therefore, data in rupee terms is not comparable because of the effect of depreciating currency. One has to study the figures in US dollar to deduce a logical conclusion," it said.

'Hazy data'

"Besides repeatedly publicising hazy data that can skew the narrative, fictitious figures are being presented as facts," said MTaI chairman and director general Pavan Choudary.

He added that a look at the import data from Export-Import Data Bank on Department of Commerce's website made things amply clear. Imports under Chapter 90 that contains all medical devices, grew 19.82% in 2018-19 from a year earlier when expressed in rupee terms. However, the corresponding growth in US$ terms was only 10.45%.

"The fact is after the GST regime, importers have to pay respective customs duty which is around 7.5%-10% in addition to 12% of GST. So in effect, importers are paying more taxes after the GST regime than before. It is true that the input tax credit is applicable against GST component on inputs, but the same is available for locally manufactured goods as well. In total, GST regime does not benefit importers in any way over domestic players. In fact, post-GST import duties on many implantable devices have gone up to 10% due to increase in custom duties," said MTaI director Sanjay Bhutani.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of Rajasthan undertaking)
Corporate Identity Number (CIN)- U40109RJ2000SGC016483
Regd. Office: New Power House, Jodhpur-342003
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TENDER NOTICE FOR E-PROCUREMENT

Techno-commercial and Price e-Bid is invited from eligible bidders against TN TW-467 for "System Strengthening of sub-transmission & distribution network including metering works for Jodhpur wall city of Jodhpur Discom, Rajasthan under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS). Details regarding tender cost, Earnest money, Date of tender opening etc. are available at our website http://sppp.raj.nic.in/www.rajenergy.com/ www.jdvvnl.com. The biders in their own interest are requested to read very carefully the tender documents before submiting the bid only through on line on webiste www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

Raj. Samwad/C/1501/2019-20 (Dr. Sanjay Vajpai) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CSS)

बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर
रेलवे अस्पताल के सामने, सातानाडा, जोधपुर - 342301
वेब-साईट jodhpurjda.org Phone No. - 0291-2656357

क्रमांक :- जेडीए/अ.अ./दक्षिण/2018-19/479 दिनांक 17/07/2019

:: ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या :- दक्षिण 02/2019-20 ::

जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से प्राधिकरण एवं राजकीय विभाग में नियमानुसार उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से सिविल कार्यों हेतु मुहरबंद निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। इन कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक, निविदा, शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट jodhpurjda.org, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

Sl.NO	Tender ID & UBN No.
1	2019_JDAJO_154015_1 & JOD1920WSOB00071
2	2019_JDAJO_154015_2 & JOD1920WSOB00072
3	2019_JDAJO_154015_3 & JOD1920WSOB00073
4	2019_JDAJO_154015_4 & JOD1920WSOB00074
5	2019_JDAJO_154015_5 & JOD1920WSOB00075

राज. संवाद/सी/1502/2019-2020 अधिशाषी अभियंता (जोन-दक्षिण) जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर

THE GUJARAT CANCER & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(M.P. SHAH CANCER HOSPITAL)
N.C.H.CAMPUS, ASARWA, AHMEDABAD - 380 016
Affiliated to B.J.Medical College, Ahmedabad

Phone: 079-2268 8211 **Fax:**079-2268 5490

CORRIGENDUM TO OUR TENDER NOTICE PUBLISHED FOR PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENTS

All the prospective bidders are advised to visit www.nprocure.com and our website www.gcriindia.org for amendment details on tender ID as listed below:-

1. Tender ID No.365791 - 80°C Deep Freezer
2. Tender ID No.365751 - Refrigerated Centrifuge

No.INF/ABD/561/2019-20 DIRECTOR

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
Vidyuth Soudha, Vijayawada - 520 004.

NOTICE

1) Approval under Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2019 for determination of transmission tariff for FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24 for the inter-state transmission lines connecting two states for the APTRANSCO owned transmission lines/system for the 2019-20 to 2023-24 block for 1. a) 400KV Kalpaka - Khammam - I feeder, b) 400KV Kalpaka - Asupaka - I feeder, 2. 400 KV Kurnool- Srisailam LB feeder, 3. 400 KV Sattenapalli - Srisailam LB - I & II (DC) feeder, 4. 400KV VTPS - Suryapeta - I & II (DC) feeder, 5. 400 KV Uravakonda - Veltoor I &II (DC) feeder, 6. 400 KV K.V.Kota - Suryapeta - I & II (DC) feeder, 7. 220 KV Chittoor - Tiruvalam line, 8. 220 KV Sulurupeta - Gummadipundi line, 9. 220 KV Ragulapadu - Alipura line, 10. 220KV Tallapalli - Nagarjunasagar - I & II (DC) feeder, 11. 220KV Tallapalli - Nagarjunasagar -III feeder, 12. 220KV Tallapalli - Chalakurthy feeder, 13. a) 220KV Srisailam RB - Dindi-I feeder, b) 220KV Srisailam RB - Domalapenta feeder, 14. 220 KV Srisailam RB – Nagarjuna Sagar line, 15. 220 KV LSR - KTPS-I feeder, 16. 220KV LSR - KTPS-II feeder, 17. 220KV Nunna - KTPS SC Line, 18. 220 KV Brahmnakotkur - Wanaparthy line, 19. a) 220 KV Chilakallu - Pulichinthala feeder, b) Chilakallu - Suryapeta feeder, 20. 132KV Chillakallu - Ramapuram line, 21. 132KV Chillakallu - Sitapuram line, 22. 132KV Chillakallu - Madhira SC line, 23. 132KV Chillakallu - Kodada SC line, 24. 132KV Chillakallu - Khammam line, 25. 132KV Chillakallu - Kusumanchi line, 26. 132KV Chillakallu - Bonakallu I & II (DC) feeder, 27. 132 KV Sitapuram-KCP cements line, 28. 132KV Tangeda - Wadapalli line, 29. 132KV Piduguralla - Wadapalli line, 30. 132KV Nagarjunasagar RC - Nagarjunasagar feeder, 31. 132KV K.V.Kota - Aswaraopet I & II (DC) feeder, 32. 132 KV A.P.Carbides - Alampur - I feeder, 33. 132 KV A.P.Carbides - Alampur - II feeder, 34. 132 KV Pratap Nagar - Yanam Feeder, 35. 400 KV VTPS - Nunna - I feeder.

2) The beneficiaries of the transmission system are: 1) TSTRANSCO, 2) KPTCL, 3) TANTRANSCO, 4) APPCC, 5) Electricity Department, Pondicherry, 6) PGCIL.

3) Details of tariff:
2019-20 to 2023-24 Block **Rs. In Lakhs**

Project/Asset	Line Length (in CKm)	Tariff for 2019-20 to 2023-24 Block				
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Interstate transmission lines between AP TS KA TN and Pondicherry	2577.592	21805.88	21399.34	21001.99	20568.97	20168.83

4) A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at **www.aptransco.co.in**

5) The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd & 4th Floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situate), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office, Chief General Manager (HRD &Planning), APTRANSCO, 1st Floor, Vidyuth Soudha, Vijayawada – 520004 within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Vijayawada **Sd/-**
Date: 21.07.2019 **R.O.No. 07/19** **CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR**

FROM PAGE ONE

RSS is part of Indian 'mosaic': German envoy

"The [RSS] is one part of the mosaic that makes up India. You can't deny that this is a mass movement and whether one likes it or not, it is out there," he asserted.

The Ambassador's visit to the RSS headquarters came in for criticism on social media, and led to an online petition filed by an American scholar on South Asia Pieter Friedrich, with more than 1,000 signatories who are demanding that the Ambassador "resign or be recalled."

The Ambassador's visit to Nagpur is part of a India-wide tour to various cities to discuss bilateral ties ahead of the biannual India-Germany summit expected in October or November this year, when German Chancellor Angela Merkel will travel to Delhi. At the top of the bilateral agenda is trade, and reviving the India-European Union (EU) talks on a Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), which has made very little progress since 2013, despite several attempts by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ms. Merkel to give it a fillip.

"India and Germany believe in rules-based free trade, and we have an interest in making the agreement work. I think the new leadership at the European Union will help kickstart the process of the BTIA," said Mr. Lindner, referring to the recent election of former German Defence Minister Ursula Von der Leyen as European Commission President. She will take over later this year. "India and EU need to identify the stumbling blocks in the talks and build a timeline for their resolution," he added.

Key trading partner

Germany is India's most important trading partner in the EU and its sixth most important trading partner worldwide. As a result of the impasse on BTIA talks, India-Germany trade has been pegged around $20 billion despite the potential for more, say officials, with about 1,700 German companies active in India, about 200 Indian companies active in Germany and more than 600 Indo-German joint ventures in operation.

Known for his prolific presence on Twitter, Mr. Lindner, who presented his credentials in May, has been most famous thus far for his championing a cherry-red Hindustan Ambassador car over the more sophisticated German marques like BMW, Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz and Audi. Fondly referred to as "Auntie Amby" by Mr. Lindner, the diplomat sees the car as part of what he called soft "empathetic" diplomacy.

(Log on to *http://bit.ly/WLindner1* for interview)

Four new Governors appointed

Mr. Dhankhar, 68, will take charge in West Bengal at a time when the State is witnessing frequent clashes between workers of the BJP and the Trinamool Congress.

Since the May 23 Lok Sabha election results, 10 advisories on law and order have been sent by the Centre to the State.

Ms. Anandiben Patel goes to Lucknow with the BJP government in the State facing the Opposition's ire over worsening law and order situation. Lalji Tandon, now Governor of Bihar, will take charge in Madhya Pradesh. He will be replaced in Patna by Phagu Chuhan.

Mr. Ravi's appointment is significant as it could give a boost to peace efforts, given his role as the Centre's interlocutor in talks with the Naga groups.

BJP member Ramesh Bais has been appointed as Governor of Tripura, replacing Kaptan Singh Solanki.

Ex-Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit dead

Calling her a "beloved daughter of the Congress party", Mr. Gandhi said he was devastated by the news.

"I'm devastated to hear about the passing away of Sheila Dikshit Ji, a beloved daughter of the Congress Party, with whom I shared a close personal bond. My condolences to her family & the citizens of Delhi, whom she served selflessly as a 3 term CM, in this time of great grief," he tweeted.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in a letter to her son, Sandeep Dikshit, described her as the someone who "holds the distinction of being the only woman chief minister in India who led her party to three consecutive victories in Assembly elections".

Mr. Kejriwal said her death was a huge loss for Delhi and her contribution would always be remembered.

A man swims in floodwaters following heavy rain in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar. ▪ FILE PHOTO

5 more die in Bihar floods, toll reaches 97

Sitamarhi the worst-affected district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

With five more deaths, the toll in Bihar floods reached 97 on Saturday, the State's Disaster Management department said.

Four deaths were reported from Madhubani district which accounted for 18 casualties and one from Darbhanga where a total of 10 people died in the deluge.

Sitamarhi, with 27 deaths, remained the worst-affected district, the Disaster Management department said.

Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi toured Sitamarhi to take stock of relief and rehabilitation work in the district on Saturday.

A total of 12 districts of Bihar have been affected by flash floods that have hit the State.

Tribal victims' kin meet Priyanka, impasse ends

Cong. leader backs demand for land rights, fast-track trial

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's stand-off with the Uttar Pradesh government ended on Saturday, about 24 hours after it began, when she finally met the kin of the tribal victims of the Sonbhadra killings.

Since the administration did not allow Ms. Vadra to visit Ubbha village in Sonbhadra, family members of the victims met her at the Chunar guesthouse in neighbouring Mirzapur, where she had been detained since Friday afternoon.

Ten Gond tribals, including three women, were shot dead on Wednesday when a village headman, Yagya Dutt, and his supporters allegedly opened fire in an attempt to take possession of a piece of land at Ubbha in the Ghorawal area. Twenty-eight persons were injured.

'Unimaginably brutal'

Though the State government stopped her from visiting the site of the violence, Ms. Vadra had insisted that she would not return to Delhi without meeting the kin of the victims, even if it meant being arrested.

"Finally met the families of the Ubbha massacre," Ms. Vadra tweeted. "What they have been through is unimaginably brutal and unjust. Every single Indian should stand with them in the name of humanity," she said.

At Chunar, Ms. Vadra was seen consoling and offering water to the wailing women.

The Congress leader also endorsed a five-point demand put forth by the tribals: ₹25 lakh compensation to the family of each victim, ownership rights over the land they have been cultivating for generations, fast-track hearing on the July 17 killings in Ghorawal, withdrawal of cases against innocent villagers over the land dispute and security to the tribal people leading the fight for their land rights.

Solatium distributed

District Magistrate of Sonbhadra Ankit Agrawal distributed cheques for ₹5 lakh each to the kin of eight of the 10 victims. However, at least two of the tribal women said they were not satisfied with the money and insisted on ownership rights to the land in their village.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is scheduled to travel to the affected village on Sunday.

The Adivasi Adhikar Rashtriya Manch has condemned the killings and held the U.P. government responsible.

With the victims: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra consoling family members of the Sonbhadra firing victims at Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday ▪ PTI

Is it end of democracy in U.P., asks Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress alleged here on Saturday that the Uttar Pradesh government was trying to protect the accused in the Sonbhadra clash, and questioned Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for preventing party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from meeting the victims.

"Adityanath has made Uttar Pradesh *Apradh* Pradesh (crime State). The timeline of different incidents clearly shows that the BJP-led U.P. government is trying to protect the accused," Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said at a press conference.

Mr. Surjewala said the BJP government was "afraid" of Ms. Vadra and so it decided to detain her. "The reign of Ajay Bisht [Yogi Adityanath] continues to be the most insensitive in memory," he said. He accused the Chief Minister of "lying" that the land dispute was the result of inaction of previous Congress governments.

A Congress protest in Gujarat against Priyanka Gandhi's detention. ▪ PTI

"In October 2017, Adityanath illegally grabbed a land of the tribals. In July 2018, the BJP government tried to give the land to accused Yagya Dutt and booked the tribals under various sections of the IPC. In October 2018, two more FIRs were registered against the tribals," he said. "On July 6, 2019, the government gave a decision in favour of Dutt and the petition filed by the tribal people was rejected so that their land could be grabbed," he said. From the chain of events, it was clear that the government was protecting the accused.

"Why instead of nabbing the accused, the State government has converted the whole village into a police-controlled area? Why was Priyanka Gandhi detained and why is the Adityanath government and the BJP so scared of her," he asked.

"My fourth question is that why there is a restriction on the entry of Opposition leaders in the State and has democracy ended in U.P. and is hooliganism, riots, rape and killing the identity of the Adityanath government," he asked.

Trinamool team detained at airport

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A parliamentary delegation of the Trinamool Congress, which was on its way to Sonbhadra to meet the firing victims, was detained at the Varanasi airport on Saturday.

Around 3 p.m, the district administration allowed the delegation, which was led by Derek O'Brien, to meet five injured persons at the Banaras Hindu University Trauma Centre.

A police team accompanied the delegation to the hospital and back to the Varanasi airport.

Mamata backs Priyanka's stand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee on Saturday extended her support to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for trying to meet the families of those killed in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.

"What Priyanka did was not wrong," Ms. Banerjee said, adding that "she had two or three people with her. Even my delegation had Derek and two more people." Ms. Banejee said that when prohibitory orders were issued in West Bengal, the BJP leadership sent their leaders in convoys of cars.

Ansarullah case: NIA seize passbooks, mobile phones

Searches across T.N. including in Ramanathapuram, Theni

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Searches by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) at several locations across Tamil Nadu in connection with the Ansarullah module case led to the seizure of mobile phones, SIM cards, computer disks and bank passbooks, the police said.

In the central region, the raids lasted close to four hours.

As some of the premises were locked, the NIA officials had to break open the doors in the presence of revenue officials and relatives of the accused.

At Ramanathapuram, the teams searched houses of five of the accused from the district.

In the early morning operation, five NIA teams conducted simultaneous searches in Kilakarai and Thanichiyam in coastal Valinokkam.

A search under way at a house in Ramanathapuram on Saturday. ▪ L. BALACHANDAR

Besides copies of school and college educational certificates, Aadhaar cards, ration cards, bank passbooks and driving licences, NIA officials seized a copy of the Bible and an English-to-Chinese dictionary, the police said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Searches were also conducted at Tirunelveli, Madurai and Theni.

Fourteen of the accused were deported from UAE last week for raising funds to establish an Islamic State in India, the NIA has alleged.

'Youth maligned'

Hyder Ali, general secretary, Tamil Nadu Muslim Munnetra Kazhagam, threatened to organise protests if the State government failed to check the NIA's activities against Muslim youth. Addressing the media, Mr. Ali alleged that the NIA was trying to project Muslim youth in a bad light by concocting stories that they were planning to disturb the peace.

NIA drops terror charges against four youth

10 others charged with plotting terror attacks in NCR

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has dropped terror charges against four men arrested last year for allegedly trying to establish an "Islamic State caliphate" by resorting to large-scale terrorist attacks in and around Delhi.

Mohammad Irshad, Raees Ahmad, Zaid Malik and Mohamamd Azam walked free earlier this month after spending over six months in jail. A senior government official said the NIA found no evidence against them.

In a chargesheet filed against 10 others on July 21 in a special court at Patiala House in Delhi, the NIA said: "The group wanted to manufacture IEDs, to be detonated by remote controlled devices, of more than 100 metres range." Two of the accused recorded videos that were to be broadcast after their suicide attacks, it said.

Held in December 2018

Irshad, a resident of Amroha in west Uttar Pradesh, is an autorickshaw driver. Ahmad, also a resident of Amroha, worked at a welding shop. At the time of their arrests, Malik was living at Jafrabad in east Delhi and Azam ran a medical store at Seelampur in east Delhi. The four were arrested in December 2018 with 10 others.

The NIA, in a press release issued on December 26 last year, said Irshad "was helping Mohammad Suhail (prime accused) in arranging a hideout for keeping the material for making IEDs and bombs."

It accused Ahmad and his brother Saeed of "procuring huge quantity of explosive material/ gunpowder (around 25 kg) for preparing IEDs and pipe bombs and were instrumental in fabricating a rocket launcher to carry out terrorist attacks." About Azam, the agency said he "helped the mastermind in arranging weapons".

Their counsel, M.S. Khan, told *The Hindu*, "The NIA said in court that sufficient evidence was not found against them but investigations will continue."

The accused against whom the chargesheet was filed are Mufti Mohd Suhail, 30, Anas Younus, 21, Zubair Malik, 22, Rashid Zafar Raq, 24, Md. Saqib, 26, Md. Absar Said, 24, Md. Gufran, 25, Md. Faiz, 25, and Naim Choudhary, 22.

Efficient leader who steered Delhi into the future

Her efforts to bring in cleaner public transport, extend the Delhi Metro project and build flyovers won wide appreciation

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The political legacy of veteran Congress leader Sheila Dikshit, who was India's longest serving woman Chief Minister, was best summed up by her one-time rival and now Union Minister for Science and Technology, Harsh Vardhan. "We had our differences on policies, but we always admired her behaviour and efficiency," he said as Delhi plunged into mourning following her death on Saturday evening.

"For 15 years, I had the opportunity to work with her in the Assembly as an MLA. But we always admired her behaviour and efficiency at work," he said.

It was this efficiency that made Ms. Dikshit the face of a fast-changing Delhi, someone who knew how to change political adversity into opportunity.

The city's change to cleaner public transport bears testimony to Ms. Dikshit's efforts. In April 2001, public transport in the national capital collapsed as nearly 10,000 old and polluting diesel buses were ordered off the roads by the Supreme Court. The Congress government led by her was not ready with a plan to deploy cleaner CNG buses.

Yet, by the next Assembly election in 2003, Delhi's change-over to CNG was a success story. Throughout her 15-year tenure, Ms. Dikshit focussed on extending the flagship Delhi Metro project, built a network of flyovers and phased out the killer Blue Line buses.

"For nearly two decades, Sheila*ji* personified Delhi and the aspirations of its citizens. She served them with her heart and mind and they gave her their abundant love. Every resident of Delhi will feel that he or she has today lost a member of his or her family," former Union Minister P. Chidambaram said.

In his tribute, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Sheila Dikshit as a "warm and affable personality who made a notable contribution towards Delhi's development". ▪ PTI

SHEILA DIKSHIT (1938-2019)

Her largely successful legacy in Delhi was, however, marred by allegations of corruption during the 2010 Common Wealth Games.

She also briefly served as the Governor of Kerala from March to August in 2014.

Ms. Dikshit was born in Kapurthala in Punjab to a non-political family in 1938, and graduated from Miranda House, University of Delhi. In July 1962, she married bureaucrat Vinod Dikshit, who she had met during her college days.

And her first foray into politics came when she assisted her father-in-law Uma Shankar Dikshit, a loyalist of Jawaharlal Nehru who had served as a Minister in the Indira Gandhi Cabinet in 1971 and become the Governor of Karnataka and West Bengal.

Ms. Dikshit took the formal plunge in 1984 when she became a Lok Sabha member from Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh. Known to be a loyalist of the the Gandhi family, she was hand-picked by Rajiv Gandhi in his Council of Ministers after he became the Prime Minister in 1984.

"We worked closely together during the years she was Chief Minister of Delhi, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee chief and secretary of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust," Congress leader Sonia Gandhi said in a letter to Ms. Dikshit's son, Sandeep Dikshit.

Ahead of the 2017 Assembly election, the Congress projected her as the chief ministerial candidate, but she was dropped after it tied up with the Samajwadi Party. She was made the Delhi Congress chief ahead of the Lok Sabha election and was defeated in the North East Delhi constituency.

Paradise in peril: Western tourists give a wide berth to Kashmir after Pulwama

Major nations continue to advise their citizens against travelling to the Valley; against 13 lakh tourists in 2016, the first six months of 2019 recorded just 3.54 lakh

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Even five months after the Pulwama attack, major Western countries continue to advise their citizens against travelling to the Kashmir Valley, affecting the State's tourism-reliant economy severely.

France, Germany, Canada, Australia, the U.K. and the U.S., from which high-spending tourists used to visit the scenic valley, have decided to maintain their advisories on Kashmir at the "highest danger" level.

"Do not travel to: The state of Jammu and Kashmir (except the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh) due to terrorism and civil unrest, " the U.S. State Department said in its travel advisory dated March 8 and posted on its website. It urges American citizens to avoid travel to "within 10 km of the India-Pakistan border due to the potential for armed conflict".

Idle shikaras: Houseboats wait for tourists on the Dal Lake in Srinagar. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

Heightened tensions

The U.K.'s Foreign and Commonwealth Office advised against all travel to: "Jammu and Kashmir, with the exception of (i) travel within the city of Jammu, (ii) travel by air to the city of Jammu, and (iii) travel within the region of Ladakh".

The office, which regularly updates its advisories, explained the rationale for its curbs on travel to the State by saying: "Following a terrorist attack in Pulwama on 14 February, there are heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, particularly across the Line of Control. There may be disruption to air travel in Jammu and Kashmir and northern India at short notice."

It warns that terrorists are "very likely to try to carry out attacks in India". "There have been recent media reports suggesting Daesh (formerly referred to as ISIL) may have an interest in attacking targets in India," it says.

There are similar advisories from Canada, France and Germany, which, in the past, had lowered the danger level on its travel advisories to "green" for Srinagar and "orange" for the Valley.

An official said France had categorised Srinagar as "green" (free to go) for its citizens immediately after the five-month agitation in 2016.

It was only after the Pulwama suicide blast on February 14 that many countries, which had earlier eased curbs on travel to Srinagar and the neighbouring tourist destinations of Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam, had advised against visits to the Valley.

At least 40 CRPF jawans were killed in the attack, which almost brought India and Pakistan to the brink of a conflict after the two nuclear-armed nations deployed their Air Forces in limited operations.

The adverse travel advisories have proved detrimental to an already moribund tourism industry in the State. According to the State Tourism Department, against foreign tourist arrivals of 9,517; 2,360; and 3,031 for April, May and June in 2018, the numbers has fallen to 8,167; 1,293; and 2,669 for the corresponding months this year. "These tourists mainly travel from South-east Asia," said an official.

Against 13 lakh tourists who travelled to Kashmir in 2016, the first six months of 2019 recorded just 3.54 lakh.

"The strict security measures on the highways for the Amarnath Yatra this year have not only shooed away prospective foreign tourists but even put the domestic tourists to inconvenience," said Manzoor Pakthoon, head of J&K Tourism Alliance, a trade grouping.

'Looking at Sri Lanka'

"We need to have tourism police on the highways to ensure tourists are not harassed, lest we face a major dent to tourism economy," he added.

"We are analysing Sri Lanka tourism's campaign [launched after the April blasts in the island nation]," State Tourism Secretary Rigzin Samphel said. "They came out with an impressive campaign that has been well received."

Kashmir issue will be solved: Rajnath

No power on the earth can stop it, says Defence Minister on the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the Kashmir problem was "bound to be solved". The Minister is in Jammu and Kashmir on the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War.

"*Kashmir ki samasya ka hal ho ke raheyga, duniya ki koi taqat nahi rok sakti hai* (Resolution of the Kashmir issue is bound to happen and no power on earth can stop it)," Mr. Singh said in Kathua, where he inaugurated the Ujh and Basantar bridges built by the Border Roads Organisation.

Token of appreciation: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meeting Army personnel at the Kargil War Memorial at Drass on Saturday. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

Tourism pitch

"If somebody does not want a solution through talks, then we know very well how a solution can be found," he said. The Minister said the Centre intended to make Kashmir "not only the paradise of India but also a tourist paradise of the world".

Referring to his appeals of talks to separatists during the NDA government's previous tenure, Mr. Singh said the Hurriyat had shut its door on the members of the delegation. "The new government's focus is only on speedy development and prosperity of J&K," he said.

The Defence Minister paid tributes to the soldiers killed in the 1999 Kargil War at a memorial in Drass sector.

He was accompanied by Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (Northern Command) Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh, said a Defence spokesman.

The Defence Minister also visited Veer Bhoomi and the Hut of Remembrance, which are located on the memorial premises.

Mr. Singh also dedicated to the nation a Memory Lane, which displays information on a few important battles that took place in Kargil. He later interacted with the soldiers deployed in the sector.

Draft education policy robs States of power, says CPI(M)

It encourages centralisation and commercialisation: Yechury

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The draft National Education Policy contravenes the Constitution and the federal system, according to the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

In a letter to the Human Resource Development Minister on Saturday, party general secretary Sitaram Yechury called for the complete withdrawal of the chapter recommending the centralisation of powers in education governance.

The Constitution puts education in the Concurrent List, giving authority and responsibility to both the States and the Centre. However, Mr. Yechury alleged that the draft had robbed the States by creating "an excessively centralised structure of authority" and vesting overarching powers with the PM-led Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog (RSA).

One-size-fits-all solution

"States are expected to function merely as local-level units of the RSA, without having the freedom to establish their own priorities or position themselves critically against the policies of the Centre," said the letter.

"The RSA hierarchy of decision-making is an insult to the federal character of our Constitution... it imposes uniformity and one-size-fits-all solutions on a diversity of learning needs and circumstances that require nuanced policy responses," it said.

Mr. Yechury also opposed the "elitist and pro-corporate" thrust of the policy, claiming that it would ensure the "centralisation, commercialisation and communalisation of the Indian education system". He called for wider consultations before the policy was finalised.

He observed that the draft policy had set up an ambitious gross enrolment ratio target of 50% by 2035, but hoped that the target would be achieved without binding the Union government to funding commitments.

Release our sailors, India tells Iran

New Delhi reaches out to Tehran over 18 seamen on board detained oil tanker

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India has reached out to the Iranian government to help release 18 Indian crew members on board the British oil tanker seized by Iranian forces in the Straits of Hormuz, the government said here on Saturday.

"We are ascertaining further details on the incident. Our [Embassy] is in touch with the Government of Iran to secure the early release and repatriation of Indian nationals," said External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar, a day after the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) soldiers boarded and seized the *Stena Impero*.

> **Our [Embassy] is in touch with the Government of Iran to secure the early release and repatriation of Indian nationals**
>
> RAVEESH KUMAR
> Spokesperson, MEA

'Will protect them'

The Iranian Embassy in Delhi said it did not have further information on the charges against the Indians arrested, but Iran would protect them. "Based on the goodwill which exists between Iran and India, the two countries protect the nationals of the other side, and this is not a matter of concern," said a senior embassy official when asked by *The Hindu* about the fate of the Indians on board the cargo vessel.

The ship's captain and 17 other crew members detained on board are Indians, said an Iranian official, quoted by news agencies. The official listed five others with Russian, Philippines and Latvian nationalities.

According to the Iranian government, the *Stena Impero* was involved in a collision with a smaller Iranian fishing boat in the Straits, which the IRGC called a "violation of international regulations". "After it was seized, it was transferred to Iranian shores to undergo legal procedure," the IRG said in a statement.

Gibraltar incident

The *Stena Impero* is owned by a Swedish company, Sten Bulk, but was flying the British flag. U.K. officials say they believe that the seizure by Iran was in retaliation for the seizure of an Iranian tanker *Grace 1* off Gibraltar by British forces earlier this month. The oil tanker is alleged to have violated U.S. sanctions on Syria. Four Indians among the crew on board the vessel were detained but later freed on bail without charges.

The seizures of both tankers in the past few weeks highlight one more aspect of how India is being affected by growing tensions between the U.S. and its allies, and Iran. Indian sailors on various ships are under threat from the tit-for-tat actions on the high seas, along with the lakhs of Indians living in the Gulf region who would face the consequences of any open conflict. For the past few weeks, Indian air carriers have avoided overflying parts of Iranian airspace after American FAA strictures, which has already meant crores in losses.

Pakistan troops violate ceasefire again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

A civilian was injured in fresh ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops in the Pir Panjal valley's Poonch district on Saturday, the Army said.

An Army spokesman said Pakistani troops initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation around 9 a.m. by firing small arms and shelling with mortars along the Line of Control in Mendhar Sector, Mankote and Krishna Ghati.

Zaffar Ullah Khan, a deputy sarpanch in Mankote tehsil, was injured when a shell exploded in the area.

The Army personnel manning the LoC retaliated strongly, the spokesman said.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (SWD West Zone),
9th Floor, Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru -11.
No: EE/WZ/TEND-01/Corrigendum-2/2019-20 Date: 17.07.2019
CORRIGENDUM-2
TWO COVER SYSTEM (Through **GOK e-Procurement Portal** only)
Name of Work: 1) Construction / Remodelling of Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Drains, Culverts / Bridges & all other Allied works of SWD Spread out at various locations in West Zone Under CMNBY Scheme Package-1(2019-20) **West Zone.**
2) Construction / Remodelling of Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Drains, Culverts / Bridges & all other Allied works of SWD Spread out at various locations in West Zone Under CMNBY Scheme Package-2 (2019-20) **West Zone.**
Reference: This office Tender Notification No.EE/SWD/West/TEND/01/2019-20 **Dated:15.06.2019**
This is to notify that due to technical reasons, the above tender notification is postponed. The new calendar of events is as below.

Sl No.	Calendar of Events	As per previous Notification	As per Modified Dates
1.	Pre bid Meeting in the office of the Chief Engineer SWD BBMP	03.07.2019 15:30 hours	26.07.2019 16:00 hours
2.	Last date for receipt of tender document	19.07.2019 16:00 hours	03.08.2019 16:00 hours
3.	Date of Opening of Technical bid	22.07.2019 16:30 hours	05.08.2019 16:30 hours
4.	Date of Opening of Financial bid	24.07.2019 16:30 hours	After getting approval to technical bid

All other Terms and Conditions of the notification remains the same.
Sd/- Executive Engineer - SWD, West Zone
Pay Development Charges - Help to Develop Bengaluru

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Project Central - 5 & SWM,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.
No. : BBMP/EE/P.C-5&SWM/TEND/03/2019-20 Date : 19-07-2019
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Projects Central - 5 & Solid Waste Management, invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible tenderers for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD
1.	Establishment, Development, Operation and Maintenance of Scientific Solid Waste Landfill Site at Quarry in Mittaganahalli Village, Sy. No.02, Bengaluru, East Taluk.	6450.00	**Rs. 64.50 Lakhs** (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Procurement & Rs. 63.50 Lakhs through BG)

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **22-07-2019.** (2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **25-07-2019 at 16.00 hours in Office of the Executive Engineer (P.C.-5 & SWM).** (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-Procurement portal **on or before 16.00 hours on 29-07-2019** and Opening of Tenders will be as per the e-Procurement portal guidelines. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on the Website : **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Projects Central - 5 & SWM on 30-07-2019 at 16.30 hours.**
The Details regarding participation for this tender can be obtained by logging on to : **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- The Executive Engineer, Projects Central - 5 & SWM.
Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru

TUMAKURU MACHINE TOOL PARK
(JOINT VENTURE OF GOI & GOK)
49, East Wing , 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road,
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone :080-22288841/42/43 E-mail:tmtp@kiadb.in Website:www.kiadb.in
(CIN-U45207KA2017NPL099566)
No : TMTP/ENGG/ETND-EP- 02/132/2019-20 Date: 20.07.2019
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal Only)
Item rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Electrical) registered in KPWD and KCEI license who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx cost put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Time for completion Including Monsoon	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Providing LED street lights at Tumakuru Machine Tool Park Industrial Layout in Vasanthanarsapura Industrial Area 3rd phase, Tumakuru District.	386.00	5.79	04 Months	KPWD & KCEI Class-I (Electrical)

Applicants may download Bidding Documents for the above works from the e-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**.
Schedule of dates are as follows:
- Last date to receive pre bid Queries : **29.07.2019 Up to 05:00 p.m.**
- Pre bid meeting will be held on : **31.07.2019 at 3:00 p.m.**
- Last date for submission of Technical and Financial bids is : **19.08.2019 upto 04:00 p.m.**
- Time and date of opening of Technical bids is on : **21.08.2019 at 11:30 a.m.**

Sd/- Chief Technical Officer, Tumakuru Machine Tool Park
DIPR/DDU/820/2019-20

SUPPLYCO
THE KERALA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
MAVELI BHAVAN, P.B. NO. 2030, GANDHINAGAR, KOCHI - 682020
Ph. No. PABX- 0484 - 2206794, 2207925
E-Mail: agmm@supplycomail.com, Website: www.supplycokerala.com.
No.M13-5515/19 Date: 20.07.2019
E-TENDER NOTICE
The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. invites competitive tenders through e-tender system from the eligible bidders for furnishing the Supplyco Outlets, interested bidders may submit tender in accordance with the terms and conditions in the e-tender website and submit their bids before **05/08/2019**. For tender documents and other details, please visit website: www.etenderskerala.gov.in. Tenderers can contact Supplyco Marketing Division or the above Phone Numbers during Office hours. Corrigendum if any, will be published only in the above-said website.
NB: Digital Signature is mandatory for participation.
Sd/-
Manager (Marketing) i/c

NATIONAL AGRI-FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (NABI)
(An autonomous institute under Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India),
Knowledge City, Sector 81, Mohali-140306
Tel: +91-172-5221300/301 Fax: 91-172-5221100
E-mail: purchase@nabi.res.in
E-tenders are invited on behalf of Executive Director, NABI, Mohali from the reputed manufacturers/authorized distributors/authorized dealers for the **purchase of Laboratory Equipments viz,, High Performance Computing Cluster, Flow cytometer analyser with high speed sorter etc** and the details of the tender documents are in the NABI website (**www.nabi.res.in**) and CPPP Website (**www.eprocure.gov.in**).
Any changes in the tender document relating to the submission of tender docs, due date and time, change in Specifications etc. shall be available only in the CPPP Website and NABI Website. Interested parties may see the CPPP Website (www.eprocure.gov.in) and NABI website (**www.nabi.res.in**) before quoting the same. NABI reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason or to accept them in part or full.
Stores and Purchase Officer

COCHIN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (CSEZA)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
KAKKANAD, COCHIN – 37
WAPCOS Limited invites the following e-tender on behalf of CSEZ.
1. Market Research Facilitator for Identification of Potential for Export Oriented Manufacturing Industries in Proposed Expansion of CSEZ.
2. Preparation of DPR for Managing Effluent by Eco-friendly Method Like Wetland and Water Conservation Methods In CSEZ.
3. SITC of Passenger Lifts For SDF Building In CSEZ
4. SITC of Passenger Lift For CSEZ Admin Building

For details visit: wapcos.gov.in; https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/wapcos
Tel No.0484-2413544, E-Mail: cochincsez@wapcos.co.in

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POST GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family welfare)
धन्वंतरि नगर, पुदुच्चेरी / **Dhanwantari Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006**
Phone: **0413 - 2296022** Fax: **0413 - 2272067- 2272735** Website: **www.jipmer.edu.in**
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
No. JOSW/3(1)/2019 Dated : 18th July 2019
Name of Work ***"Outsourcing of 24x7 Fire Safety Services, Quick Response Team, Emergency Services, and Other fire related Services (Manpower, vehicle, Gadgets and other essential items)"***
Sealed Expressions of Interest (EOI) in conformity with detailed EOI call notice are invited from service provider Agencies/Firms having valid Registration Certificate, including registration with the Regional Labour Commissioner, EPF Registration, GST Registration and PAN Card, upto date VAT clearance certificate etc., for **"Outsourcing of 24x7 Fire Safety Services, Quick Response Team, Emergency Services, and Other fire relates Services (Manpower, vehicle, Gadgets and other essential Protective Items, Supervisory Staff, etc.) in JIPMER campus, Puducherry-6.** The Hard copy of the Annexure in the last part of this EOI Notice may be downloaded, filled-up and invariably attached along with the EOI document to be submitted by the vendor, EOIs without these Annexure will be summarily rejected. The filled up EOI can be submitted starting from 22nd July 2019. The cost of the EOI processing charge **Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only)** shall be submitted by way of a demand draft drawn in favour of **"The Director, JIPMER"**, payable at Puducherry along with the EOI document.
For downloading full text of the EOI and other terms and conditions, please visit **www.jipmer.edu.in**
SCHEDULE FOR SUBMISSION OF EOI

Date of publication of EOI	: **21.07.2019**
Date from which EOI documents can be downloaded	: **21.07.2019**
Site visit	: **26.07.2019 @ 10.30 A.M.**
Pre-Bid meeting	: **26.07.2019 @ 02.30 P.M.**
Last date and time for submission of completed EOI documents along with Technical and Financial bid	: **13.08.2019 on or before 04.00 P.M.**
Date and time for Opening of EOI (Technical Bid)	: **16.08.2019 @ 02.30 P.M.**
Date and time for Opening of EOI (Financial Bid)	: **Will be intimated.**
EOI Document Processing Charge	: **Rs. 5,000/-**

The completed EOI should be submitted on or before the due date and time of submission at the following address.
The Deputy Director (Admin), Administrative Block, JIPMER, Dhanvantari Nagar, Gorimedu, Puducherry - 605 006.
(Sd/-) Deputy Director (Admin)

Iran defends seizure of U.K. oil tanker

Tehran says the vessel collided with an Iranian fishing boat after ignoring distress call

REUTERS
GENEVA/LONDON

Britain denounced the Iranian seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf as a "hostile act" on Saturday, rejecting Tehran's explanation that it had seized the vessel because it had been involved in an accident.

Friday's action by Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the global oil trade's most important waterway has been viewed in the West as a major escalation in three months of confrontation that took Iran and the United States to the brink of war. It came two weeks after Britain seized an Iranian tanker off Gibraltar accused of violating sanctions on Syria, an action that prompted numerous Iranian threats to retaliate.

A spokesman for Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Brigadier-General Ramezan Sharif, said Tehran had seized the ship in the Strait of Hormuz despite the "resistance and interference" of a British warship which had been escorting it.

Iran's Fars news agency said the Guards had taken control of the *Stena Impero* on Friday after it collided with an Iranian fishing boat whose distress call it ignored.

23 crew members

The vessel, carrying no cargo, was taken to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. It would remain there with its 23 crew members – 18 of them Indians – while the accident was investigated, Iranian news agencies quoted the head of Ports and Maritime Organisation in southern Hormozgan province, Allahmorad Afifipour, as saying.

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency posted a video of the ship anchored at sea, its name clearly visible. Iranian Foreign Minister told his British counterpart Jeremy Hunt that the ship must go through a legal process before it could be released, Iran's INSA news agency reported.

France, Germany and the European Union joined Britain in condemning the seizure.

Since British Royal Marines abseiled from a helicopter off Gibraltar to seize the *Grace 1* Iranian tanker on July 4, a number of Iranian officials had threatened to retaliate. After maintaining silence for more than a week, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called the British action "piracy". A senior politician and Revolutionary Guards commander, Major General Mohsen Rezai, said on Twitter that Iran was not looking for war, "but we are not going to come up short in reciprocating".

Operator Stena Bulk said on Friday the tanker had been "in full compliance with all navigation and international regulations", but could not be contacted. On Saturday, it said that it was preparing a request to visit the crew. The vessel had been heading to a port in Saudi Arabia and suddenly changed course after passing through the strait.

Gulf gambits

Tensions in the Gulf have escalated in recent months amid a deepening stand-off between Iran and the United States over Tehran's nuclear programme. Here is a timeline:

May 8: Iran announces that it will drop certain commitments under the nuclear agreement

May 12: The UAE says four commercial oil tankers had been targeted by "acts of sabotage" in Gulf waters off its coast. The U.S. and Saudi Arabia blame Tehran

June 13: Two fuel-loaded tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz towards the Indian Ocean are hit by mysterious blasts that cause major fires. Washington, London and Riyadh accuse Tehran of being behind the attacks

June 20: Iran's Revolutionary Guards say they have shot down a U.S. drone

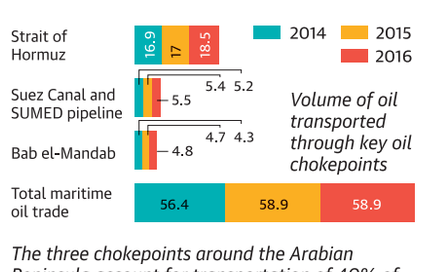
June 21: President Donald Trump says he approved a retaliatory strike but cancelled it at the last minute

July 5: Tehran summons U.K. Ambassador over an incident off Gibraltar as Royal Marines seize a tanker that the U.K. suspects was carrying oil to Syria

July 8: The International Atomic Energy Agency verifies that Tehran has breached the agreed 3.67% limit for enriched uranium

July 18: Trump says the U.S. military has taken down an Iranian drone that came within 1,000 yards of one of its naval vessels in the Strait of Hormuz

July 19: Iran seizes U.K.-flagged *Stena Impero* for "failing to respect international maritime rules"



The three chokepoints around the Arabian Peninsula account for transportation of 40% of the total oil traded

SOURCE: AFP, GRAPHIC NEWS, EIA

A hostile act, says U.K.

REUTERS
LONDON

Britain denounced the Iranian seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf as a "hostile act" on Saturday, rejecting Tehran's explanation that it had seized the vessel because it had been involved in an accident.

Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt called the incident a "hostile act". Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said he had expressed "extreme disappointment" by phone to his counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif. Britain also summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires.

Saudi to host U.S. troops

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia has decided to host U.S. troops in a joint move with Washington to boost regional security, the kingdom's Defence Ministry said.

"Based on mutual cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the United States of America, and their desire to enhance everything that could preserve the security of the region and its stability... King Salman gave his approval to host American forces," a Ministry spokesman was quoted by state news agency SPA as saying.

Saudi Arabia has not hosted U.S. forces since 2003 when they withdrew following the end of the war with Iraq.

Pak. ruling party's tweets spark fresh censorship concerns

PTI asks scribes to practise journalism, not 'agenda'

MEHMAL SARFRAZ
LAHORE

On July 16, the official Twitter handle of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) sparked off a fresh debate on censorship under the present regime when it sent out a dozen tweets on media ethics, using the hashtag #JournalismNotAgenda.

The content of the tweets confirmed that PTI's media managers have a murky understanding of state, citizenship, media and the complementary way they function in a democracy, said political analyst Salman Zaidi, speaking to *The Hindu*.

"Whether or not these tweets represent the Prime Minister's views... the PM is not known to rein in federal Ministers when they behave like trolls," he said.

Pointing out that many of the tweets invoked "defence and security", Mr. Zaidi said that with an increased securitisation of the public sector apparatus, fundamental freedoms were being defined in terms of security.

Freedoms under threat

"Dictatorships upend media freedoms, and the PTI may want to think about the legacy it builds as a party seeking re-election. Not only are the 'directives' issued in the name of security rather childish, they come from a party whose own track for mudslinging, defaming, name-calling and irresponsible statements is rather well known," he said.

Underscoring that some of the tweets were misunderstood by journalists, Muhammad Kamran, operations head of the PTI's official social media team, told *The Hindu* that the government's aim was to engage media in a "productive and constructive discussion".

"We will never stand for curbs on media but yes, we do feel that some journalists only talk about specific agenda, use specific language. We feel that journalists should tell the truth and not follow an agenda... This hashtag wasn't for journalists but for those with agendas...," added Mr. Kamran.

However, journalist Benazir Shah told *The Hindu* that such tweets are not just "irresponsible," they are outright "dangerous" and put reporters and news organisations at risk. "Recently, similar messages targeting the freedom of press have come from other state organisations as well. Those in Pakistan who still care about an independent and free press, and their right to information, should be concerned about the PTI's authoritarian impulses," she said.

Senior journalist Ahmad Noorani told *The Hindu* that the tweets were posted to harass journalists, make them fall in line and to give a message to party followers that they shouldn't trust certain journalists critical of the establishment.

History of attacks

"They fear that such critical journalistic work can expose failures of the party and can also push minds of party workers to think rationally. PTI supporters have a history of attacking media houses and journalists and PTI trolls are known for their abusive and threatening tweets and posts against media houses in general and individual critical journalists in particular," said Mr. Noorani.

He added that he was not sure whether the Twitter onslaught was ordered by the party's top leadership, though the tweets were sent through the PTI's official handle. "I know for a fact that not all Twitter and Facebook accounts introducing themselves as of PTI are being run by PTI supporters."

Mr. Kamran said the party had two kinds of tweeters. "One, who are members of our team, who sign our code of conduct... We monitor them so we know that they don't do anything unethical. The other set is of supporters who are not in our control."

Rights, duties and censorship: A protest by Pakistani journalists in Karachi this month against censorship. ▪ AP

ELSEWHERE

Hong Kong actor stabbed in mainland China

BEIJING

Hong Kong actor Simon Yam was stabbed in the stomach while appearing on stage for a promotional event in southern China on Saturday. A man ran onto the stage and stabbed and slashed the veteran actor, video broadcast on local media showed. Mr. Yam was receiving treatment at a local hospital and his wounds are not life-threatening, the local Huoju Development Zone police said. AFP

Pak. PM Imran Khan begins U.S. visit

Terror, Afghan peace process, ties with India to be discussed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday left for his maiden trip to the U.S. to have face-to-face talks with President Donald Trump and reboot bilateral relations.

Mr. Khan is undertaking the three-day trip on the invitation of Mr. Trump, and is to be joined by Army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa and ISI chief Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed.

Diplomatic sources said that issues like the Afghan peace process, Pakistan government's action against terrorism and terror financing and restoration of military aid to Pakistan would be the highlights of the trip.

Mr. Khan is also expected to brief President Trump about the steps he has taken to normalise relations with India, especially after the Pulwama terror attack in Kashmir.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan. ▪ REUTERS

Doctor's release sought

Meanwhile, a senior Trump administration official said on Friday that Mr. Trump will seek the release of jailed Pakistani doctor Shakil Afridi during his meeting with Mr. Khan. Dr. Afridi had helped the CIA track down Osama bin Laden.

"This is an extremely important issue to the President and the American people. I think Pakistan could demonstrate its leadership role in the region and among the international community by freeing Dr. Afridi, who remains unjustly imprisoned in Pakistan," the official told reporters on Friday.

In an interview to Voice of America, the lawyer and family members of Dr. Afridi expressed hope that Mr. Trump and Mr. Khan would discuss his release.

The U.S. has been repeatedly requesting Pakistan to free Dr. Afridi, said the senior administration official.

China stresses need for united trade front

Ugly path of unilaterialism has affected economic stability, says envoy to India

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

Ahead of the next informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, China has flagged its interest in partnering India for building a united front of emerging economies and developing countries to counter trade headwinds.

Amid a spiraling trade war with the U.S., Ambassador-designate to India, Sun Weidong, told Indian journalists on Friday that "the ugly path of unilateralism and protectionism has now affected the growth and stability of the world economy."

Seeks bigger partnership

"This will surely have an impact on the emerging markets and the developing countries because it also based on the international order that they rely on," he observed.

Seeking a bigger partnership with India on a global scale, Mr. Sun said on the eve of his departure to New Delhi that China and India had a "historical" duty to become frontrunners in protecting multilateralism and globalisation. He pointed out that the scale and impact of this initiative should echo the success of Panchsheel.

The Chinese envoy flagged the reform of the World Trade Organisation, the defence of the UN system, cybersecurity, and climate change as the areas of China-India collaboration.

Asked to comment on the trade gap between the two countries, he said China "highly values" India's concerns. He pointed out that from last year, China had increased imports of Indian rice and sugar, along with stepping up the review and approval process for Indian pharmaceutical products.

On the resolution of the border issue, Mr. Sun reiterated that the dialogue among the Special Representatives of the two countries, which began in 2003, had yielded the political principles guiding the resolution of the boundary row. Besides, "the basic principle of a package planned though mutual adjustment to resolve the boundary issue" had been identified.

Laying out the agenda: China's new Ambassador to India Sun Weidong addressing Indian media in Beijing on Friday. ▪ PTI

SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Pregnant black lawmaker claims she was abused at U.S. store

Erica Thomas was asked to 'go back to where she came from'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MABELTON

A pregnant African-American lawmaker in Georgia said she was verbally attacked in a supermarket on Friday by a middle-aged white man who used profanity, called her vulgar names and told her to "go back where you came from" as her nine-year-old daughter looked on.

Representative Erica Thomas, a Democrat from Austell, said the man was irate that she was in an express line with too many items.

Ms. Thomas said she was in a line for customers with 10 items or less because she cannot stand for long periods of time.

"And this white man comes up to me and says, 'You lazy son of a b****'," she said, sobbing as she described the confrontation in a Facebook video. "He says, 'You lazy son of a b****; you need to go back [to] where you came from'."

Georgia Representative Erica Thomas. ▪ AP

Taken aback

Ms. Thomas said she was stunned by his anger. "I said, 'Sir, you don't even know me. I'm not lazy. I'm nine months pregnant'." Ms. Thomas said she never identified herself to the man as a public official. She said she was so taken aback by his actions that she didn't think to try to record them.

The incident came days after President Donald Trump tweeted that four Congresswomen of colour, including U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, should go back to the "broken and crime infested" countries they came from.

In Ms. Thomas's video, she alludes to Mr. Trump's attacks. She never mentions Mr. Trump's name but says, "There's so much hate in this world and it's being incited by our President every single day." She said that it appeared the man had already paid for his groceries when he approached her. "He ran up on me and just verbally assaulted me," she said. At one point, Ms. Thomas said, the man told her "You people are ignorant."

Ms. Thomas said a store employee at some point approached the man and told him to leave. She said she believes store employees were slow to respond to the assault.

'El Chapo' begins life term at prison

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Mexican drug lord Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman was locked up on Friday at the ADX federal maximum security prison in the State of Colorado, where he will spend the rest of his days.

"We can confirm that... Guzman is in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons" at the Administrative Maximum site in Florence, central Kansas, read a short email from the prisons bureau.

Guzman, 62 former co-leader of Mexico's feared Sinaloa drug cartel, was convicted in February of smuggling hundreds of tons of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana into the U.S.

In a New York courtroom on Wednesday, he was sentenced to life in prison, and sent to the notorious supermax prison nicknamed the "Alcatraz of the Rockies."

Bangladesh Hindu activist to be tried for sedition

Had sought U.S. help on minority rights

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Internal issues of Bangladesh are for its own citizens to deal with, a group of civil society activists said on Saturday after human rights worker Priya Saha raised the issue of rights of minorities with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader said Ms. Saha will be tried for sedition upon her return.

"There is an ongoing drive to create communal disturbance in non-communal, democratic Bangladesh. The recent comments by Priya Saha is part of a trend. Our concerns are not for any neighbour or a distant nation to deal with," said members of the Resistance Group against Extremism and Communalism.

Influence of India., U.S.

The group indicated that the influence of India and the U.S. on the internal affairs of Bangladesh was growing and called upon the Sheikh Hasina government to restore the original secular Constitution, drafted after the 1971 War.

Ms. Saha, who was in Washington to participate in an event organised by the State Department from July 16 to 18, had alleged that Christians, Hindus and Buddhists were disappearing from Bangladesh and called for support.

"Please help us. We don't want to leave our country," she had said.

Bangladesh human rights activist Priya Saha.

It's curtains for Aditya Birla payments bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Within 18 months of starting operations, the payments bank of the Aditya Birla Group has decided to wind up operations citing 'unanticipated developments in [the] business landscape.'

Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd. was one of the 11 entities that had received a payments bank licence from the RBI in August 2015. The bank began operations as Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank from February, 2018.

"This decision has been taken due to unanticipated developments in the business landscape that have made the economic model unviable," Vodafone Idea said in a statement to the exchanges.

HDFC Bank net up 21% on higher income

Savings, current account deposits fall below 40% for first time in 12 quarters, retail loan growth slows

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Private sector lender HDFC Bank reported a 21% increase in its net profit to ₹5,568.2 crore for the quarter ended June 30 driven by both core and non-core income.

Net interest income, which is the difference between interest earned and interest expended, grew 22.9% to ₹13,294.3 crore, while other income increased 30.2% to ₹4,970.3 crore.

Net interest margin for the quarter remained stable at 4.3%.

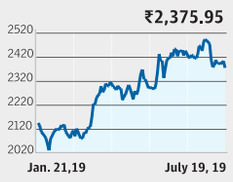
There was a gain of ₹212 crore during the period under review from sale of investments as compared to a loss of ₹283.2 crore during the same period of the previous year.

"The core cost-to-income ratio for the quarter was at 39.4% as against 40.1% for the corresponding quarter ended June 30, 2018," the bank said in a statement.

The gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio inched up to 1.4% of gross advances as on end June as compared to 1.33% a year ago and 1.36% as of end March.

Excluding non-performing assets from the agricultural segment, the gross NPA would have been 1.17%, the bank said.

Robust quarter



The core cost-to-income ratio for the quarter ended June 30, 2019 was 39.4%, compared with 40.1% a year earlier

Metrics	Q1 FY20	Q1 FY19	Growth(%)
Net interest income (₹cr.)	13,294.3	10,813.6	22.9
Net profit (₹cr.)	5,568.2	4,601.4	21.0
Earnings per share (₹)	20.4	17.7	
Gross NPA (%)	1.4	1.3	
Special dividend (₹)	5.0	-	

Excluding NPAs from the agri segment, gross NPAs come to 1.17%

Provisions went up to ₹2,613.7 crore in Q1 from ₹1,629.4 crore, of which specific loan loss and contingent provisions were ₹2,413.5 crore as against ₹1,432.2 crore for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

General provisions

The bank has made general provisions of ₹200.2 crore, which include additional provisions of ₹85.9 crore for standard advances to the the NBFC and housing finance sector.

"The bank held floating provisions of ₹1,451 crore as on June 30, 2019," the bank said. Total deposits of the bank increased 18.5% year-on-year, while current and savings account deposits grew by 12.8%.

CASA deposits fell below 40% for the first time in 12 quarters, and were 39.7% of total deposits as of June 30, 2019.

Vehicle loans grow 8.3%

While advances grew 17% year-on-year, the vehicle loan segment, where sales volumes have seen some moderation, saw advances grow 8.3% over the previous year, the bank said.

Retail loans grew 16.5% on year, as compared to 19% during the Jan.-March period, while domestic wholesale loans grew by 19.6%. The domestic loan mix between retail and wholesale was 54:46.

Jet RP invites proposals for the sale of assets

Assets include buildings, 14 aircraft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The resolution professional (RP) of Jet Airways on Saturday called for expressions of interest (EoIs) to sell the grounded airline's meagre assets by August 3.

In an advertisement posted on the airline's website and in newspapers, the RP, Ashish Chhawchharia, appointed by Jet Airways' lenders, has set a deadline of August 3 for receipt of EoIs, August 6 as the date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants and August 11 as the last date of submission of objections.

The advertisement stated that on August 14, the final list of prospective resolution applicants will be issued.

The final date for submission of resolution plans of these applicants will be September 5, it added.

The estimated date for submission of the resolution plan by the RP to the National Company Law Tribunal for approval is September 20. The airline's assets include 14 aircraft, 49% stake in Jet Privilege and a few buildings. Its liabilities are more than ₹36,000 crore.

Reliance Jio may unveil GigaFiber at shareholder meet on August 12

Wired broadband service likely to target 50 million homes

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

After disrupting the Indian mobile telephony market, Reliance Jio is all set to storm the wired broadband market with its commercial launch slated to be announced during Reliance Industries' (RIL's) annual general meeting on August 12.

The company plans to launch its GigaFiber services, which would include home broadband, entertainment and smart home IoT (Internet of things) solutions.

"The commercial launch of fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) services is likely to be announced during company's AGM next month," a source in the know of the development told *The Hindu*.

Mukesh Ambani

Asked for comments, a senior RIL official neither confirmed nor denied the report.

"Wireline network connectivity in India continues to remain underserved. Jio is working towards serving the need for better connectivity with its GigaFiber services. Jio, with its FTTH services, has set a target of connecting 50 million homes across the country," Mukesh Ambani, chairman, RIL, had said in a letter to shareholders.

Investments made

To help meet this goal, RIL has made strategic investments in Hathway Cable and Datacom Limited and DEN Networks Limited.

Jio GigaFiber currently offers ultra high-speed Internet of up to 100 Mbps for 90 days along with a monthly data quota of 100 GB and a complimentary access to many of Jio's premium apps.

Govt. in talks with foreign lenders for loans to SMEs

Indian banks not in a position to provide enough capital to small businesses, says official

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

The government is in talks with foreign lenders to provide $14.5 billion in credit to millions of small firms, two officials said.

The government is in discussions with multiple foreign lenders, including Germany's state-owned development bank KfW Group, the World Bank and some Canadian institutions to extend lines of credit to small enterprises, one of the officials, who did not want to be identified, told Reuters.

KfW's India office confirmed the discussions, though the main focus was on credit lines to support small businesses' solar power generation. The talks were at an early stage, KfW said.

The World Bank's India spokesperson did not reply to an email seeking comment. The official said the government plans to source up to ₹1 lakh crore of loans from foreign institutions because Indian banks were not in a position to provide enough capital for the small business sector, which is seen as critical to job creation. "We are exploring, we are having discussions with various funding agencies if something can be done [for small and medium firms]," the second official said.

In the lurch: Credit availability for SMEs has worsened due to a liquidity crisis in the NBFC sector. ▪ REUTERS

The officials did not provide full details of the discussions they are having with banks, or identify all those they are talking to, but said talks are at a very early stage.

India's micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) Ministry is discussing the proposal – to pull in foreign banks – with the Finance Ministry , which will make a final call, the second official said. The push for foreign loans comes on the heels of the government's announcement earlier this month that it was planning to borrow about ₹700 billion by issuing overseas sovereign bonds.

India's 63 million firms in the micro, small and medium firm sector are responsible for more than a quarter of the country's manufacturing and services output, and must be re-energised for the government to kick-start the economy. Gross domestic product growth fell to a five-year low of 5.8% in the January-March quarter, well below the 8%-plus rates that the government is targeting.

But credit availability for SMEs, which also account for about 45% of the country's exports, has worsened due to a liquidity crisis in the non-banking financial companies (NBFC) sector.

State-owned banks have not been able to drive increased lending because they are burdened with more than $145 billion in bad loans. Last month, a study by an RBI panel said the overall deficit in credit for the MSME sector is estimated at about ₹20-25 lakh crore.

Air traffic volume rises 6.2% in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Domestic air passenger traffic rose 6.19% in June over the year-ago period, with local carriers flying 12.02 million passengers in the month, show the monthly data from regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

The uptick in June follows a marginal under 3% growth in May, ferrying 12.18 million passengers.

But this was after a 4.5% contraction in April – the first time in six years – due to the grounding of Jet Airways and the resultant spike in ticket prices during the peak summer holidays.

The largest carrier Indigo continued its market leadership, ferrying 5.77 million passengers during the month of June.

IndiGo to seek nod to induct woman director

Board to ask for shareholder approval

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The board of directors of strife-torn IndiGo on Saturday said that it would seek the approval of its shareholders to induct an independent woman director – one of the issues flagged by co-founder Rakesh Gangwal in his complaint to the SEBI on violations of corporate governance norms at the firm.

"The Board has decided to seek the approval of the shareholders at the upcoming annual general meeting for expanding the board to enable the induction of an independent woman director," according to IndiGo's press statement.

IndiGo's CEO Ronojoy Dutta on Friday, during an analysts' conference call after the board had approved the quarterly results, said that expanding the board would require amending the Articles of Association.

SEBI intervention

In his letter, Mr. Gangwal sought SEBI's intervention in alleged violation of its regulations and corporate governance, "unusual rights" enjoyed by co-founder Rahul Bhatia's InterGlobe Enterprises (IGE) including the right to appoint three out of six directors, nominate the chairman of the board, nominate and appoint the MD, CEO and the president, besides the absence of an independent woman director.

He also objected to increasing related party transactions between IndiGo and IGE and highlighted the need for proper checks and balances in conducting them.

Axis Bank gets nod to raise ₹18,000 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Axis Bank said on Saturday its board had approved raising up to ₹18,000 crore through an issue of equity shares, depository receipts or convertible securities.

The board of directors of the bank approved the proposal in this regard at a meeting held on Saturday, the bank said in a filing.

"The board has approved raising of funds aggregating up to ₹18,000 crore," Axis Bank said.

The funds would be raised subject to shareholders' approval to the fundraising proposal through postal ballot process.

Axis Bank is one of the worst-affected private lenders after RBI's asset quality review, which led to a huge increase in bad loans over the past three years.

Volkswagen to increase localisation level, double market share in India

Plans to start making engines here, expand supplier base

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Automaker Volkswagen plans to increase its indigenisation level by 10 percentage points and is aiming to double its market share in India in the next five years, said a top official.

"Currently, we have a localisation level of 82% and we are planning to increase it to 92% to 93% in a year's time," said Steffen Knapp, managing director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India.

As part of the localisation efforts, the company plans to start making engines in India and expand the supplier base to produce various parts locally.

Mr. Knapp said that efforts were on to double its market share in India from the present 1.4% to 3% in the next five years, as part of the company's India 2.0 plan, through six strategic brand pillars – people, brand positioning, loyalty programmes, network expansion, corporate fleets and digitalisation.

Steffen Knapp

"It's an ambitious target. We have laid the foundation and the fundamentals are in place to achieve this. Currently, we are selling 3,000 cars per month and we need to clock around 1.2 lakh units per annum," he said.

Talking about the vision, brand positioning and mission, he said: "Our vision is to become a sustainable brand with a market share of 3% in the next five years: Our aim is to be an aspirational premium car brand in India and a brand which has the closest connection with customers and the highest loyalty within the industry."

Asked about new launches, he said the firm was developing a new platform for India named MQB. Volkswagen will be launching its A0 SUV (sport utility vehicle) as the first product under India 2.0 initiative by end 2020-21.

The firm would be setting up 30 new sales format pop-up stores and city stores across high-potential markets in India.

Razorpay to triple lending to ₹600 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Razorpay Software Pvt. Ltd. plans to almost triple its collateral lending to merchants and double its workforce, said a top official.

"We started providing collateral lending to our merchants by tying up with non-banking financial companies," said Harshil Mathur, CEO, Razorpay Software Pvt. Ltd.

In the last six months, the payments solution firm has provided loans to the extent of more than ₹200 crore. It plans to end the current fiscal with collateral loans amounting to ₹600 crore. The loan size per customer ranges between ₹15 lakh and ₹20 lakh. The firm has a staff strength of 450, which it plans to increase to 800 by end FY20.

V.V. KRISHNAN

Whither House panels?

In the backdrop of a number of Bills having been passed without scrutiny, why are parliamentary standing committees necessary?

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

The story so far: Eleven of the 22 Bills introduced in the ongoing session of Parliament have been passed, which makes it a highly productive session after many years. But these Bills have been passed without scrutiny by parliamentary standing committees, their purpose being to enable detailed consideration of a piece of legislation. After the formation of the 17th Lok Sabha, parliamentary standing committees have not been constituted as consultations among parties are still under way. Partly as a result of this, the Bills were passed without committee scrutiny. They were discussed in Parliament over durations ranging between two and five hours.

Why have parliamentary committees?
In a parliamentary democracy, Parliament has broadly two functions, which are lawmaking and oversight of the executive branch of the government. Parliament is the embodiment of the people's will. Committees are an instrument of Parliament for its own effective functioning.

Given the volume of legislative business, discussing all Bills under the consideration of Parliament in detail on the floor of the House is impossible. Committees are platforms for threadbare discussion on a proposed law. At least in principle, the assumption is that the smaller cohort of lawmakers, assembled on the basis of the proportional strength of individual parties and interests and expertise of individual lawmakers, could have more open, intensive and better informed discussions. Committee meetings are 'closed door' and members are not bound by party whips, which allows them the latitude for a more meaningful exchange of views as against discussions in full and open Houses where grandstanding and party positions invariably take precedence.

Disruptive changes in technology and the expansion of trade, commerce and economy in general throw up new policy challenges that require a constant reform of legal and institutional structures. While lawmaking gets increasingly complex, lawmakers cannot infinitely expand their knowledge into ever expanding areas of human activities. For instance, we live in an era of metadata being generated by expanding connectivity. The laws and regulations that are required to govern a digital society cannot be made without highly specialised knowledge and political acumen. Members of Parliament may have great acumen but they would require the assistance of experts in dealing with such situations. It is through committees that such expertise is drawn into lawmaking.

Executive accountability to the legislature is enforced through questions in Parliament also, which are answered by ministers. However, department standing committees go one step further and hear from senior officials of the government in a closed setting, allowing for more detailed discussions. This mechanism also enables parliamentarians to understand the executive processes closely.

What are the types of committees?
Most committees are 'standing' as their existence is uninterrupted and usually reconstituted on an annual basis; some are 'select' committees formed for a specific purpose, for instance, to deliberate on a particular bill. Once the Bill is disposed of, that select committee ceases to exist. Some standing committees are departmentally related, an example being the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development. A Bill related to education could either be considered by the department standing committee or a select committee that will be specifically set up. The chair uses her discretion to refer a matter to a parliamentary committee but this is usually done in consultation with leaders of parties in the House. Financial control is a critical tool for Parliament's authority over the executive; hence finance committees are considered to be particularly powerful. The three financial committees are the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings.

Parliamentary committees draw their authority from Article 105 (on privileges of Parliament members) and Article 118 (on Parliament's authority to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business). Committee reports are usually exhaustive and provide authentic information on matters related to governance. Bills that are referred to committees are returned to the House with significant value addition. Parliament is not bound by the recommendations of committees.

What are its origins?
As is the case with several other practices of Indian parliamentary democracy, the institution of Parliamentary Committees also has its origins in the British Parliament. The first Parliamentary Committee was constituted in 1571 in Britain. The Public Accounts Committee was established in 1861. In India, the first Public Accounts Committee was constituted in April 1950. According to P.D.T. Achary, former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, "The practice of regularly referring bills to committees began in 1989 after government departments started forming their own standing committees. Prior to that, select committees or joint committees of the houses were only set up to scrutinise in detail some very important bills, but this was few and far between."

What are the advantages blockchain offers?

What is the potential of this foundational technology and how much can be tapped? What are the hurdles?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: For a little over a decade, the term blockchain has been flitting in and out of news cycles, especially in connection with bitcoin, the digital cryptocurrency. The Reserve Bank of India has banned speculation and investment in cryptocurrencies. Of late, however, blockchain is seeing a revival, and companies are looking at how to use the tremendous potential of the technology that underpins the cryptocurrency.

What is blockchain?
It is a foundational technology or a platform that allows designing a secure way to record transactions and circulate it among signatories, or any kind of target group with an Internet connection. At its core it is an extremely democratic ledger that cannot be arbitrarily manipulated and easily shareable.

Blockchain's appeal is that it achieves this without a central authority. Blockchain burst into public consciousness because of its association with Satoshi Nakamoto, a mysterious individual or cabal that laid out a white paper on how blockchain could be applied to bitcoin, a virtual currency wrought from the principles of blockchain. Having money free of the fiat of Central governments raised utopian possibilities especially in a world where democracies complain of being subverted and labour and capital continue to be entangled in the elusive quest for equilibrium. Thereafter, it spawned its own hype-cycle, imitation currencies, association with the sordid and Dark Net. While cryptocurrencies have a bad reputation, Silicon Valley tech giants and investment banks are trying to salvage the underlying promise of blockchain and use it for other collaborations.

How does blockchain work?
Every block in a blockchain is a record of transactions and the more of the latter, the longer the chain. Just as worthless paper transforms into valuable currency with the signature of the RBI governor, blocks are great because they provide an unalterable document of the history of every transaction. In the context of currency, it stores the place, time, value (rupee, for example) and location of a purchase. There is minimal identifying information and every block is linked to a unique 'digital signature' of the transacting participants. Every block is distinguished from another through a unique code which is a string of numbers. When you use your debit or credit card to make a transaction, VISA or Mastercard employ their technology to verify your bank account, connect with banks and process a transaction.

In blockchain applications, this verifying role is outsourced to several computers on a network – each has the exact same copy of the block. These computers verify the genuineness of transaction by solving mathematical problems that can only be done in brute-force, energy intensive ways that require a lot of computational power, and therefore electricity. This is a key reason why blockchain enthusiasts vouch for the security of blockchain-backed transactions. Depending on where the blockchain technology is deployed, these participating computers or users have to be incentivised for all that energy expenditure.

In the case of bitcoin, the computers are rewarded with bitcoin. This is stored in digital wallets and may be used like money provided there are sellers of real world goods who would accept bitcoins. Nowdays, they are frequently traded as another speculative, volatile asset.

What real world problem does blockchain solve?
As of today nothing, but blockchain backers say it solves the problem of 'trust'. Because the major cost of any transaction or exchange of services or goods is the act of verification – VISA charges fees to ensure that your card swipe is connected to your account or a property charges you for the effort of ensuring that you are entering into a genuine transaction – blockchain asks you to trust the energy-intensive nature of mathematical problems and have them masquerade them as 'locks' to secure your money, confidential documents or any kind of information.

Technology has always proved to be disruptive. If blockchain's appeal lies in its appeal to destroy intermediaries such as banks, courts, lawyers, it is unlikely to be smooth sailing

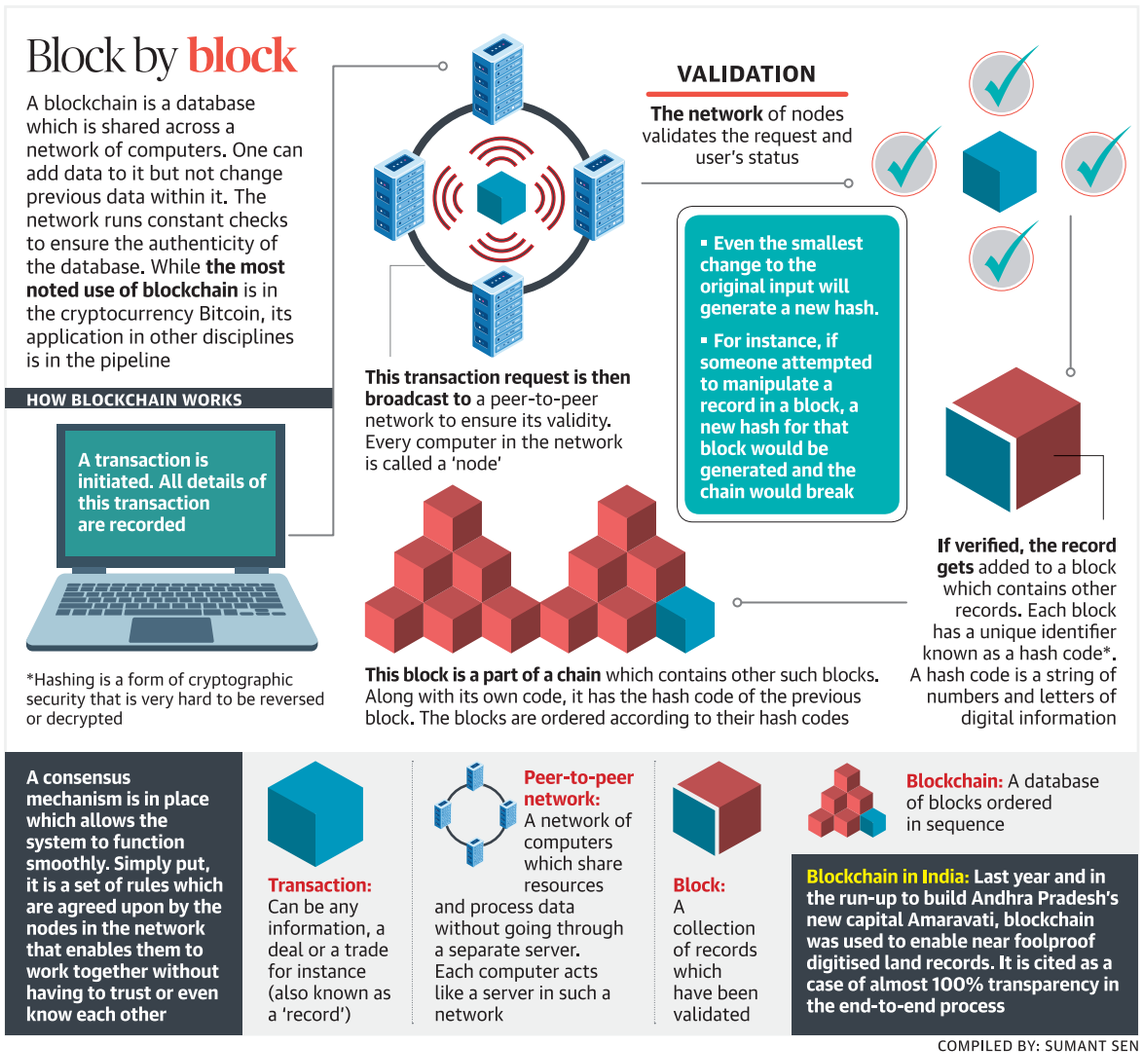
While blockchain has the aura of transparency – anybody supposedly can check the history of a 'block' – it is at its core impervious to common sense. However, just as the inability to grasp in a visceral sense how letters typed on a mobile phone transform and make their way into another phone instantaneously a continent away does not stop people from using WhatsApp, blockchain technology has created enough hype and drama to have drawn the world's wealthiest to invest in it and inveigle it into ordinary lives.

Where can it be used?
Facebook this year announced Libra, a kind of blockchain-backed digital currency. According to report in a 2017 issue of the *Harvard Business Review* (*HBR*), "Bank of America, JPMorgan, the New York Stock Exchange, Fidelity Investments, and Standard Chartered are testing blockchain technology as a replacement for paper-based and manual transaction processing in such areas as trade finance, foreign exchange, cross-border settlement, and securities settlement"

Ethereum is another blockchain-based startup that looks to decentralise online information. Its ambition is beyond overturning online banking and it claims that if it were to work as envisioned, it will give users control over their data unlike the present where a lot of our privacy is ceded to Google and Amazon's servers. Some plan to apply blockchain to trace the origin of food and where it is grown and yet others to journalism and 'fact-checking' applications. Unlike blockchain's distributed computing philosophy, all these applications ultimately store information on a coalition of repositories.

Is blockchain just hype?
The *HBR* article cited earlier, by Marco Iansiti and Karim R. Lakhani, likens blockchain to the early days of the Internet, which was made possible by so-called distributed computing. A new mode, called the TCP/IP (transmission control protocol/Internet protocol), which specified how computers could be networked to transmit and receive packets of digital information, turned out to be a platform that laid the base for private networks, email, the web, websites, search engines. TCP/IP minimises central management and makes networks resilient and far-reaching. The protocol was not the crying need of humanity but once in place, upended the telecommunications industry and in the last three decades virtually every aspect of life.

Technology has always proved to be disruptive, creating new opportunities and jobs and destroying old ones. If blockchain's appeal lies in its appeal to destroy intermediaries – banks, courts, lawyers – it is unlikely to be smooth sailing. Moreover, there is already serious theorising by economists that shows how blockchain has its own vulnerabilities and susceptibility to creating new hegemons, power networks, cartels and challenges to global energy consumption.



How will India contribute to LIGO?

Why is it important for the country to join the global network studying gravitational waves? What will it achieve?

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

The story so far: On September 14, 2015, the two LIGO detectors in the U.S., at Livingston in Louisiana, and Hanford in Washington, registered a disturbance that was not unlike the chirp of a bird. It was due to gravitational waves travelling outwards from a point 1.3 billion light years away from the earth. At this point, two massive black holes with masses 29 and 36 times that of the sun had merged to give off gravitational wave disturbances. Black holes are exotic objects that we know little about, but their immense gravitational pull which traps even the fastest object in the world, which is light, is legendary. When objects with such an immense gravity merge, the disturbance is felt by the very fabric of space time and travels outward from the merger, not unlike ripples on a pond surface. Thus, gravitational waves have been described as "ripples in the fabric of space time". Following the 2015 detection, which later won the Physics Nobel (2017), the two LIGO detectors detected seven such binary black hole merger events before they were joined by the European Virgo detector in 2017. The two facilities have now detected 10 events. The Japanese detector, KAGRA, or Kamioka Gravitational-wave Detector, is expected to join the international network soon. In the meantime, in a collaboration with LIGO, a gravitational wave detector is being set up in India. The LIGO India project is expected to join the international network in a first science run in 2025.

What are the LIGO detectors?
The acronym LIGO stands for Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory. LIGO consists of a pair of huge interferometers, each having two arms which are 4 km long. Remarkable precision is needed to detect a signal as faint as a gravitational wave, and the two LIGO detectors work as one unit to ensure this. Naturally, this requires weeding out noise very carefully, for when such a faint signal is being detected, even a slight human presence near the detector could derail the experiment by drowning out the signal.

LIGO, unlike usual telescopes, does not "see" the incoming ripples in spacetime. It does not even need to, because gravitational waves are not a part of electromagnetic spectrum or light. They are not light waves but a different phenomenon altogether – a stretching of spacetime due to immense gravity. A single LIGO detector cannot confidently detect this disturbance on its own. At least two detectors are needed. This is because the signal is so weak that even a random noise could give out a signal that can mislead one into thinking

An aerial view of the LIGO detector site, at Livingston, Louisiana, U.S. ▪ REUTERS/CALTECH/MIT/LIGO LABORATORY/2016

a genuine gravitational wave has been detected. It is because two detectors have detected the faint signal in coincidence that the observer is convinced it is a genuine reading and not noise.

What is the need to have another detector in India?
Right now, with just three detectors, there is huge uncertainty in determining where in the sky the disturbance came from. Observations from a new detector in a far-off position will help locate the source of the gravitational waves more accurately.

What are the possible sources of gravitational waves?
Mergers of black holes or neutron stars, rapidly rotating neutron stars, supernova explosions and the remnants of the disturbance caused by the formation of the universe, the Big Bang itself, are the strongest sources. There can be many other sources, but these are likely to be too weak to detect.

Why does one study gravitational waves?
As a largely unknown and fundamental phenomenon, gravitational waves are interesting to scientists. But once many more detectors are in place, the study also offers a new way to map out the universe, using gravitational-wave astronomy. Perhaps one day we will have such accurate detection facilities that signatures of gravitational waves bouncing off celestial objects can help us detect and map them.

What do we know about LIGO India?
LIGO India will come up in Maharashtra, near Aundha in Hingoli district. Most of the land has been acquired, and the small balance is going through a slightly longer acquisition procedure. The project is formally in the construction phase, with the building design conceptualised. Says Tarun Souradeep, spokesperson for LIGO India, "We are close to finalising the civil infrastructure drawings. The plans for immense vacuum infrastructure have been conceptualized, reviewed and are in an advanced stage."

Will LIGO India be different from LIGO itself?
Like the LIGO detectors, the one at LIGO India will also have two arms of 4 km length. But while there are similarities there will be differences too. Being an ultra-high precision large-scale apparatus, LIGO India is expected to show a unique "temperament" determined by the local site characteristics. In an email to *The Hindu*, Dr. Souradeep, says, "LIGO India and its complex feedback control loops to high sensitivity will follow a fairly independent track and poses an exciting full-scale challenge. Under a memorandum of understanding, the National Geophysical Research Institute is carrying out a year-long, multiple-station seismic survey campaign at the LIGO India site to characterise the local properties. This is in addition to the elaborate geotechnical and geophysical survey completed earlier this year."

Observations from a new detector in India will help locate the source of the gravitational waves more accurately. The LIGO India project is expected to join the international network in 2025

What is the technology being developed in India for LIGO India?
Some of it includes design and fabrication of ultra stable laser, quantum measurement techniques, handling of complex control system for enforcing precision control, large-scale ultra-high vacuum technology, data analysis and machine learning. This is not a complete list and the development of such indigenous technology is likely to result in many spin-offs for industry and research.

CAPSULE

Timing eruptions
A group from Cambridge University has estimated that magma can be stored from hundreds to a thousand years at the crust-mantle boundary before being let out in a volcanic eruption. Researchers used diffusion of chromium and aluminium atoms to estimate this. The discovery can help forecast volcanic eruptions.

Similar species
The brain circuitry involved in the sense of smell is similar across six different mammal species from mice to cats. The relative sizes of three components of the olfactory neural network – nose, olfactory bulb and piriform cortex – are preserved across the six species studied, finds a study published in *Currrent Biology*.

Mind of the mosquito
Researchers from University of Washington, U.S., have figured out how female mosquitoes integrate various sensory cues to decide how and where to find their next blood meal. After the mosquito senses chemical cues with her olfactory system, she looks around to scan the area for shapes and integrating these inputs decides where to fly.

Fossil mammal
A 165-million-year-old fossil of *Microdocodon gracilis*, a shrew-like mammal, found in China in 2014, was examined recently. Researchers find in it the earliest evidence of tiny hyoid bones that link the back of the mouth, the pharynx, to the openings of the oesophagus and larynx. The tiny animal must have weighed 5 to 9 grams.

NCBS: How micro RNAs regulate the colour of fruits, leaves

Engineered plants can produce anthocyanin and flavonol which have medicinal uses, the team finds

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

A team from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, has found that the rich colour in fruits and leaves of plants are indirectly controlled by specific micro RNAs – miR828 and miR858.

Grape plants bear fruits having colours that can be deep purple or green. This colour is due to compounds called anthocyanins and flavonols, both of which are present in grape fruits.

When the grape plant has a high amount of anthocyanin as compared to flavonol, the fruits are deep purple. When the reverse is true, the grapes are not brightly coloured. The relative abundance of anthocyanin and flavonol is controlled by genes known as the MYB transcription factors. Also referred to as activators, when present in large amounts, they result in dark purple grape, as in the Bangalore Blue variety, and absence correlates with lack of bright colour but high incidence of flavonols as in the Dilkhush grape variety.

Transgenic: Plants grown from infected "ex-plants" had reddish leaves and abundant anthocyanin, says (from left) Varsha Tirumalai, Ashwin Nair and P V Shivaprasad.

Repressor target

"Researchers knew microRNAs can regulate MYBs, but they did not know why such a regulation takes place. They were mostly working with *Arabidopsis* model where one might not see coloured fruits," says P V Shivaprasad of the Epigenetics lab in NCBS, where the work was done.

The team found that the microRNAs miR828 and miR858 were also found in abundance when the grapes had dark colour. Hence they figured out that there must be an intermediary repressor which was what the miRNA targeted.

"The microRNA was targeting something that is competing with the activator MYB. This [competing factor] is a repressor of the anthocyanin pathways," says Varsha Tirumalai, PhD student at NCBS and first author of the paper published in the *Journal of Experimental Botany*.

Micro RNAs are regulators of gene expression, acting like switches. They decide which protein should be made and how much in a given cell or tissue or an organism. They are tiny, having some 20 to 22 digits of RNA. The miRNA inhibit target RNAs by cutting them into two bits in plants. The miRNAs partner with a protein called Argonaute to do this regulation.

Two experiments

The researchers did two sets of experiments with tobacco plants *(Nicotiana tabacum)*. First, they injected through the stomata in the leaves of the plants, an *Agrobacterium* culture by which overexpression of the gene in question was achieved. This method of feeding the culture led to a local effect in the particular leaf only. Also the cells in the leaves were not damaged as the injection was done through the stomata. The leaves also overexpressed the gene and changed colour to a reddish shade.

They also did another experiment in which instead of pushing the culture through the stomata they infected an "ex plant"– a scientific term for a piece of the plant from which the whole plant can be grown. They found that the plants grown in this manner had reddish leaves and abundant anthocyanin.

"This was very interesting. I have never seen red-leaved tobacco plants earlier. Abundant flavonols were not produced in tobacco earlier," says Varsha.

"Anthocyanins and flavonols remove reactive oxygen species that damage DNA, RNA and proteins. Reactive oxygen species are involved in most human diseases," explains Dr Shivaprasad.

Biofortification

Plants having anthocyanin and flavonol can be generated by controlling the microRNAs affecting them. "We can make more of them in tobacco, which can be extracted easily and used as supplements," he adds. The genes identified here can be used in biofortification.

The group is trying to patent flavonol engineering. Their next step is to find out how the MYB transcription factor works to make the specific enzymes needed to make flavonols.

A new 'clutch' to engage the immune cell 'gear'

Two adaptor proteins act like a clutch, help protein condensates get into the correct slot

ASWATHI PACHA

A unique summer institute held at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory in the U.S. (during 2013-2018) helped unlock a few mysteries of the immune system. A team of leading biologists and biochemists identified a molecular 'clutch' which helps move clusters of proteins inside the immune cells.

Microscopic mystery: If the clutch is not active in the immune cells, they are unable to respond to the information from the outside, says Satyajit Mayor (right).

Signalling machinery

The main aim of the study was to understand how the T-cell receptors, which play a main role in our immunity, form a signalling complex and how they build a signalling machinery that picks up information from the outside and use it to activate the immune mechanism.

The team identified two adaptor proteins which act as clutch and help protein condensates get into the correct slot.

Protein condensates are a form of a macromolecular assembly formed by multivalent proteins coming together to create a region that is highly concentrated. It is in the form of a phase separated patch, like oil droplets that form a distinct patch on water.

The recruitment of these adaptor proteins to the condensates was found to be influenced by where the T-cell receptor clusters are located.

"When a T-cell receptor binds to an antigen, the T-cell undergoes a global reorganisation forming a signalling centre at the site of the antigen-bound receptor. The continuous transport of the studied protein condensates towards this signalling centre is important for maintaining the signalling output which is part of the immune response," adds Prof. Darius Vasco Köster from the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, U.S. in an email to *The Hindu*. He is one of the authors of the work published in the journal *eLife*.

The adaptor proteins also promoted association of the protein condensates with actin present inside the cell.

Crucial role

Actin plays a crucial role in cellular processes required for normal immune function. "We fully don't know the implications of the function of these proteins, but we know that if the clutch is not active in the immune cells, they are unable to respond to the information from the outside. These adaptors are also quite general, they go and adapt to other processes as well," says Prof. Satyajit Mayor, from the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, and one of the authors.

Understanding the cascade of events that take place in the immune cells can help develop new vaccines and treatment regimens.

Ebola vaccine tested during epidemic saves lives in Congo

Preliminary data from vaccination in Congo suggest the vaccine has 97.5% efficacy in preventing Ebola

R. PRASAD

The 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic mainly in the three western African countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone has been the most deadly one since the virus became known in 1976. It caused disease in 28,616 people and killed 11,310 others. But what stands out as a remarkable scientific and public health achievement has been the conduct of a large clinical trial in Guinea to test the efficacy of an Ebola vaccine in the midst of the epidemic.

The phase-3 clinical trial involving thousands of volunteers tested the efficacy of Merck's vaccine (VSV-EBOV) to protect vaccinated individuals from getting infected with Ebola virus.

The phase-1 and phase-2 clinical trials involving fewer volunteers were carried out in Europe and Africa in 2014-2015 and consequently used in Guinea in 2015 during vaccination campaigns even when it was being tested in the phase-3 trial.

Prevention: A woman getting vaccinated in Conakry, Guinea, on March 10, 2015, during the first clinical trials of Merck's vaccine. ▪ AFP

Clinical trials

During the trial, the vaccine was administered to 2,119 individuals who had come in contact with a person infected with or died due to Ebola virus and 2,041 people who had come in contact with the primary contacts (known as contacts of contacts). In July 2015, an interim analysis revealed that the vaccine had 100% efficacy. The final results of the trial, too, showed the same result. The duration of protection is not known, though a few studies suggest protection up to one year.

So when Ebola struck the Democratic Republic of Congo on August 1, 2018, the decision to use Merck's vaccine, which has not been licensed in any country for clinical use, was taken without much thought as it was the only vaccine that been tested in phase-3 trials. Also, the World Health Organization's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) had in March 2017, recommended that in the absence of a licensed vaccine for Ebola, the investigational vaccine could be used during an outbreak caused by the Zaire strain of the virus.

The vaccine was developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada and licensed to NewLink Genetics. In November 2014, Merck entered into a licensing agreement with NewLink Genetics to research, develop, manufacture and distribute the vaccine.

The vaccine was administered to nearly 29,000 health-care workers and about 94,000 primary contacts and contacts of contacts in Congo under "compassionate use". The vaccination began a week after the outbreak was officially declared.

Efficacious vaccine

Putting to rest the debate on the extent of efficacy during the phase-3 trial, the WHO noted that the preliminary data suggest that the vaccine used during the current outbreaks in Congo was 97.5% efficacious in preventing Ebola infection.

Of the 94,000 people who were vaccinated during the current outbreaks, only 71 developed the disease. Of the 71, only 15 developed symptoms 10 or more days after vaccination. The majority – 57 individuals – displayed symptoms within nine days of vaccination, before the vaccine could fully protect them. It had become clear during the trials that the vaccine needed 10 days to fully protect vaccinated individuals.

There were only nine deaths among the 57 people who developed the disease before the vaccine could be fully protective. In comparison, no deaths were reported among people who developed the disease more than 10 days post vaccination.

More importantly, 54 of the 71 Ebola cases were in high-risk contacts, and only two cases were among the contacts of contacts, thus underlining the effectiveness of the ring vaccination strategy in preventing the spread of the disease. In the ring vaccination strategy, the spread of the virus is curtailed by creating protective rings by vaccinating people based on the risk of infection. The first ring of protection is created by vaccinating everyone who has come in contact with infected persons or their bodies, or has lived in the same house. The second ring – contacts of contacts – comprises neighbours and family members of all contacts.

As a result of delay in detecting and isolating cases and tracing the contacts, the virus continues to spread, and about 80 new cases are reported each week, the WHO said on July 17. The hotspots have been shifting and new cases are being reported from areas that were previously cleared. In May 2019, SAGE cautioned that virus transmission continues to occur in areas where there is difficulty in implementing ring vaccination and that new cases are being reported among unknown contacts.

Third ring

In order to cut the transmission chain, SAGE recommended the inclusion of a third ring of contacts to be vaccinated. Currently available evidence does not support mass immunisation of the population.

There are indications that the epidemic is not going to end anytime soon, and the number of people who need to be vaccinated is bound increase. To avoid any diversion of critical human resources and being in the thick of an epidemic, the Congo health minister has ruled out a clinical trial using Johnson & Johnson's experimental vaccine. This would mean that more Merck vaccines would be needed to end this epidemic. Though Merck intends to double the supply by 2020, vaccine supplies are currently insufficient. The only way to stretch supplies of the vaccine to meet the ever-increasing demand is to use smaller doses.

In May 2019, SAGE recommended that the currently administered dose (1 ml) can be halved to match the dose tested in phase-3 trial in Guinea to protect health-care workers, contacts and contacts of contacts. People in the third ring could be given one-fifth the current dose. Instead of 10, it would take 28 days for the vaccine to confer protection when one-fifth of the current dose is used. But it would provide a "reasonable risk-benefit trade-off for protection," SAGE noted.

Yes we can, indeed we must, restore forests

An outstanding example of reforestation is Philippines

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Global warming, largely caused by industrial development and consumer demands, has been causing havoc across the world. Temperatures are shooting up, floods have been ravaging South China and Northeast India, unseasonal rains and, ironically, delayed and poor monsoon rains are experienced. A major solution to mitigate such climate changes is to reduce the levels of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, which cause this warming. In an effort to try and limit this warming, many countries across the world are gathering together and agreeing to make efforts to limit the rise in temperature to no higher than 1.5 degrees by the year 2050.

The major way to do so is to increase the number of plants, trees and forests across the world. They all absorb carbon dioxide from the air, and with the help of sunlight and water, produce food (staple for us) and oxygen (which we breathe). And the wood and timber they offer are used by us in buildings and furniture. They are thus justly named in Sanskrit as Kalpataru – the wish-giving tree.

Yet, we kill them: deforestation has been going on decade after decade across the world, affecting the weather as well as the lives of plants, animals, microbes and the livelihood of human tribes that live in forests. The total surface area of our Earth is 52 billion hectares (Ha), and 31% of this has been forest cover. But the huge Amazon forests of South America are being chopped off for commercial reasons. Peru and Bolivia in the western Amazon region are the worst affected by such deforestation; so are Mexico and its neighbours in Mesoamerica. Russia, with forests occupying 45% of its land area, is chopping off trees. Large scale deforestation this kind has contributed to global warming over the years.

What is a forest?

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines a "forest" as a land area of at least 0.5 hectares, covered by at least 10% tree cover, without any agricultural activity or human settlement. Using this definition, a group of Swiss and French ecologists have analysed these 4.4 billion hectares of tree canopy that can exist under the current climate. And, excluding existing trees and agricultural and urban areas, there is room for an extra 0.9 billion hectares. Their analysis using the latest ecological methods, was published two weeks ago (Bastin et al., *Science,* 365 76-79, 5 July 2019). Thus, there is the potential climate change mitigation through global tree restoration. They point out that more than 50% of this restoration potential can be found in six countries (Russia, USA, Canada, Australia, Brazil and China). While it is not clear how much of this land is public or private, they confirm that the calculation of 1 billion hectares (>10% tree cover) is achievable.

Happily enough, several group (and governments) in countries, notably Philippines and State government in India (see the report for the Forest Survey of India, and an analysis by Down to Earth) have moved towards more tree plantations. In India with its 7,08,273 sq km land area, 21.54% has tree cover. And between 2015 and 2018, we have added 6,778 sq km. Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover, followed by Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh while Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan have the least. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Odisha have improved their forest canopy somewhat (<10%). Private groups, notably The Guru Nanak Sacred Forest in Ludhiana, Punjab, the middle-of-the-town forest in the heart of Raipur, the "Afforest" group of Shubhendu Sharma (The Hindu Business line, 3-12-2018) are some notable non-government initiatives. Readers will surely add more. (On an aside, who can forget the centenarian Salumarde Thimmakka, who has planted 385 banyan trees and 8,000 other trees, or Sunderlal Bahuguna of the Chipko movement of Uttarakhand?)

Leading by example

But the most outstanding example of reforestation is Philippines, an archipelago of 7,100 islands, with a total land area of 3,00,000 sq km and a population of 104 million people. Way back in 1900, about 65% of its land mass was covered in forest canopy. Large-scale commercial deforestation continued after that, so by 1987, it was reduced to 21%. The government thereafter committed itself to steady reforestation, and by 2010, the forest covered 26%. It has now introduced a remarkable programme in which it makes it mandatory for each elementary, high school and college student to plant 10 trees before graduating. The sites where they plant and the location-appropriate plant are advised to them; (see<news.ml.com.ph> of *Manila Bulletin*, July 16, 2019). The mover of this idea, Gary Alejano, stressed on the need to utilise the educational system as an avenue for propagating ethical and sustainable use of natural resources among youth to ensure the cultivation of a socially responsible and conscious citizenry.

Here is an excellent example for our Indian students. Your columnist has recommended this model to be added to the National Education Policy 2019, so that we may demand youngsters to follow and gain from the Filipino experiment.

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The tale of a gritty survivor's battles

ARUL P. SRINIVAS

I was diagnosed with cancer of the thyroid in April 2014, a few months before I was to join Purdue University in the United States. My doctors told me that if I had to have cancer, this was the 'best' one of all the varieties. Rest assured that I'm now happy and healthy, and I only have very ordinary human ailments such as sinus headaches, acne, stubbed toes and the occasional Game of Thrones spoiler.

I spent a couple of months in and out of hospitals and I had more doctors than friends. They cut my throat, pilfered my thyroid, and in the process snipped a nerve to my shoulder and shocked some vocal cords. Worst of all, they had only one side of my head shaved before the neck surgery and didn't let me even out the other side after the surgery (don't ask why). So, for a few weeks I looked like Cruella from *101 Dalmatians* when people came to visit. A few days after the surgery, I downed 150 millicurie of radioactive iodine, spent two days in quarantine where I binge-watched *Death Note* behind lead walls, and then underwent various tests. Finally, in June 2014, the doctors informed us the cancer was gone.

Then there came the question of Purdue. I said (or more accurately, croaked) that I still really wanted to study in the U.S. despite the possibility of a relapse, my frailty and my voice – and my parents probably wondered if I had brain cancer as well! We debated and argued a lot, but in the end my awesome, awesome parents set aside the obvious fears they had and allowed me to enroll at Purdue.

Since I don't have my thyroid gland, I have to take supplements every day, which quickly became a morning habit in my first semester at Purdue. Thanks to that, I soon cultivated the convenient superpower of swallowing tablets without water. My inaudible voice cost me participation points in some classes, but on the brighter side, for about six months, I could perform one of the gruffest Batman impersonations in the Midwest.

Things sailed smoothly after my second semester. With voice therapy exercises, Batman gradually became an articulate South Indian Bruce Wayne. I had blood tests every three months (and will continue to) but the news has always been good. I had to follow month-long iodine-free diets (did you know even chocolates contain iodised salt?) followed by radioactive-iodine tests every summer in Chennai. These tested for any recurring cancer, and these have always turned out negative as well.

Thanks to the consistent good news, tackling college has been, well, *ez pz* (easy). It was hard initially, but once I got past those initial semesters and received positive news, there was no reason to quit. Giving up after that would be like Mario rage-quitting after beating Bowser.

The real heroes of this story were my parents. The way they have supported, tolerated and motivated me through all my ups and downs is unreal.

My dad has himself taken me to every single doctor's appointment, X-ray, ultrasound, blood test, iodine scan and everything else in Chennai, over the past five years. He has maintained a chronological record of the details and results of every single one of these events so systemically (almost psychotically) that it puts the various hospitals' medical records departments to shame. During the month of my iodine-free diet each year, I couldn't eat almost any kind of processed food, since they all invariably contained iodised salt. Through those months, my mom learned how to make homemade cheese, bread, ketchup and various other things from scratch (using non-iodised salt) that her fussy son couldn't live without.

They've done a lot. They've been strong, patient, trusting and just all-round awesome. They made my undergrad *ez pz*.

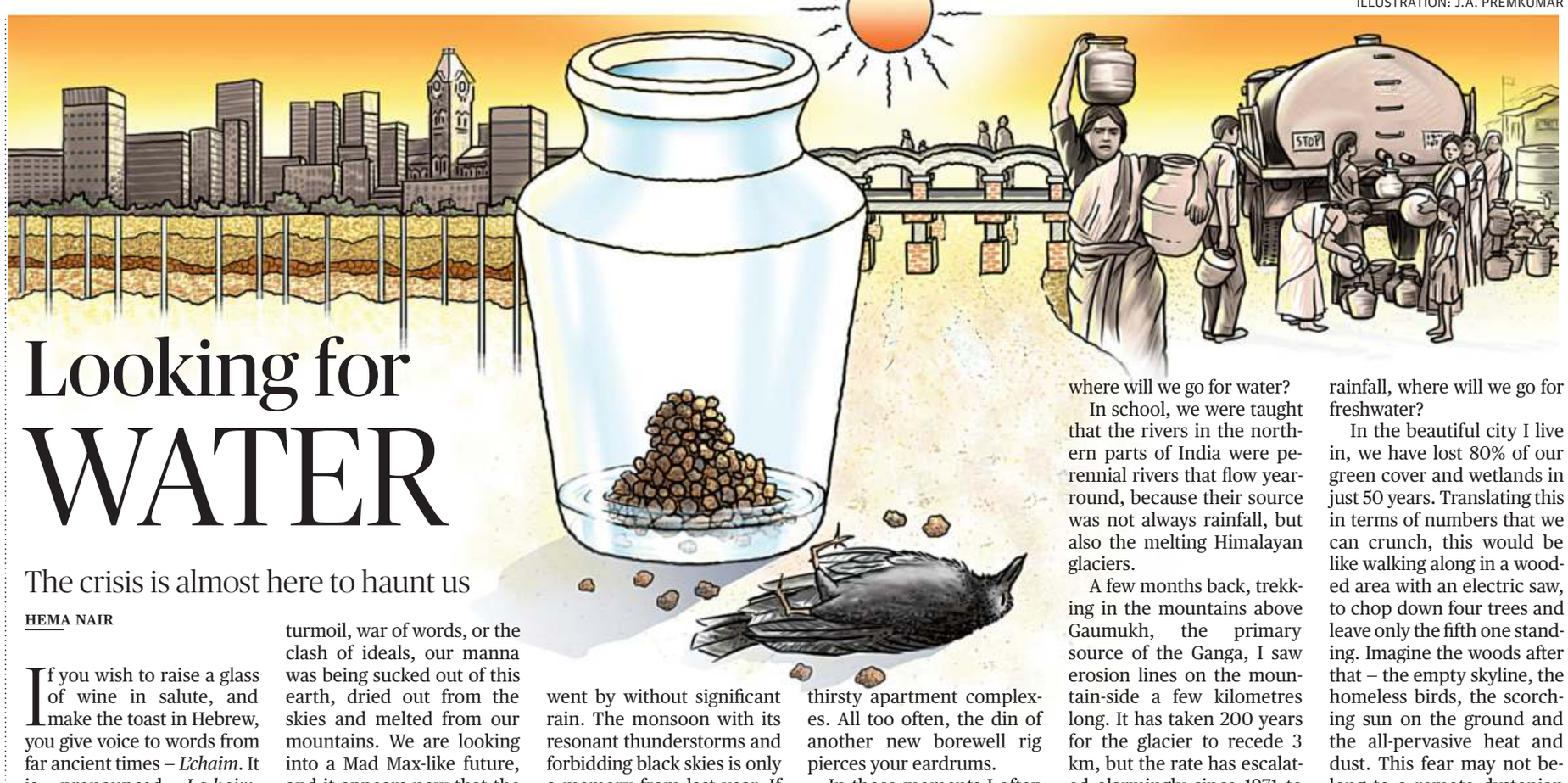
Recently I graduated from Purdue. I'll try to avoid the myriad cliches about graduating (obviously Purdue was like a second home and obviously I'll miss my friends, and obviously I'm glad to be done), so I'll paraphrase Purdue's president Mitch Daniels instead: "As every mechanical engineer knows, without friction, there is no traction."

I'm glad things happened the way they did (thyroid cancer, losing my voice, becoming Batman, everything!) because these hurdles are what have given me the fortitude and confidence to keep going.

Onward to CMU (Carnegie Mellon University)!

Arul schooled in Sishya and later Vidya Mandir, both in Chennai, before joining Purdue for his bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering. He is now going to Carnegie Mellon to do his Master's. Email: det.abu@gmail.com

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR



Looking for WATER

The crisis is almost here to haunt us

HEMA NAIR

If you wish to raise a glass of wine in salute, and make the toast in Hebrew, you give voice to words from far ancient times – *L'chaim*. It is pronounced *La-haim*, meaning 'To Life'.

I think the time has come for us to make the toast every morning to ourselves and to those with us, with a glass of water. Perhaps it will remind us how precious those drops are, and how scarce it is becoming. While we were distracted by our socio-political turmoil, war of words, or the clash of ideals, our manna was being sucked out of this earth, dried out from the skies and melted from our mountains. We are looking into a Mad Max-like future, and it appears now that the nightmare will step out of the big screen and turn into our reality not too far away.

As school kids trot off to the first day of school, the monsoon always came in to ruin the shine on the brand-new shoes and white school uniforms. But it is July now, and the whole month of June went by without significant rain. The monsoon with its resonant thunderstorms and forbidding black skies is only a memory from last year. If July is scarce, too, I wonder what will happen to us for the rest of the year.

As I cycle around the villages near my home, scarcely do I go more than a couple of kilometres before I find a borewell that pumps out water into a tanker, which then carts it off into the city for thirsty apartment complexes. All too often, the din of another new borewell rig pierces your eardrums.

In those moments I often think of these monstrosities as giant spears piercing the flesh of Mother Earth, trying to suck the marrow out of her body. Many of you may not think in the hyperbole as I tend to, but I hope you catch the drift.

If the rain doesn't come and the earth dries up, where will we go for water?

In school, we were taught that the rivers in the northern parts of India were perennial rivers that flow year-round, because their source was not always rainfall, but also the melting Himalayan glaciers.

A few months back, trekking in the mountains above Gaumukh, the primary source of the Ganga, I saw erosion lines on the mountain-side a few kilometres long. It has taken 200 years for the glacier to recede 3 km, but the rate has escalated alarmingly since 1971 to about 22 metres a year.

They say it is only going to be a few decades more before they evaporate into nothingness.

If the northern rivers are in jeopardy from the disappearing Himalayan snow cover and the southern ones are parched from absent rainfall, where will we go for freshwater?

In the beautiful city I live in, we have lost 80% of our green cover and wetlands in just 50 years. Translating this in terms of numbers that we can crunch, this would be like walking along in a wooded area with an electric saw, to chop down four trees and leave only the fifth one standing. Imagine the woods after that – the empty skyline, the homeless birds, the scorching sun on the ground and the all-pervasive heat and dust. This fear may not belong to a remote dystopian future anymore. If the monsoon doesn't come to our land soon, this could well be our present.

Suddenly, toasting with a tumbler of water 'To Life' doesn't seem all that far-fetched.

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Creative destruction in full flow

Change is sweeping over the road transport sector in an inevitable re-run of the technology cycle

PAROMITA FALIA

As Alexa plays 'Radio Killed the Video Star', think of the products lying in their graves now or are in need of some life-saving surgery. Cable TV killed antenna TV but it is in turn now getting stabbed by media service providers such as Netflix and Hotstar. Smartphones have almost replaced keypad phones. Timely resuscitation of the latter by adding features such as 3G/4G support and enhanced memory have managed to sustain their support among people, who would like to know what's happening around the world and yet not get overwhelmed by it.

Economics gives us a term to understand this transition of products happening in the market – Creative Destruction. Inspired by Karl Marx, J.A Schumpeter defined the 'gale of creative destruction' as a "process of industrial mutation that incessantly revolutionises the economic structure from within, incessantly destroying old ones, incessantly creating new ones."

According to Schumpeter, without disruptions in the market there would be no development. In his analysis, he gives us the concept of circular flow. Circular flow is when the economy is in a stationary equilibrium, which is basically a static setting where economic activities follow a repetitive course. In order for further development to take place, it is essential to break this circular flow. And here comes the role of entrepreneurs with their innovations.

Today, electric vehicles (EVs) present one of the best examples of creative destruction. The alarm set off by radical changes in the global climate system has provided a wake-up call to leaders all over the world. They see EVs as a crucial element to minimise environmental casualties from the pursuit of human endeavours. They see it as an essential element of sustainable development.

Strategically, EVs have presented India with a rare opportunity to emerge as a global leader in the climate forum as well as a chance to unshackle itself from the hardships that oil have been creating ever since it went hyper-commercial. The evolution in the automobile industry riding on the internal combustion engine has been an interesting process.

Motor cars came on to the scene in the 19th century. The German engineer Karl Benz invented it in 1885. Later Henry Ford in 1908 came up with the Model T, which was relatively affordable. Demand for motor cars accelerated after the First World War and with it, the value of gasoline, or what we commonly call 'petrol'. Oil went on to be called black gold. In fact, control over oil was one of the factors that determined victory in the First World War. And the oil industry as we know it began with the discovery of commercially viable oilfields in the United States in the mid-19th century.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

The advent of motor cars destroyed the economic feasibility of bullock carts and horse-drawn carriages. Journeys became comparatively faster and safer than before. Distances that could be covered easily increased manifold. Besides, carts and carriages were labour-intensive for they required careful maintenance of horses and oxen. The animals had to be bathed and fed from time to time. Creative destruction of these found many peasants becoming unemployed.

Of course, the automobile industry opened up new opportunities, but in the short run, because of lack of adaptability amongst workers, there was a prevalence of structural unemployment. After the Great Depression, horse-drawn carriages more or less went out of vogue.

Thus, an old economic structure was gradually replaced by a new economic structure. And as Schumpeter said, the success of an innovation makes other entrepreneurs follow the original innovator in 'swarm like clusters'. True to this, today we have companies such as Toyota, Renault-Nissan and Volkswagen, which are performing better than the original innovators in terms of sales. Will a rational consumer miss carriages over cars today? Heck no! Despite pollution, oil wars and road congestion. In terms of economics, this is development.

However, it seems that the dominance of traditional fossil fuel-based cars is coming to a slow end. Its agent of destruction is the electric vehicle.

It is important to note here that EVs are not a new invention. They go way back to a time when the Model T was not yet around; for that matter, Henry Ford was not yet born. The credit for inventing EVs goes to different people. In 1828, Anyos Jedlik created a small model car powered by an electric motor. Similarly, in 1834, Vermont Blacksmith Thomas Davenport and Professor Sibrandus Stratingh created their own models.

But it was only after 1895 that they started enjoying active consumer support. In cities such as London and New York, electric battery-powered taxis became available. But their popularity didn't last in the face of competition from the oil-based car. EVs back than had slow speed and low range, and there was the problem of power inadequacy. Its market was restricted to the affluent sections.

In the early 20th century, oil was cheap and the introduction of the Model T, which was affordable to middle class Americans, cut short the success of the EVs of that era.

Thus, if a century ago oil-based motor cars creatively destroyed EVs, in the present time the tables have been turned yet again. In fact in India, NITI Aayog has proposed that by 2030 only EVs should be sold. While the game is on, let's wait and watch!

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Light of life

RUPSHA BOSE

Human emotions fascinate me – the lips displaying feelings, wrinkled brows, glittering eyes, contented faces. Humans have a tendency to be happy when something good happens. But we seldom feel someone else's joy.

I capture the emotions of people on my camera, going for the faces of vendors, or shops that trigger my curiosity. I saw a shop shimmering with lights: old, new, vintage, modern, hand-made, factory assembled, and more. But what caught my attention was the owners, three people, all over 65, smiling and welcoming all.

The passion in them was that of teenagers, always on their feet and eager to help. One of them approached me as I was staring at the beautiful lights. I started a conversation with him. It felt like home all of a sudden; it wasn't just a shop, they made it feel like home.

I didn't need any lights, but bought one anyway for the sake of the smiles on their faces. They happily packed three lamps for me and asked me to stop by even if I don't buy anything.

That day I realised that we can nurture a form of this within us. Hug someone even if you are a non-hugger, smile at someone even if you are feeling murky, buy something from someone even if you don't need it. It might make their day. Try and be the happiness you search for in others, and the light will guide you.

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A glean revolution in a world of food shortages and hunger

Picking up after a harvest the good and usable fruit of human activity that is inadvertently left behind, is now a movement

MINI KRISHNAN

If you're bored, go out and grab a pizza. Or better still, have it delivered to your sofa or desk. How many half-eaten pizzas are dumped? If you want variety, surf a few cafes: pastry in one, bonda and coffee at another. A dosa before a film in a multiplex, popcorn and cola during it, and a hot-chocolate afterwards. Food for fun, not health or hunger!

Just when I was wondering about the explosion of food-tourism that we are constantly being subjected to, I happened to read something that is a counter to the modern trend to treat food as another form of entertainment; so I share the gist of it, particularly as we live in a country where, while some of us can feast continuously, thousands die of malnutrition every day.

The article on gleaning titled 'To the Last Grain' was about picking up, after a harvest, the good and usable fruit of human activity. Not what is discarded, but those items that were overlooked. After the giant combine-harvesters move on, there is still plenty left for the birds and perhaps a sackful for the farmer also. Gleaning is now a campaign in the U.S. and in Europe.

What is gleaning? Some 30% of fruit and vegetables are rejected simply because they do not look nice. These 'uglies' go into the baskets of gleaners. After a terrible summer, fruit might be smaller than what the supermarkets ask for; so instead of leaving them to rot on trees and on the ground, they are 'gleaned' and used by a less formal market.

ILLUSTRATION: SATWIK GADE

Unlike scavenging, which has commercial implications, gleaning is rooted in charity and group effort. It is an ancient practice, dating back centuries to when farmers were told to leave a portion of their harvest behind for the less fortunate. In the Old Testament, God instructs Moses to tell his people that they are not to wholly reap the corners of their fields. Nor are they to take every single grape or olive from their trees. "[T]hou shalt leave them for the poor and the stranger" (Leviticus, 19:10).

In Punjab there is a farming rule which says a certain portion of the field is to be left unharvested by the owner. It is for those who work his land for him. Gleaning was a significant part of the income of peasants and villagers in England in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was highly regulated and timed with bells being rung for the entry and exit of gleaners.

According to reports, 30 to 40% of American food is wasted. It is estimated that more than 60.3 billion kilograms of that could have been eaten by someone. In Britain that statistic is 10 million tons. Thrown out by households! Considering the millions of "food insecure" people in the world many organisations send volunteers – or gleaners – into the fields and farms of neighbours to pick up the left-behind produce for people in need and local charities. In turn, farmers benefit with a small tax deduction for everything they donate.

Today, with increased attention on food waste and the need for fresh produce in local food banks, the act of gathering left-behind produce that is not sellable from farms and farmers' markets has steadily grown.

The scale of gleaning has changed but the philosophy remains the same. It brings the harvest full circle wherein nature and man combine for the benefit of the greatest number especially the poor.

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URMI CHAKRAVORTY

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RISHI KANNA

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Selection committee has its task cut out for the Windies tour

Indian team for three-match T20I series, as many ODIs and two Tests will be picked today

PREVIEW

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Selection of the Indian team for the tour of the Caribbean Islands always evokes feelings of nostalgia of the Ajit Wadekar-led Indian team's historic first Test series win there in 1971, Sunil Gavaskar's phenomenal collection of 774 runs, the remarkable spin bowling achievements of Bishan Bedi, S. Venkataraghavan, Erapalli Prasanna and Salim Durani's game-changing dismissals of Clive Lloyd and Garfield Sobers in the second innings of the second Test at Port of Spain.

But it was the prelude to the tour that saw the chairman of the selection committee Vijay Merchant voting in favour of Wadekar as captain, when juxtaposed with Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, that sort of made Indian cricket shake like a leaf.

Wadekar's elevation as captain, the selection of Gavaskar for the tour were the highlights of the tour and Merchant felt vindicated about the choice he made much against the cricketing fraternity's perception.

Big shoes to fill: In the absence of M.S. Dhoni, young Rishabh Pant is the obvious choice for the premier wicketkeeper's spot. ▪ FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Positive thinking

Merchant's bold decisions and Gundappa Viswanath's selection at the instance of Pataudi for the series against Australia in 1969 was acclaimed as a positive thinking on the part of the then selection committees.

And for the last five decades the Indian cricket fan has always expected the selectors to spring a surprise or two, when the time arrived to pick teams for an overseas tour.

The choice of a couple of players for the middle-order slots for the recently concluded ICC World Cup, raised a few eyebrows and, after India's defeat against New Zealand in the semifinal, head coach Ravi Shastri rued the absence of proper No. 4 batsman.

Now it is time for a series in the West Indies that will start with a three-match T20I series, as many ODIs and followed by two Tests in Antigua and Jamaica.

The selection committee, led by M.S.K. Prasad, has been involved not only in picking the national team across all formats, but also the India-A team in all three formats. The selectors are scheduled to meet on Sunday and perform the exercise.

Nuanced opinion

And with the World Cup giving the panel an opportunity to make a nuanced opinion on some players, it would be ready to make a few changes after taking into account the fitness reports of Shikhar Dhawan (recovering from finger injury) and Vijay Shankar (toe injury).

Prithvi Shaw has been laid low by a hip injury and he looks a doubtful starter for even the Test series.

Manish Pandey, Shreyas Iyer, Shubman Gill, Hanuma Vihari, Khaleel Ahmed, Navdeep Saini, Krunal Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Avesh Khan are all in action in the West Indies and are in the fray for the short format and one or two for the Test series.

Also Mayank Agarwal, who was chosen as a replacement for the injured Shankar during the World Cup. A team led by Shreyas will play the three unofficial Tests against the West Indies-A.

Horses for courses

The selectors would follow the horses-for-courses policy when it comes picking the squad for the three formats. There is a possibility of a few players being rested either for the T20Is or ODIs.

It has to be seen if the selectors would give one of the two wrist spinners, Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav, a break from international cricket.

With reports emerging that M.S. Dhoni would be working with the Territorial Army in the next two months, Rishabh Pant will be a straight-forward choice for all three formats. But it's possible that the selectors will either go for Wriddhiman Saha or K.S. Bharat for the Test series as a reserve.

MSD opts out of Caribbean assignment

Will be spending two months with his army regiment, says a BCCI official

DHONI UPDATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former India captain M.S. Dhoni on Saturday made himself "unavailable" for the Indian team's tour of West Indies as speculation raged about his future.

An Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Parachute Regiment of the Territorial Army, it is learnt that Dhoni would be spending better part of the next two months with his regiment.

A top BCCI official confirmed the development. "Dhoni has made himself unavailable for the tour of West Indies as he will be spending two months with his army regiment," he said.

M.S. Dhoni. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Dhoni, 38, has intimated his decision to the BCCI prior to the selection committee meeting on Sunday.

With Dhoni pulling out of the tour, Rishabh Pant is expected to be first-choice wicketkeeper in all three formats, while Wriddhiman Saha will be Pant's back-up in Tests.

Only the enigmatic Dhoni knows about the finish line

If he thinks he is fit and performing, he has every right to stake his claim: Sandeep Patil

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

No star in Indian cricket has been as enigmatic as M.S. Dhoni. There were times when the selectors could not reach him. Even the Board president would be left clueless. The situation seems not to have changed.

For someone who wondered if he would get an opportunity to wear the India cap, the wicketkeeper-batsman progressed rapidly, led India to two incredible global title triumphs – ICC World T20 (2007) and World Cup (2011), besides becoming famous for his finishing skills. He commanded genuine respect from his peers and past stalwarts and his fan following across the world has been immense. They don't want Dhoni to retire. Some former stars don't want him to go.

Crucial call: M.S. Dhoni, no doubt, will want to time his retirement to perfection. ▪ AFP

But what about the national selectors? They would ideally want Dhoni to take a bow as they are keen to look ahead and nurture some youngsters. Technically, Dhoni is available as long as he does not announce his retirement. Former National selection committee chairman Sandeep Patil had a piece of advice. "As a selector, I am answerable only to the Board. I am answerable to Indian cricket. It doesn't matter if you are a big player but you can't be bigger than the game. When I was the chairman, the committee took some tough decisions in the interest of the team and Indian cricket. It is not easy to tell a player that his time is up. If he does not fit into the scheme of things, you have to tell him sometimes. I am not suggesting Dhoni should quit. If he thinks he is fit and performing, he has every right to stake his claim. What ultimately matters is what plans do the selectors and the captain have," said Patil.

Time running out

Virender Sehwag, Zaheer Khan, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh were some of the big players who were dropped.

"We never said they would be not picked again," insisted Patil. The then selection committee thought these cricketers had a chance to come back. But, at 38, time may be running out for Dhoni.

Dhoni has made himself unavailable for the imminent tour of the West Indies as he has opted to serve the army for two months. A honorary lieutenant colonel, the former India captain's fascination for army is well chronicled. "I expect him to inform the selectors in time (about a probable retirement or his career plans). There is a lot riding on his shoulders," said an official closely associated with the developments.

There is a section which feels Dhoni would want to extend his international career by playing the T20 format but the selectors may have their own views on the subject. As for the finish line, only the enigmatic Dhoni knows.

Sreeja-Mousumi duo wins a thriller

Pooja and Reeth Rishya fail to make the cut in women's singles

C'WEALTH TT

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

Sreeja Akula and Mousumi Paul of India survived a tense finish against Wales' Charlotte Carey and young sensation Anna Hursey to enter the women's doubles quarterfinals of the 21st Commonwealth table tennis championship at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium on Saturday.

Grinding it out: Mousumi Paul and Sreera Akula survived a Welsh scare. ▪ BISWARANJAN ROUT

Tiring day

After a tiring day for both girls – they played three women's qualification singles matches followed by two rounds in the doubles events – the Indian girls saw off the Welsh challenge 11-6, 2-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-8 in a battle that stretched over half-an-hour.

Sreeja and Mousumi will now take on Zhang Wan Ling and Tan Lilin Jassy, who stunned the third-seeded duo of Ho Tin-Tin and Denis Payet from England.

In the singles preliminary stage, 15 of the 22 Indian paddlers qualified for the main draw. Only two of 11 women – Pooja Sahasrabudhe, who finished third in her group, and T. Reeth Rishya, who failed to capitalise on a couple of match points in her crunch match – fell by the wayside.

Bowing out

In men's singles, Sourav Saha, Anirban Ghosh, Arjun Ghosh, Jubin Kumar and Siddhesh Pande couldn't make the cut.

The results (round-of-16):

Women's doubles: Madhurika Patkar & Archana Kamath (Ind) bt Louiza Kourea & Foteini Meletie (Cyp) 12-10, 11-8, 11-9; Goi Rui Xuan & Wong Xin Ru (Sgp) bt Offiong Edem & Celilia Akpan (Ngr) 11-9, 11-8, 4-11, 6-11, 13-11.

Pooja Sahasrabudhe & Krittiwika Sinha Roy (Ind) vs Alice Li Sian Chang & Lee Xin Ni (Mas) 11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 11-4; Melissa Tapper & Michelle Bromley (Aus) bt Emily Bolton (Eng) & Lim Eunice Zoe (Sgp) 11-9, 11-4, 11-13, 11-4; Zhang Wan Ling & Tan Lilin Jassy (Sgp) bt Ho Tin-Tin & Denis Payet (Eng) 11-6, 11-9, 10-12, 8-11, 11-8.

Sreeja Akula & Mousumi Paul (Ind) bt Charlotte Carey & Anna Hursey (Wal) 11-6, 2-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-8; Ho Ying & Tee Ai Xin (Mas) bt Peng Kai & Feng Chunyi (Aus) 13-11, 11-1, 11-6; Sutirtha Mukherjeee & Sagarika Mukherjee (Ind) bt Ishara Madurangi & Jithara Warnakulasuriya (SL) 11-3, 11-8, 11-6.

The qualifiers' list:

Women: Krittwika Sinha Roy, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Sreeja Akula, Mousumi Paul, Prapti Sen, Selena Selvakumar, Divya Deshpande.

Sagarika Mukherjee, Anusha Kutumbale (Ind), Feng Chunyi (Aus), Chang Alice Li Sian Chang (Mas), Nimotalia Aregbesola, Ajoke Ojomu (Ngr), Wong Xin Ru, Goi Rui Xuan, Lim Eunice Zoe (Sgp).

Men: Bode Abiodun, Azeez Jamiu (Ngr), Thomas Jarvis (Eng), Sushmit Sriram, Manush Shah, Sanil Shetty, Jeet Chandra, Ronit Bhanja.

Sudhanshu Grover (Ind), Lucas Tan, Pang Yu En Koen, Chew Zheyu Clarence (Sgp), Muhamad Rizal, Leong Chee Feng, Javen Choong (Mas), Marios Yiangou (Cyp).

Lowry continues to buzz, leads by four strokes

The Irishman's eight-under for the day puts him well ahead of Fleetwood

THE OPEN 148TH ROYAL PORTRUSH

REUTERS
PORTRUSH (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Ireland's Shane Lowry was on the brink of his first Major title after shooting a nerveless eight-under 63 on Saturday to take a four-shot lead into the final round of the British Open.

Lowry, 32, did not drop a shot all day and streaked clear of the field with three consecutive birdies at 15, 16 and 17.

Tommy Fleetwood, with a five-under for the day, was second with 12-under.

Holmes slips to third

J.B. Holmes, the other joint leader, slipped to the third spot after a two-under for the day and 10-under overall. Brooks Koepka and Justin Rose kept themselves in contention, finishing at nine-under overall.

Earlier, Danny Willett's superb six-under 65 helped him climb the leaderboard.

The Englishman, winner of the Masters in 2016, missed a birdie putt on the 18th that would have set a new course record as the calm weather produced a birdie feast.

The 46-year-old Westwood, still hunting for a first Major, birdied the second, third and fourth holes and was briefly on his own at the top of the leaderboard.

Defending champion Francesco Molinari's hopes of retaining the title looked over after he could only manage a one-over 72 to leave him two-over going into the final day.

A flurry of bogeys and double bogeys on the back nine spoilt the card of Shubhankar Sharma, who tumbled from a decent T48th at the start of the day to a disappointing 72nd.

Bright to bad

Shubhankar birdied the Par-5 second for the second day running and then had a birdie on the ninth too. But all that changed once the back nine began.

Double bogeys on the 10th and 11th were followed by a bogey but he had a bogey-bogey on 13 and 14. He had a double bogey on the 15th before finishing with a birdie on the 18th.

Top scores:

1. Shane Lowry (-8 in third round, -16 overall); 2. Tommy Fleetwood (-5, -12); 3. J.B. Holmes (-2, -10); 4. Brooks Koepka (-4, -9) and Justin Rose (-3, -9); 6. Rickie Fowler (-5, -8) and Lee Westwood (-1, -8); 72. Shubhankar Sharma (+6, +6).

The swing factor: Tommy Fleetwood stormed up the leaderboard with a five-under on Saturday. ▪ REUTERS

Sindhu in her first final of season

Downs All England champion Chen in straight games

Easy outing: P.V. Sindhu held her own in the first game and then completely dominated the second against Chen Yufei. ▪ ROBERTUS PUDYANTO/ GETTY IMAGES

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

India's P.V. Sindhu entered the final of the Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 badminton tournament with a straight-game win over All England champion Chen Yufei of China here on Saturday.

Sindhu showed her brilliance once again as she saw off World No. 3 Chen 21-19, 21-10 to enter her first final of the season.

The World No. 5 Indian, who reached the last four at Singapore and India Open this year, set up a summit clash with Japan's fourth seed Akane Yamaguchi.

Sindhu holds a 10-4 advantage over Yamaguchi, whom she has defeated in their last four meetings.

Chen, who won the Australia, Swiss and All England this year, has been the most prolific player this season and looked good in the first game but a fighting Sindhu held her own and then completely dominated the second to seal a place in the final.

- Sindhu holds a 10-4 advantage over Yamaguchi, whom she has defeated in their last four meetings

India's campaign ends

At the Russian Open in Vladivostok, Meghana Jakkampudi lost both her mixed and women's doubles matches as India's campaign ended.

Meghana and Dhruv Kapila, seeded eighth, lost to Indonesia's seventh seeds Adnan Maulana and Mychelle Crhystine Bandaso 21-6, 21-15 in the mixed doubles semifinal which lasted just 27 minutes.

In women's doubles, Meghana and Poorvisha Ram failed to cross the last-four hurdle at the $75,000 tournament.

Fourth seeds Miki Kashihara and Miyuki Kato of Japan stunned the top-seeded Indian duo 21-10, 21-8 in 33 minutes.

Hima claims 400m gold

SPORTS BUREAU
NOVE MESTO NAD METUJI (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Hima Das clocked a season-best 52.09s as she won the women's 400m gold in the Nove Mesto nad Metuji Grand Prix on Saturday.

This was Hima's first 400m after she retired midway through quarter-mile heats at Asian championships in Doha in April.

M.P. Jabir won the 400m hurdles gold in 49.66s. National 400m record holder Muhammed Anas, who ran the 200m here, clocked 20.95s for the silver.

The results (winners and events featuring Indians): Men, 200m: 1. Jan Volko (Slo, 20.80s); 2. Muhammed Anas (20.95). **400m:** 1. Mazen Al-Yassin (KSA, 45.98s); 2. Noah Nirmal Tom (46.05); 3. K.S. Jeevan (46.47); 4. Amoj Jacob (46.99); 5. P.K. Kunhu Muhammed (47.19). **400m hurdles:** 1. M.P. Jabir (49.66s); 4. Jithin Paul (51.45).
Women, 400m: 1. Hima Das (52.09s); 2. V.K. Vismaya (52.48); 3. Saritaben Gayakwad (53.28); 4. M.R. Poovamma (53.74); 5. R. Vithya (54.19). **Others:** V. Subha (54.22); V.K. Shalini (55.39).

U Mumba holds off Titans

Bengaluru Bulls overcomes Pirates' challenge

PKL-7

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Former champion U Mumba warded off a late challenge from Telugu Titans to script a 31-25 win in the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League Season-7 opener at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here on Saturday.

The home fans were stunned as star raider Siddharth Desai was kept quiet in the first half, his first six raids fetching no points as U Mumba took a 17-10 lead at the break.

In what was expected to be a battle between U Mumba captain and defender Fazel Atrachali and Siddharth, it was the former who dished out a few lessons in the art of tackling by pinning the latter down with support from Rohit Baliyan and Surender Singh.

An all-round display by U Mumba, which scored the first all-out of the game through Abhishek Singh's raid, powered ahead 13-6.

Action-packed: A U Mumba raider tries to wriggle out of the Titans' grasp. ▪ NAGARA GOPAL

U Mumba held on to its lead till the break, thanks to the defence manned efficiently by Fazel, Sandeep and Surender.

Rajnish shines

After the break, Titans' battled back through Rajnish who kept the team in the hunt, especially in the last 20 minutes. He scored seven points and was easily Titans' best player of the day.

Though Siddharth scored his first point of the game with only eight minutes to go for the final whistle, he recovered to finish with five points. However, he was clearly below par this day.

Thought Titans came up with a super tackle to reduce the lead to 22-30 with two minutes remaining, it proved too little too late.

In the second match of the day, defending champion Bengaluru Bulls began its campaign with a hard-fought 34-32 victory over three-time champions, Patna Pirates, in the second match of the evening.

The results: U Mumba bt Telugu Titans 31-25; Bengaluru Bulls bt Patna Pirates 34-32.

Bindra banking on younger crop to deliver the goods

'Their mindset is very different, they are very competitive in nature right from the beginning'

SHOOTING

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

It may have been excluded from the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham but shooting still remains among India's high hopes when it comes to building up on its Olympic medal count in Tokyo next year. Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual gold medallist, is banking on the younger crop to deliver the goods next year.

Despite the likes of Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (silver in 2004), Bindra (gold in 2008), Gagan Narang and Vijay Kumar (bronze and silver in 2012) keeping it among medals, a majority of India's shooters are found to crumble under the pressure of the big occasion. After all, Bindra, who retired after the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic, was the closest to a medal among India's 16 shooters.

"I think a lot has changed from Rio to now. If you look at what is happening, a lot of success is coming from the young generation. The youngsters of today are very different. Their mindset is very different, they are very competitive in nature, right from the beginning, and I think that is an indication of course for the sport which will develop but also how society in India has grown and changed," Bindra said after awarding medals to the team championship winners of the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship on Friday.

The youngsters of today are very different. Their mindset is very different, they are very competitive in nature.

'More confident'

"The youth of today are far more confident. I think that makes a lot of different because it gives them a lot of self-belief. I think the crunch situation is a year away from now and we will know in Tokyo how they fare. I wish them luck."

Abhinav Bindra. ▪ FILE PHOTO

In an effort to groom youngsters and help them translate the belief into a structured high-performance programme, Bindra started the Abhinav Bindra Targeting Performance (ABPT).

The fifth centre of ABPT – which aims at providing the best of scientific and technological enhancement measures – started in Bhubaneswar earlier in the year.

The centre is equipped with the latest technological evaluation and rectification equipment along with an expert team led by Dr. Kartik Doshi.

"Bhubaneswar is becoming the hub of sport. The (Odisha) government has been extremely supportive. A lot of sporting action is coming here.

"We've set up a lot of these high performance centres for various sports. Makes a lot of sense to supplement the work that we are doing," Bindra said.

"We do high performance, we do injury prevention, we do injury management, so it's part and performance of sport right at the elite level but also at the grassroot level.

"So it was a perfect destination. It's a very supportive administration... It's been fantastic and we could translate our vision into reality."

CRICKET

Windies-A pips India-A

ANI
ANTIGUA

West Indies-A registered its first win of the five-match unofficial ODI series on Friday, beating India-A by five runs in the fourth game.

Chasing 299, India was off to a steady start as openers Anmolpreet Singh and Ruturaj Gaikwad added 32, but their resistance was cut short by Sherfane Rutherford's brilliance as he dismissed Anmolpreet (11).

India-A kept losing wickets and was not able to stitch a solid partnership as the side was reduced to 127 for five in the 26th over. Axar Patel held fort as he mixed caution and aggression and was unbeaten on 81.

Krunal Pandya and Washington Sundar then did their bit, both making 45, but as soon as they were dismissed, India's hopes of a win were dashed and it lost by five runs.

Earlier, India-A opted to bowl and Roston Chase's 84 laid the base for West Indies-A to post 298 for nine.

Devon Thomas and Jonathan Carter also made half-centuries.

Khaleel Ahmed scalped four for India-A.

The scores: West Indies-A 298 for nine in 50 overs (Roston Chase 84, Devon Thomas 70, Jonathan Carter 50, Khaleel Ahmed four for 67, Avesh Khan three for 62) bt India A 293 for nine in 50 overs (Axar Patel 81 n.o., Krunal Pandya 45, Washington Sundar 45).

Nayan and Vishnu share spoils in MRF Formula 1600

Ashwin rules the roost in Formula LGB 1300 category

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Young gun Ashwin Datta from Chennai spearheaded a momentous podium sweep for his team Momentum Motorsports in the highly competitive Formula LGB 1300 category, holding off two Bengaluru schoolboys while Nayan Chatterjee (Mumbai) and local challenger Vishnu Prasad won a race apiece in the premium MRF F1600 class on day two of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship at the MMRT, here on Saturday.

Also in the limelight was Coimbatore veteran Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) who shrugged off a poor qualifying session where he finished fifth, and won the popular Indian Touring Cars race with a measure of comfort, while Chennai's R.P. Rajarajan took the honours in the Super Stock category after a tough fight. Pune lad Pratik Sonawane topped in the Volkswagen Ameo Class race.

In the first MRF F1600 race, Chatterjee benefitted from a drive-through penalty for pole-sitter Sohil Shah from Bengaluru for jump start and once in front, he opened up a comfortable lead to win from Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar and Coimbatore's Bala Prasath.

In the next race, Vishnu Prasad, starting fourth on the grid, rocketed off the blocks to take the lead in the first lap itself and then hung on to win ahead of two other Chennai drivers, Sandeep Kumar and Raghul Rangasamy.

On the podium: Ashwin Datta flanked by second-placed Tijil Rao, right, and third-placed Chirag Ghorpade. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Balu sizzles

Earlier, Balu, who had a poor qualifying session due to a technical hitch with his car, was not to be denied when the eight-lap race got underway. Some four corners before the end of the first lap, the Coimbatore star jumped four positions to take the lead and never looked back.

Behind him, after the initial jostling for track positions, Karthik Tharani (VW Motorsport) seemed content to hold his second spot behind Balu while further back, Nikanth Ram (ARKA Motorsports) won a tight battle with another VW factory driver Ishaan Dodhiwala, to complete the podium.

Meanwhile, Oman's Shihab Al Habsi and Finn Elias Seppanen shared the top honours in the two Formula 4 SEA races.

The results (Provisional – all eight laps unless mentioned): MRF F1600 (Race-1): 1. Nayan Chatterjee (Mumbai) (13mins, 31.977secs); 2. Nirmal Umashankar (Chennai) (13:34.309); 3. A Bala Prasath (Coimbatore) (13:34.805). **Race-2:** 1. Vishnu Prasad (Chennai) (13:34.363); 2. Sandeep Kumar (Chennai) (13:35.140); 3. Raghul Rangasamy (Mamallapuram) (13:35.732).
Indian Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) (15:22.141); 2. Karthik Tharani (VW Motorsports) (15:31.209); 3. Nikanth Ram (Arka Motorsports) (15:38.667).
Super Stock (Race-1): 1. RP Rajarajan (Performance Racing) (16:23.257); 2. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) (16:25.808); 3. Sudanand Daniel (Race Concepts) (16:27.363).
Formula LGB 1300 (Race-1): 1. Ashwin Datta (Momentum Motorsports) (15:23.678); 2. Tijil Rao (Momentum Motorsports) (15:25.447); 3. Chirag Ghorpade (Momentum Motorsports) (15:33.840).
Volkswagen Ameo Class (Race-1): 1. Pratik Sonawane (Pune) (15:36.937); 2. Saurav Bandyopadhyay (Mumbai) (15:41.501); 3. Jeet Jhabakh (15:45.786).
Formula 4 SEA (Race-1, 11 laps): 1. Shihab Al Habsi (Oman) (20:40.847); 2. Elias Seppanen (Finland) (20:43.526); 3. Alister Yoong (Malaysia) (20:44.174). Race-2 (12 laps): 1. Seppanen (19:57.398); 2. Young (19:57.948); 3. Al Habsi (19:58.826).

VW targets ITC crown in its 10th year

'Idea with one-make championship is to give the drivers a chance to compete'

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

For Volkswagen India, there are a lot of reasons to celebrate as it commemorates its 10th year of participating in Indian motorsports. Its one-make series, the Ameo Cup, has been given the status of a national championship with pro and junior category winners crowned national champions in the Ameo Class.

The German manufacturer, also for the first time, has stepped up its involvement by fielding its factory team in the premier championship in the country, Indian Touring Cars category. It had a great start in the first round in Coimbatore, winning all three races against nimble opponents like the Esteem which weigh far less than the Ventos that VW is using.

Keeps up good form

On Saturday, VW continued its good form in the series with a second-place finish despite the MMRT being a tough track with its long sweeping corners.

Sirish Vissa, head of VW motorsports India said, "First round was great, we exceeded our own expectations. But this is a track that's quite different compared to the Kari speedway. Herewe were off compared to where we should be in terms of pace on Friday but we are working on it and next round should be better."

Speaking about ten years of being involved in motorsports, Vissa added, "Our idea with one-make championship is to give the drivers, who have never had any kind of racing experience before, a chance to come in and compete. This is the core of our programme. On an average, we have nine guys or girls who come in every year."

Vissa said, "As a manufacturer, for us, when we do the motorsport program, it makes zero difference because, as of right now, our main focus is on developing drivers, bringing in new technology into the sport and elevating the sport.

"The Ameo class from this year – there is a lot more weight to it. That is bragging rights for the driver. The recognition they get is much better."

Vissa also hoped more brands entered the ITC category and that VW was ready for a competitive fight, saying, "We would love to do it. It brings value to a certain extent and other manufacturers need to come in and compete. Winning ITC as a manufacturer is a big thing for it is the premier class of racing in India."

Setting the pace: Volkswagen leads the pack in the ITC saloon category. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pinot reigns, Alaphilippe increases lead

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
COL DU TOURMALET

France celebrated on Saturday as Thibaut Pinot conquered the Pyrenean summit of la Col du Tourmalet with Julian Alaphilippe following him across the line to extend his overall Tour de France lead.

Defending champion Geraint Thomas lost 35 seconds after being dropped by Pinot at the death, while his Ineos co-captain Egan Bernal finished a few seconds behind the winner at the first of seven summit finishes over 2000m.

Thomas is now over two minutes behind Alaphilippe in the general classification after he started to suffer with 500m to go.

Coming good: Thibaut Pinot led a French one-two. ▪ AFP

Jyothsna stuns Srija

Nandhini outwits Pratyshua

NATIONAL CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KARAIKUDI

It was a day of surprises yet again with L. Jyothsna of Tamil Nadu pulling it off over fifth seed Srija Seshadri and Nandhini Sairapalli of Goa outwitting eighth seed Pratyshua Bodda of Andhra Pradesh in the 46th National women's chess championship at the Chettinad Public School here on Saturday.

But Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB), Bhakti Kulkarni (Air India) and Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra), the top three seeds, marched into the third round without much difficulty.

However, six time champion IM S. Vijayalakshmi survived some anxious moments before splitting points with Y. Saranya.

Sanskriti Goyal (Uttar Pradesh) held three-time National champion and sixth seed Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) to a creditable draw and National under-17 champion K. Priyanka (Tamil Nadu)seemed quite satisfied sharing points with Siddhali Shetye (Maharashtra).

But before the start of the third round, the players relaxed a bit celebrating the International Chess Day with Arun Kumar, the vice-chairman of the Chettinad school.

Big scalp: L. Jyothsna pulled off a surprise win over fifth seed Srija Seshadri. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Important results (second round, TN unless specified): Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB) 2 bt G. Sandhya (AP) 1; Potluri Saye Srreezza (TS) 1 lost to Bhakti Kulkarni (AI) 2; Y. Saranya 1.5 drew with S. Vijayalakshmi (AI) 1.5; Srija Seshadri 1 lost to L. Jyothsna 2; Sanskriti Goyal (UP) 1.5 drew with Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) 1.5; Nandhini Saripalli (Goa) 2 bt Pratyusha Bodda (AP) 1; P.V. Nandhidhaa 2 bt V. Toshali (AP) 1; C.H. Meghna (Rlys) 1 lost to Vantika Agrawal (Del) 2; M. Mahalakshmi M (Rlys) 1.5 drew with Dhyana Patel (Guj) 1.5.

Srishti Pandey (Mah) 1 lost to Michelle Catherina 2; Nisha Mohota (PSPB) 2 bt Potluri Supreetha (AP) 1; Siddhali Shetye (Mah) 1.5 drew with K. Priyanka 1.5; C.M.N. Sunyuktha 2 bt Isha Sharma (Kar) 1; Neha Singh (Bih) 1 lost to S. Meenakshi (AI) 2.

TV PICKS

Commonwealth TT: DD Sports, 10 a.m.
Indonesia Open badminton: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.
The Open golf: DSport, 3.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Ibrahimovic nets hat-trick for LA Galaxy

LOS ANGELES

Zlatan Ibrahimovic lived up to the bravado on Friday, scoring all three goals to power the LA Galaxy to a hard fought 3-2 victory over MLS rivals Los Angeles Football Club. The unstoppable 37-year-old showed he's still capable of astounding feats by dominating the smaller LAFC defence and scoring when it counted the most for his second career MLS hat trick. "When you play against a rival like that, in a full stadium, I get pumped. I get adrenaline. This is considered to be the biggest game in the league and I show up in the biggest games," said Ibrahimovic. AFP

Dortmund sinks Liverpool in US tour opener

CHICAGO

Danish internationals Thomas Delaney and Jacob Bruun Larsen scored second half goals as Borussia Dortmund handed Liverpool a 3-2 defeat in the opening game of the Premier League giants pre-season US tour on Friday. Paco Alcacer was the other scorer. In sweltering heat at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, Indiana, Bundesliga side Dortmund punished a rusty defensive display from the European champions, who were missing several star players. AFP

Algeria crowned AFCON champion

CAIRO

Baghdad Bounedjah's early goal propelled Algeria to a first Africa Cup of Nations title in 29 years after a fiery 1-0 victory over Senegal in Friday's final in Cairo. Bounedjah's deflected past Senegal goalkeeper Alfred Gomis gave Algeria a second-mintue lead. The goal proved to be enough for the 1990 champions to lift the trophy on foreign soil for the first time. For Senegal, the long wait for a first continental crown goes on as coach Aliou Cisse, the captain of the 2002 runners-up, fell short again. AFP

Mortaza ruled out of Sri Lanka tour

Mortaza. ▪ AP

ANI
DUBAI

Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Mortaza has been ruled out of the upcoming three–match ODI series against Sri Lanka and in Mortaza's absence, opening batsman Tamim Iqbal will lead the side.

The right–arm pacer picked up a left hamstring injury during training, which was later revealed to be a grade 1 tear, and it has ruled him out of action for around three to four weeks, International Cricket Council (ICC) reported.

Tamim does have previous international leadership experience, as he lead the Tigers in one Test in New Zealand in 2017 following an injury to then–captain Mushfiqur Rahim.

The Uwe effect in Shivpal's block

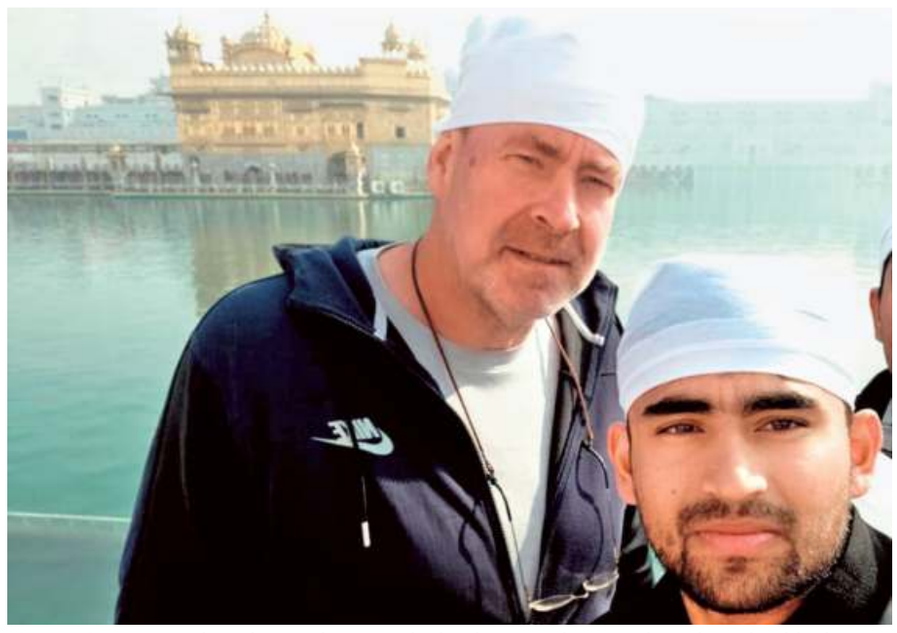
National coach to watch the Indian closely in Finland after change of technique

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

A few days ago, one felt there were cracks appearing in the country's exciting javelin world after a chat with German Uwe Hohn.

Hohn, the national javelin throw coach, was fuming about the technique of Shivpal Singh and Annu Rani, both Asian silver medallists. Shivpal's form was slipping around that time, from a personal best of 86.23m at the Doha Asian meet in April to the season's low of 76.90 in Poland towards the end of June.



Fine-tuning: National javelin coach Uwe Hohn has been working on Shivpal Singh's 'block' to improve his throwing. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sivpal does not listen

"No left 'block' and Shivpal does not listen (when I try) to change this!" Hohn, the man with the longest throw in history, told *The Hindu* from Spala, Poland. "Annu also does not listen, that is why she has been throwing only 60m in the last few competitions."

Blocking is the point during which the thrower is in his delivery stance and the non-throwing side of the body comes to a halt and is locked in place. The block must work efficiently for a good throw. Things appear to have improved, at least in Shivpal's case.

"Shivpal is doing okay but he has little problems with his right knee. Annu was in good shape but trying way too hard and she does not listen or follow our advice.

And it's definitely not a language problem," said Hohn.

Shivpal, currently India's leading javelin thrower with Asian Games and Commonwealth Games champion Neeraj Chopra recovering from elbow surgery, will be in action in the Motonet Grand Prix in Joensuu, Finland, on Wednesday. And Hohn will be watching the 24-year-old closely.

Better in training

Has he sorted out Shivpal's block? Is he comfortable with the change in technique? "We will see during the competition, in training it is much better at the moment," said Hohn.

So, can we expect something like 82m on Wednesday?

"The result will not be the main target, but the technique. He should be able to throw that but we have already started our preparation for Doha and this competition will be direct out of training," said Hohn, a former world record holder.

He explained that Shivpal's mediocre throws in the last two meets were due to "fatigue and muscle imbalance".

In Finland, Shivpal will be up against Estonia's Magnus Kirt, the only one to throw over 90m this year, and Finland's 2012 London Olympics silver medallist Antti Ruuskanen. Shivpal has already qualified for this September's Doha World championships and he appears to be in a hurry to make the cut for the Tokyo Olympics.

"I thought I'd go for 85m in Finland but our coach has told me that it should not be the focus now. He says something like 82 or 83 will be good. "The block is a bit better now and my left hand is more close, earlier it was straight."

Tough road ahead for Neeraj

He has resumed training

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Neeraj Chopra. ▪ REUTERS

He may have been the World No. 4 and won gold at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games but life will not be easy for Neeraj Chopra as he works his way back to the world circuit after the recent elbow surgery.

"It will be a difficult process to change his way of throwing and he needs a lot of trust and patience to do so," said national javelin coach Uwe Hohn.

"Neeraj is very talented and could throw very far but for that he has to be healthy! He is throwing too often with the upper body in front.

"If that happens, then his arm is too deep and there is stress on the shoulder and elbow. He started this way of throwing in 2017 and his history of shoulder injury started then."

Neeraj, according to deputy national coach Radhakrishnan Nair, has resumed training but the big question is whether he will be ready for this September's World championships.

If he is at his best, Neeraj has the potential to win India's first-ever Olympic medal in athletics and the country will be keen to see him back in action as soon as possible.

India's consistent showing a good augury

Clinching individual medals from Olympic events stands out

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

It has become a matter of routine for India to top the medals table in the World Cups this season.

Even as the president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), Raninder Singh, is thrilled that the youngsters have topped the medals table for the fourth year in a row in the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, it may have to be stressed that the Indian men and women have absolutely been brilliant in rifle and pistol in New Delhi, Beijing and Munich this year.

It was in the fitness of things that 14-year-old Esha Singh wound up the show for India by winning the bronze medal in mixed air rifle with Gaurav Rana. It could have been a better medal but for the duo slipping in the second qualification phase after having topped the first.

On target: Esha Singh and Gaurav Rana who won the mixed air rifle bronze, with the Belarus and champion German teams in the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rising to the occasion

Esha has done remarkably well to step it up on the international stage, following her sweep in the women's, junior and youth gold medals in air pistol in the National Championship in Thiruvananthapuram last year.

Esha had also won the individual silver in the junior women's air pistol, while Sarabjot Singh had won the gold in the junior men's air pistol. These are Olympic events and should augur well for the future of Indian shooting.

Even though India was No. 1 in the medals table, with 10 gold, nine silver and five bronze, the individual medals from the Olympic events, including the ones in the mixed events, stand out.

Icing on the cake

Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar winning the junior men's rifle 3-position gold with a junior world record on the last day was the icing on the cake.

Commonwealth Games gold medallist Anish Bhanwala was able to assert himself with the 25-metre rapid fire pistol gold, with an impressive margin.

His 584 in qualification should also be a good indication of India's bid to win the Olympic quota in the event, with Adarsh Singh also pressing his claim.

Elavenil Valarivan was excellent in winning the junior women's air rifle gold, ahead of Mehuli Ghosh who has been shooting world-class scores as a matter of routine in almost every competition.

Asian junior champion Yash Vardhan and World junior champion Hriday Hazarika could not get the individual medals, but were able to win the mixed air rifle silver and bronze medals with Shreya Agrawal and Mehuli Ghosh respectively.

Ten medals including four gold, in Olympic events, without considering the team medals, is a strong statement by the Indian team.

The results:

Mixed air pistol: 1. Germany (Andrea Katharine Heckner, Robin Walter) 16 (382, 571); 2. Belarus (Liubou Stralchonak, Abdul-Aziz Kurdzi) 12 (383, 569); 3. India (Esha Singh, Gaurav Rana) 16 (378, 573); 4. China (Li Xue, Wang Zhehao 14 (379, 571); 15. India-A (Priya Raghav, Arjun Singh Cheema) 564.

Overthrow rules may be reviewed, says report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

The custodians of cricket laws, Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) is likely to review the overthrow rules in the aftermath of the controversy that rocked the just-concluded World Cup final between New Zealand and England, a newspaper report said.

According to a report in 'The Sunday Times', "There is a feeling at MCC that overthrows are worth looking at when it next reviews the laws of the game, which is the responsibility of the MCC Laws sub-committee."

The overthrow rules drew MCC's attention after New Zealand were left to rue a fortuitous, last-over overthrow that went for four after getting a deflection of Ben Stokes' bat to help England take the match into Super Over and eventually lift the trophy via boundary count.

Chasing New Zealand's 241 for 8, England needed nine runs from the final three balls when a throw by Martin Guptill deflected off diving Stokes' bat for a boundary.

On-field umpires Kumar Dharmasena and Marias Erasmus awarded England awarded six runs in total.

But former ICC Elite Panel umpire Simon Taufel said as per the rules, the umpires should have awarded England five runs instead of six.

Shiva Thapa claims gold

First Indian boxer to do so at President's Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa became India's first gold-medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament after getting a walkover in the finals in Astana, Kazakhstan on Saturday.

Making his international debut in the newly-introduced Olympic category of 63kg, Thapa was to fight Kazakhstan's Zakir Safiullin in the summit clash but his opponent had to pull out due to injury.

Thapa had lost to Safiullin in the Asian Championship semifinal earlier this year.

Signing off with a silver medal was woman boxer Parveen (60kg) who lost her final bout to local hope Rimma Volosenko.

Shiva Thapa. ▪ FILE PHOTO

"The new weight category has been easy to adapt. I have not faced too much difficulty.

"Obviously there are challenges of facing boxers who are coming from 64kg, given their power but nothing is impossible," Thapa, a 60kg category boxer before the re-jigging of Olympic divisions, told PTI from Astana.

Thapa couldn't make the cut for the September World championships after losing in the trials to Commonwealth Games silver-winner Manish Kaushik.

Thapa had defeated Kyrgyzstan's Argon Kadiribekuulu 4-1 in the last-four stage bout.

"Shiva had a great tournament, beating some really fancied opponents. It was an impressive performance," said India's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva.

Earlier, Sweety Boora (81kg) and Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg) had ended their campaign with bronze medals following semifinal defeats.

Peaty eyes hat-trick of world doubles

The Olympic champion sets sights on his 100m record

SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GWANGJU (SOUTH KOREA)

Britain's Olympic swimming champion Adam Peaty will channel his inner Mike Tyson as he looks to deliver a knockout blow to his world title rivals next week.

The double world record holder has not been beaten for five years over 100m breaststroke in major competitions – a streak rarely seen in sport and one that invites comparison to the great American hurdler Ed Moses.

Moses went unbeaten for 10 years between 1977 and 1987 but Peaty chose a boxing analogy to describe his mindset going into the world championships, which begins on Sunday in Gwangju, South Korea.

"I think it was Mike Tyson who said 'The closer I get to the ring, I'm a god' – and that really sticks in the thinking behind what I do," said Peaty.

"The closer I get to a world championships, the closer I get to an Olympics, that's where my strength really comes mentally," added the 24-year-old, who is chasing a hat-trick of world doubles in the 50m and 100m. "You almost have to turn it off. I like going into those meets mentally fresh because by the time I get to the end of it I literally sleep for about a week."

First up, Peaty takes aim at his 100m world record of 57.10s on Monday.

"That's my main motivation now – how do I get below that magic 57," said the Briton, who has been flirting with that mark in training. "I need to be in the right frame of mind."

RACING

Well Connected and Impavid to fight it out

BENGALURU: Well Connected and Impavid may fight out the finish of the Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore (2,000m), the stellar attraction of the races to be held here on Sunday (July 21).
There is be no false rails.

1 INDIAN PATTERN COMMITTEE CUP (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 1-15 pm: 1. Ramon (6) Arshad 60, 2. Constanza (4) Trevor 59.5, 3. Habanero (3) Noornabi 59.5, 4. Kimera (8) Srinath 59, 5. She's Stylish (1) Vinod Shinde 57.5, 6. Snow Queen (9) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 7. Aqua Blessing (7) Chetan K 56, 8. Jon Snow (5) Sai Vamshi 56 and 9. Red Indian (2) Nazerul 56.
1. CONSTANZA,
2. KIMARA,
3. AQUA BLESSING.

2 HYDERABAD CUP (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 1-45: 1. Electra (2) Suraj 60, 2. Musterion (10) Trevor 59.5, 3. King Of Shadows (5) Shobhan 58, 4. Amazing Angel (4) Chetan K 56.5, 5. Crack Of Dawn (9) Sandesh 56.5, 6. Andra King (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 7. Duxton (8) Jagadeesh 56, 8. Azeemki Princess (3) T.S. Jodha 55, 9. Blackhawk (11) Neeraj 55, 10. Mr Humble (7) Darshan 55 and 11. Firing Line (6) S.A. Amit 53.
1. ELECTRA,
2. CRACK OF DAWN,
3. MUSTERION.

3 KOLKATA CUP (2,000m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 2-15: 1. Velocidad (8) Srinath 60, 2. Lycurgus (6) P.S. Chouhan 57.5, 3. Nitromax (2) Akshay K 57, 4. Prince Charmo (5) M. Naveen 56.5, 5. Charmed Life (3) Trevor 56, 6. Rare Rhythm (7) T.S. Jodha 56, 7. Tanoura (1) Adarsh 54.5 and 8. Flirting Eyes (4) Neeraj 51.
1. VELOCIDAD,
2. LYCURGUS,
3. RARE RHYTHM.

4 MUMBAI CUP (1,400m), rated 45 to 65, 2-45: 1. Sakura (1) Akshay K 60, 2. Multifaceted (2) Zervan 58, 3. Air Command (8) Suraj 57, 4. Nikandros (7) B. Harish 56, 5. Psychic Warrior (10) Noornabi 55.5, 6. Turf Magic (3) Darshan 54.5, 7. Silver Dew (6) Bhawani Singh 54, 8. Corona Del Corsa (4) Antony 53.5, 9. Torsoro (5) R. Manish 53.5, 10. Akita Pro (9) Trevor 52.5 and 11. Ice Floe (11) Sandesh 51.
1. MULTIFACETED,
2. SAKURA,
3. AKITA PRO.

5 MYSTICAL MILLION (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o, (Terms), 3-20: 1. Aachen (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 2. Manzoni (4) Sandesh 56, 3. Mighty Red (6) Darshan 56, 4. North Winds (3) Yash 56, 5. Sir Lancelot (5) Neeraj 56, 6. Speaking Of Stars (7) Zervan 56, 7. Streaming Gold (2) Suraj 56, 8. Hokkaido (9) Akshay K 54.5, 9. Nicollini (8) Trevor 54.5 and 10. Prayer (-) (-) 54.5.
1. NICOLLINI,
2. HOKKAIDO,
3. SPEAKING OF STARS.

6 B.T.C. ANNIVERSARY CUP (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 3-55: 1. Prevalent Force (11) Zervan 60, 2. Corfe Castle (5) Suraj 58, 3. Mauritania (10) David Allan 57, 4. Cavallo Veloce (8) A. Imran 56.5, 5. La Rondine (2) Akshay K 56.5, 6. Knotty Ash (1) Antony 53.5, 7. Automatic (7) P.S. Chouhan 52.5, 8. Brainstorm (12) Yash 52.5, 9. Star Baron (4) Dhebe 52, 10. Auburn (6) Neeraj 51, 11. Lady Legend (9) Trevor 50.5 and 12. Organic (3) Vinod Shinde 50.5.
1. CORFE CASTLE,
2. LADY LEGEND,
3. KNOTTY ASH.

7 KINGFISHER ULTRA DERBY BANGALORE (2,000m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-30: 1. Impavid (4) Sandesh 56, 2. Knight Templar (5) Zervan 56, 3. Malwa (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 4. Royal Crystal (3) Neeraj 56, 5. Sir Supremo (2) Yash 56, 6. Southern Ruler (6) Bhawani Singh 56, 7. Anjeze (7) Akshay K 54.5, 8. Cosmic Ray (8) Suraj 54.5, 9. Hunt For Gold (9) Trevor 54.5 and 10. Well Connected (10) David Allan 54.5.
1. WELL CONNECTED,
2. IMPAVID,
3. ANJEZE.

8 ADMIRAL HENRY JOHN ROUS TROPHY (1,200m), rated 75 & above, 5-10: 1. Kambaku (7) John 62.5, 2. Bold Command (4) Sandesh 60, 3. Star Carnation (3) Bhawani Singh 59, 4. Tororosso (6) S. Shareef 56, 5. Courage (2) Suraj 55.5, 6. Areca Legend (9) Akshay K 53.5, 7. Bora Bora (10) P.S. Chouhan 52, 8. Saint Petersburg (1) Trevor 50.5, 9. Aeisir (8) Neeraj 50 and 10. Blue Blazer (5) Dhebe 50.
1. COURAGE,
2. ARECA LEGEND,
3. AEISIR.

9 HYDERABAD CUP (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 5-50: 1. Blarney Stone (2) A. Ramu 60, 2. Cosmic Feeling (8) Nazerul 60, 3. Lady Majestic (10) Akshay 60, 4. Skyfire (6) Vaibhav 60, 5. Stroke Of Genius (11) M. Naveen 60, 6. Eco Friendly (9) Irvan 59, 7. Glorious Days (3) T.S. Jodha 59, 8. Truly Delightful (4) Ashok Kumar 58, 9. Lovely Sierra (5) A. Merchant 57.5, 10. Zala Princess (1) Rayan 57 and 11. Find (7) Antony 55.5.
1. COSMIC FEELING, 2. BLARNEY STONE, 3. STROKE OF GENIUS.
Day's best: **ELECTRA**
Double: **CONSTANZA – MULTIFACETED**
Jkt: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6; (iii): 7, 8 and 9.

Victorious Sermon bags main event

BENGALURU: Victorious Sermon (Sandesh up), won the Nawab M. Arshad Ali Khan Memorial Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (July 20). The winner is owned by Mr. Chirag V. Shah and trained by Vishal Gaikwad.
THE RESULTS

1 DELHI CUP (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 20: **SOUTH BELL** (Irvan) 1, Above The Rest (R. Manish) 2, Purity (Antony) 3 and Winx (T.S. Jodha) 4. Not run: String Of Pearls. 3/4, 2-1/4 and 2-3/4. 1m 27.09s. ₹ 81 (w), 21, 24 and 14 (p), SHP: 56, THP: 65, FP: 1,202, Q: 389, Trinella: 2,312 and 1,034, Exacta: 75,592 and 3,2396. Favourite: Purity. Owners: Mr. Md. Minhaj Raza, Mr. N. Mohan Reddy, Mr. B.K. Muralidhar and Mr. Sharat Kumar. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

2 MYSORE CUP (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **MZILIKAZI** (Trevor) 1, Donna Bella (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Queen Regnant (Bhawani Singh) 3 and Mrs Thatcher (Sandesh) 4. 6-1/2, 4 and 2. 1m 12.61s. ₹ 13, (w), 11, 16 and 15 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 35, FP: 56, Q: 41, Trinella: 203 and 66, Exacta: 829 and 470. Favourite: Mzilikazi. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt Ltd rep by. M/s. Keki D. Mehta and Dara K. Mehta. Trainer: P. Shroff.

3 DELHI CUP (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 00 to 20: **THREE WISHES** (Sandesh) 1, Honey Trap (John) 2, Aleef (Md. Asif Khan) 3 and All By Myself (S. Shareef) 4. 9-1/4, 3/4 and 1-3/4. 1m 26.13s. ₹ 22 (w), 14, 12 and 39 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 73, FP: 52, Q: 26, Trinella: 323 and 304, Exacta: 3,702 and 1,375. Favourite: Three Wishes. Owners: Mr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep by. Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

4 K.N. GURUSWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 60 & above: **PSYCHIC FORCE** (Zervan) 1, Ambrosio (Trevor) 2, Shesmyscript (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and New Creation (Sandesh) 4. Lnk, 2-1/4 and 1. 1m 36.33s. ₹ 71 (w), 25, 14 and 21 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 46, FP: 178, Q: 106, Trinella: 725 and 342, Exacta: 1,498 and 663, Favourite: Ambrosio. Owners: Ms. Ameeta Mehra, Mr. Rienzie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Darius.

5 NAWAB M. ARSHAD ALI KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), 3-y-o only, (Terms): **VICTORIOUS SERMON** (Sandesh) 1, Gift Of Grace (Zervan) 2, Star Cavalry (Darshan) 3 and Breaking Bounds (Trevor) 4. 5-1/2, Lnk and 1-3/4. 1m 24.56. ₹ 49 (w), 14, 12 and 59 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 105, FP: 170, Q: 62, Trinella: 9,018 and 2,705, Exacta: 16,860 and 4,598. Favourite: Mystic Bay. Owner: Mr. Chirag V. Shah. Trainer: Vishal Gaikwad.

6 CHENNAI CUP (Div. I), (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over: **LAGOPUS** (Tauseef) 1, Bold Runner (Sandesh) 2, Charmaine (Trevor) 3 and Simply Magical (Yash) 4. 3-1/2, Nose and Hd. 1m 07.10s. ₹ 32 (w), 13, 15 and 23 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 60, FP: 85, Q: 53, Trinella: 361 and 173, Exacta: 924 and 556. Favourite: Lagopus. Owner and Trainer: Mr. K. Pradeep Annaiah.

7 ANGEL DUST TROPHY (1,200m), rated 30 to 50: **COMMODUS** (Trevor) 1, Mega Ikon (A. Imran) 2, Bernardini (Neeraj) 3 and Scarlet Princess (M. Prabhakaran) 4. Lnk, 4-1/4 and 5. 1m 12.25s. ₹ 26 (w), 15, 32 and 19 (p), SHP: 61, THP: 60, FP: 157, Q: 136, Trinella: 821 and 270, Exacta: 13,141 and 15,018. Favourite: Commodus. Owners: Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, Mr. K. Shasha Bindu Das and Mr. K. Kamesh. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

8 CHENNAI CUP (Div. II), (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over: **GALVARINO** (Trevor) 1, Colonel Harty (Rajesh K) 2, Commandpost (R. Manish) 3 and Admirable (Irvan) 4. 8, 2-1/2 and 3/4. 1m 06.18s. ₹ 66 (w), 18, 99 and 12 (p), SHP: 396, THP: 74, FP: 12,336, Q: 1,711, Trinella: 59,147 (carried over) and 3,621, Exacta: 1,03,621 (carried over) and 44,409. Favourite: Commandpost. Owners: Mr. Gautam Basapa, Mr. Apana Subaiya P, Mrs. Poojya Prashanth and Mr. Prem Kumar Menon. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

Jackpot: ₹ 70,964 (11 tkts); Runner up: 3,636 (92 tkts); Treble (i): 1,690 (19 tkts); (ii): 356 (172 tkts).

IN BRIEF

YouTube fined over kids' data privacy breach

SAN FRANCISCO

YouTube has reached a multimillion-dollar settlement with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission over alleged violations of children's data privacy after an investigation found the website improperly collecting children's data. IANS

Mt. Etna, Italy's biggest live volcano, erupts

ROME

Italy's Mount Etna, Europe's biggest live volcano, erupted overnight with lava flows and explosions, volcanologists said on Saturday. The eruption forced the closure of two airports in Sicily's second-biggest city of Catania. AFP

Will call Swedish PM about A$AP: Trump

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said he would call Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven about American rapper A$AP Rocky (in picture), who has been detained in Sweden over a street brawl case. "So many people would like to see this quickly resolved!" Mr. Trump tweeted. REUTERS

Scientists develop AI to curb 'deepfake' videos

NEW DELHI

A team of Indian-origin researchers in California has developed a system driven by artificial intelligence to identify altered content at the pixel level. The team is currently working on still images which will eventually help them detect "deepfake" videos. IANS

Venice Film Critics' Week to open with animated film from India

Set on the streets of Mumbai, *Bombay Rose* moves from real life to fantasy, accompanied by much-loved Bollywood songs

NAMRATA JOSHI
MUMBAI

Gitanjali Rao's *Bombay Rose* will be the first Indian animation film to open the Venice International Film Critics' Week. A Cinestaan Film Company production, the hand-painted animation film is written, designed and directed by Ms. Rao and marks her feature film debut. The August 29 screening will mark the world premiere of the film.

The Venice International Film Critics' Week is an independent, parallel section organized by the National Union of Italian Film Critics during the Venice International Film Festival.

"It has been our privilege to work with Gitanjali and Paperboat Studios over the last two years to bring this piece of beautiful cinema to life," said producer Rohit Khattar of Cinestaan in a press statement.

'Love letter'

He described the film as "a stunning love letter to Mumbai and its people".

"A chronicle of the people who migrate from small towns, seeking minimal life in the maximum city", the film is based on true events and "explores the ruthlessness of a society where the love and life that reign on the big screen can crush you in its mean streets," he said.

Painted painstakingly and passionately, frame by frame, something Ms. Rao is renowned for, it is about a red rose bringing together three tales – love between two flower sellers, love between two women, and the love of an entire city for its Bollywood stars. Set on the streets of Mumbai, it moves from real life to fantasy, accompanied by much loved Bollywood songs.

Magical lines: A still from *Bombay Rose* and, right, Gitanjali Rao. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The depiction of urban reality is done in a documentary style, whereas the intricate dream worlds are inspired from the rich and varied folk art styles of India.

Critically acclaimed for her debut as an actor last year, Ms. Rao is a self-taught animator and filmmaker who emerged on the international stage with an animated short, *Printed Rainbow*, which premiered in Cannes Critics Week 2006 (and won the Kodak Discovery Award, Petite Rail d'Or and Prix Du Jeune). It went on to win 25 awards and was shortlisted for the Oscars in 2008.

Her five independently produced animated shorts – *Blue*, *Orange*, *Printed Rainbow*, *Chai* and *True Love Story* – have been to over 150 international film festivals and received more than 30 awards.

Struggle for survival

She describes *Bombay Rose* as a story about simple people with their simple yet impossible dreams. "I have always wanted to paint stories about people who live and love on the streets of Bombay, never becoming success stories. Yet, their struggle for survival makes heroes out of them. This is the city with its cast of unsung heroes and heroines that I want to share with the world and [this is] why I started this labour of love six years ago," said Ms. Rao.

This year, the Venice film festival takes place from August 27 to September 7.

Bombay Rose is co-produced with Film d'Ici and was delivered at Mumbai-based Paperboat Animation Studios. Working creatively alongside Ms. Rao was acclaimed sound designer P.M. Satheesh.

Russian website offering 'paid' research authorship under probe

73 of the 344 papers offered for sale are from journals based in India

R. PRASAD
CHENNAI

An "online marketplace" claiming to facilitate sale and purchase of authorships for research papers that have been accepted for publication in scientific journals has been brought to light by the Web of Science, part of London-based Clarivate Analytics, which provides analytical services to journals and innovation companies.

An investigation by the company showed that a Russian website (http://123mi.ru) claims to facilitate the fraudulent publication. Retraction Watch blog was the first to report the scam.

A Google translation of the claims on the Russian website says, "We sell publications of finished articles in Scopus and Web of Science journals (articles written and accepted in journals; sold in parts or in whole)."

It asks researchers to part with hundreds of dollars to become authors of papers that they never worked on, promising definite publication and indexing.

The website lists 344 articles for which first, second, third or more authorships are for sale.

Of the 344 papers where authorships are for sale, 73 are from journals based in India. Venezuela has the second highest number of papers at 54, followed by the U.S. (38), Russia (33) and Pakistan (28).

Although there are a few dozen papers listed from these countries, it is not clear how many journals are allegedly open to such a practice.

There is also no confirmation of the site's claim that the journals are indexed in Scopus or Web of Science or whether they are predatory or standard journals.

Although the website claims that certain authorships had been sold, it is not clear if individuals parted with money.

It is also unclear if any papers have actually been published, or if the Russian website is just an online scam operation.

First-author fee

The cost of first authorship is highest and reduces for the successive authors. The cost of first authorship varies from $285 to $1,222.

Papers with five potential authors have been listed, although the norm is to have three or four.

"The articles have been accepted for publication in journals that are allegedly indexed. We do not know the identity of the authors or journals... We are investigating and trying to identify the journals. We will take appropriate action," Amy Bourke-Waite, External Communications Director, Web of Science Group, Clarivate Analytics, said in an email to *The Hindu*.

The website does not mention the name of the journals or the title of the 344 papers. It says that the names of the journals and titles will be "available only to customers who have paid". But it does provide information about journal disciplines, country of publication, the number of authors per paper, short description of the article and if the journal is indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science.

"The primary transaction appears to be author-to-author (with the owners of the service presumably taking a cut) but beyond allowing post-acceptance changes in the author lists, it's not clear to what extent journal editors or publishers are aware of, or involved in this enterprise," Nandita Quaderi, editor-in-chief of Web of Science said in a July 17, 2019, letter to Natalie Ridgeway, executive officer of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), a non-profit that promotes integrity in research and publication.

"I wanted to bring this to your attention early as you may want to warn COPE members of this activity as soon as possible and perhaps take this opportunity to share best practice guidelines regarding post-acceptance changes to author lists," she said.

Paris show gives the humble back its place in the limelight

Traces hooks and closures on women's attire down the ages

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

The humble back of the human body is almost never seen in fashion images, forgotten amid the focus on the front and faces.

A new Paris exhibition, however, aims to redress this imbalance, with visitors being confronted by mannequins with their backs turned.

The exhibition, organised by the Palais Galliera fashion museum, is showing at the Bourdelle Museum amid its famous collection of plaster statues. Curators say one of the aims of the exhibition is to explore the relationship with the back through the complex fastenings imposed on women throughout history as a symbol of submission.

Excluding the straitjacket, no men's clothing item has ever fastened at the back. But women's clothing often has been, leaving them in a position of dependence.

"Anatomically, the body is not made to put its arms behind the back. Fastening at the back is unnatural," said Alexandre Samson, curator of the exhibition which runs until November 17.

Watch me: A dress by German fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld is featured as part of the new exhibition in Paris. ▪ AFP

At the end of the 15th century, lacing appeared on the backs of women of all social classes. Without the luxury of chambermaids, peasant women had to ask their brothers, fathers or husbands for help.

Hook-and-eye closure appeared in the 18th century, corsets arrived in the 19th century and closed in front, laced at the back.

A landmark moment came when Rita de Acosta Lydig, a high-flying American socialite, caused a scandal by showing off her bare back in a simple black dress at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in the early years of the 20th century. A more recent "back fashion scandal" occurred in June 2018, when U.S. First Lady Melania Trump visited a camp for undocumented immigrant children at the Mexican border. The words on the back of her parka sent a powerful message: "I really don't care, do you?"

According to the organisers of the Paris exhibition, modern society is obsessed with people's faces while the back is more a reminder of our limitations.

"Our back is the only part of ourselves that we don't see and that others do," Mr. Samson said.

Beauty firms cash in on Thailand's giant snails

Mucus said to have anti-ageing element

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NAYOK

Giant snails, once loathed by Thailand's rice farmers for eating the buds of new crops, are now more valuable than gold to some cosmetic firms.

The precious slime is patiently "milked" from the glands of the snail by dripping water over it using a pipette. Its raw form is sold to Aden International, a Thailand-based cosmetics company that ships its products to Korea and the U.S.

Somkamol Manchun, who is an expert in the purification process of the serum, said snail mucus contains collagen and elastin which "can make skin firm with less wrinkles". It also helps in healing the skin, she said.

Aden was started three years ago as a business solution to the snail infestation in Nakhon Nayok, said founder Kitpong Puttarathuvanun. "We found that our slime was very intense because the snails eat everything, including vegetables, grains and even mushrooms... producing good quality slime," Mr. Kitpong said, explaining that the mucus can be used to heal sunburn and wounds.

Although no scientific studies have been done on the curative qualities of snail serum and slime, the global snail beauty market is estimated to be $314 million big, according to research group Coherent Market Insights.

Extra cash

"Farmers used to throw the snails on the road or in the rivers. But now they sell them to me to earn extra money," said Phatinisiri Thangkeaw.

With her 1,000 snails, the teacher makes an extra $320 to $650 a month.

"Many people are doing snail farms now so the competition is high," Ms. Phatinisiri said.

Snail hacks: The serum of a snail is milked at a farm in Nakhon Nayok province in Thailand. ▪ AFP

On an adventure

Flying out: Astronauts Andrew Morgan, Alexander Skvortsov and Luca Parmitano prepare for the launch to the International Space Stati on the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on Saturday. ▪ REUTERS

Ukraine museum showcases 'election trash'

Display highlights questionable practices ahead of snap polls in the country

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KIEV

A Darth Vader costume, playground equipment, pastries and boxes of food are part of an exhibit at Ukraine's National History Museum displaying the colourful behaviour and sometime-questionable practices that characterise the country's elections.

The exhibition, called "The Museum of Election Trash", was put together ahead of the country's snap parliamentary elections on Sunday.

Ukraine is characterised by lively election campaigns unlike neighbouring Russia. One of the candidates in this year's election is Darth Viktorovich Vader, who is running for a seat in Odessa. Another Darth Vader ran for president in 2014. The "electoral trash" collection also highlights candidates' efforts to influence voters through gifts, with exhibits including colourful equipment for a town playground that one candidate provided to voters before an election, along with pastries and boxes of foodstuffs.

The Star Wars theme continues this year with the election being widely called "Battle of the Clones", with candidates mimicking the recently elected President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, also a former TV comic, and his Servant of the People party. Mr. Zelenskiy starred in a show with the same name and later launched his party. This time, he has urged voters to be careful not to vote for 'copycats'.

New species of shark squirts clouds of light

It was found in the Gulf of Mexico

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW ORLEANS

A pocket-sized pocket shark found in the Gulf of Mexico has turned out to be a new species.

The pouches near its front fins squirt little glowing clouds into the ocean, scientists said. Researchers from around the Gulf and in New York have named the species the American pocket shark, or *Mollisquama mississippiensis*.

It is only the third out of more than 500 known shark species that may squirt luminous liquid, said R. Dean Grubbs, a Florida State University scientist who was not involved in the research. He said the other two are the previously known pocket shark and the taillight shark, which has a similar gland near its tail.

The shark has light-emitting cells dotted on its belly. ▪ AP

"You have this tiny little bulbous luminescent shark cruising around in the world's oceans and we know nothing about them," said Mr. Grubbs, ex-president of the American Elasmobranch Society of scientists who study sharks, skates and rays.

Like the only other 16-inch pocket shark known to science, this 5.6-inch newborn male fished out of the Gulf has a pouch next to each front fin. The luminescence might conceal the shark from prey or from predators, scientists said.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SRINAGAR
HAZRATBAL SRINAGGAR - 190006

Corrigendum to
Advertisement No. 02 (NF) of 2019 Dated: 11.07.2019

Due to typographical error, the Experience for the post of Registrar has been wrongly shown as 5 Years.

Please read experience clause for the post of Registrar as under:-

Experience:

I) Holding analogous Post.

ii) At least **15 year's experience** as Assistant Professor in the **AGP of 7000/-** and above or with **8 years of service** in the AGP **of 8000/-** and above including as **Associate Professor** along with 3 years experience in educational administration , **or**

iii) **15 years of administrative experience** of which 8 years shall be a Deputy Registrar of an equivalent post in the GP of **Rs. 7600/= or above.**

No: NIT/PD/19/1688,Dated: 19.07.2019

No: NIT/R/19/426, Dated: 19.07.2019

Sd/
(Registrar)

THE HINDU

DELHI

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Sunday, July 21, 2019

Magazine

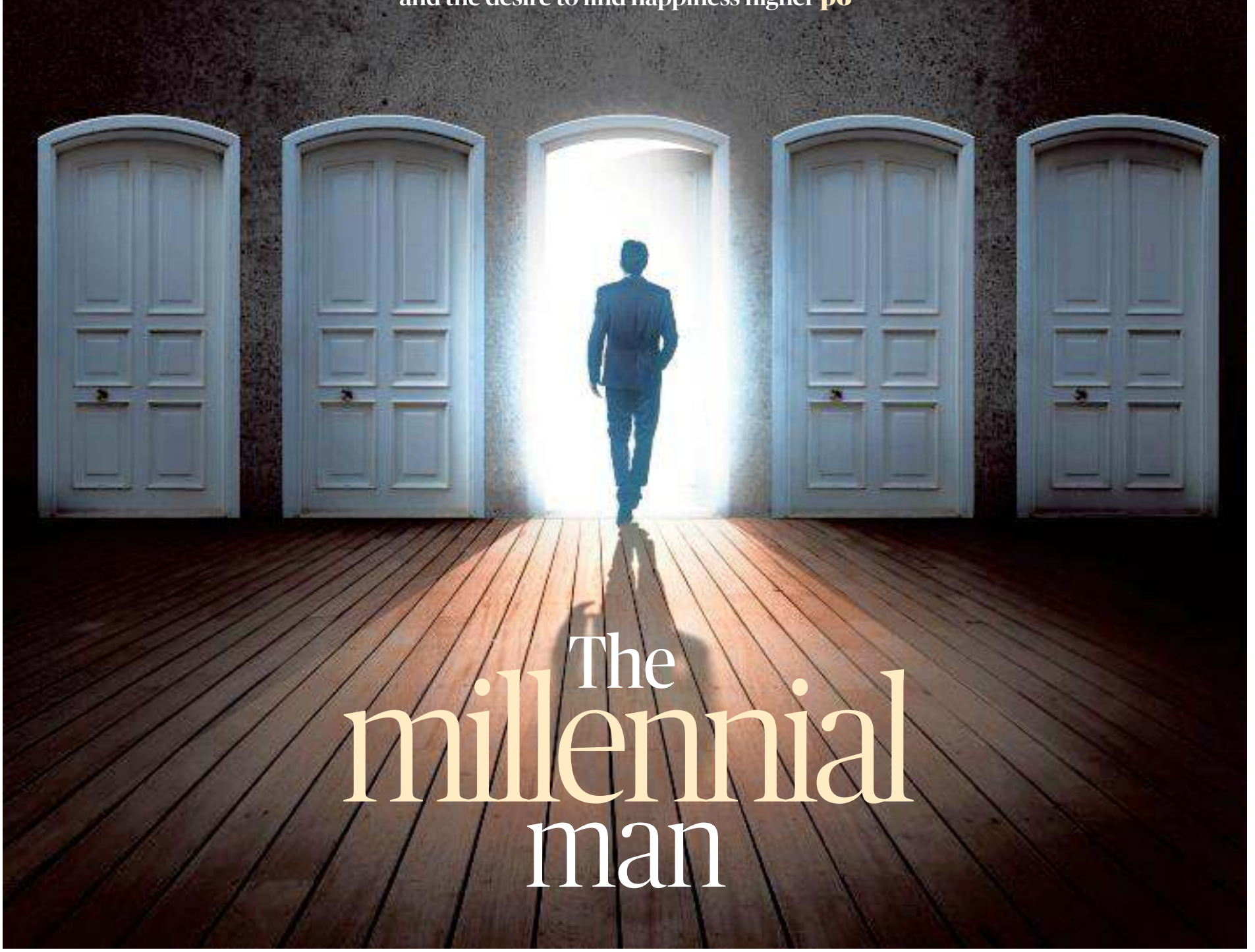
FRAMED
Every day, a train travels 200km to Chennai carrying that precious commodity — water p16

SPOTLIGHT
Soham Gupta's haunting photographs of Kolkata went to the 2019 Venice Biennale p12

LITERARY REVIEW
A weekly round-up of essays, reviews, interviews and more p18-25

60 MINUTES
Don't come to a restaurant if you want to create your own food, says chef Manu Chandra p3

Why is he chucking a corporate career to grow mushrooms or go running? That intensely male drive to earn money seems lower now and the desire to find happiness higher p6



The millennial man

Dosa king dead The 72-year-old P. Rajagopal, owner of the famous Saravana Bhavan restaurant chain, and a convicted murderer, died of a heart attack in Chennai only days after he finally reached the court to serve out his life sentence. Rajagopal was sentenced for the kidnapping and murder of Prince Santhakumar, the husband of an employee he desired, nearly 18 years ago.

Live wire Harley-Davidson confirmed that its first electric motorcycle, the Livewire, is to be launched in the U.S. and some European countries in the next few months. The bike, which can reportedly go from 0 to 100 km/h in 3.5 seconds, has been priced at $29,799 (roughly ₹20.4 lakh) in the U.S., excluding taxes.

House divided The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution condemning President Trump's incendiary tweets telling four ethnic minority Congresswomen to "go back to where they came from". The 240-187 vote was split mostly on party lines, with all but four Republicans defending Trump against accusations of racism.

Mind reader Elon Musk's start-up Neuralink has devised "threads" finer than human hair that can be injected into the brain, by a robot, to detect neuron activity. Early applications are likely to be medical, though Musk's idea is for human brains to interface directly with machines.

Jadhav verdict The International Court of Justice ordered Pakistan to review retired Indian naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav's death sentence for espionage. In a 15-1 ruling, with only the judge from Pakistan dissenting, the court noted that Pakistan had violated the Vienna Convention by failing to inform Jadhav of his rights or to allow him consular access.

Abort, abort India's Chandrayaan-2 moon mission had to be halted 56 minutes before take-off due to a leak in the cryogenic engine, which stores fuel at low temperatures. This meant there was insufficient pressure to maintain a constant fuel flow to the combustion chamber. ISRO announced a new launch date: July 22.

The kill A photo of Canadian couple Darren and Carolyn Carter kissing next to a lion they shot in South Africa sparked outrage and renewed the debate on trophy hunting. Legelela Safaris, whose tour they were part of, wrote on their Facebook page: "Hard work in the hot Kalahari sun... Well done."

Arjuna awardees Cricketer Smriti Mandhana and tennis player Rohan Bopanna were conferred the Arjuna Awards. Bopanna won the gold medal in the men's doubles category in the 2018 Asian Games, while Mandhana was ICC women's player of the year in 2018.

Madam President German defence minister Ursula von der Leyen was elected president of the European Commission, the EU's executive branch. Elected in a secret ballot by members of the European Parliament, she will be the first woman to hold the post.

Face off FaceApp, which shows people how they'll look when they're older, went viral. Launched in 2017 but overhauled recently, the app has features like adding beards and swapping genders. It's used by vast numbers of people, but there are privacy concerns as the Russian-origin app acquires private user data.

GoT it The final season of HBO's *Game of Thrones* received a record-breaking 32 nominations for the 2019 Emmy Awards, the most for a single season of any show. It was nominated in many categories, including Outstanding Writing and Outstanding Directing. It broke a 25-year-old record set by *NYPD Blue*. The awards show will be held on September 22.

Road nixed The Bombay High Court quashed the Coastal Regulation Zone clearances for Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's ₹14,000-crore project to build a 29.2-km coastal road connecting South Mumbai's Marine Drive area with North Mumbai's Borivali. Petitions had been filed against the project by activists, residents and fishermen.

Giant jelly Two divers off the coast of Cornwall spotted a giant barrel jellyfish, a metre-and-a-half long. A video of them swimming beside the frilly-tentacled animal soon went viral. The encounter, one of the biologists said, was "humbling". Barrel jellyfish are the largest of their kind off U.K.'s coast.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

WITH MANU CHANDRA

‘Food will always evolve and change’

Don’t tweak recipes when you dine out and don’t talk food trends with this celeb chef

CHITRA V. RAMANI

A chef who grew up in Delhi and made Bengaluru his home, his restaurants too reflect this deep intermingling of cultures and flavours. The 38-year-old Manu Chandra, who featured in *Fortune’s* 40-under-40 list of entrepreneurs, is chef-partner at Olive Bar and Kitchen, which owns nine famous restaurant brands, including Toast and Tonic, Fatty Bao and Monkey Bar. His latest is Cantan. There’s a reason India is so in love with Chinese food, he says: “It’s sweet, sour, salty, spicy,” hoping to lure desis away from their ubiquitous chili chicken. Edited extracts:

- Graduate of St. Stephen’s, Delhi, and Culinary Institute of America, New York
- Bengaluru Chapter Head of National Restaurant Association of India
- Recipient of the prestigious Seafood Masters Award for the National Recipe Competition, 2002
- Has worked with reputed chef Eyvind Hellstrøm at his two-Michelin starred restaurant Bagatelle in Oslo

What explains our love for Chinese food?

■ It’s bold, it’s big flavours. It can be bent – noodles, fried rice and gravies. It sort of hits home as it meets the carbohydrate-meets-gravy combination. Paneer can be turned into a Chinese dish. It’s sweet, sour, salty, spicy. Given that we’ve had history with that food, one of the first international cuisines to have arrived here many centuries ago and stayed, for it to get into mainstream India was very easy. If you go to Raipur, Khajuraho or any small town, you can get chow mein everywhere. You could go to Sarojini Nagar Market and get Chinese food served by vendors on pushcarts or vans. Umami just takes over the entire palate. That’s why people love it.

What inspired you to explore Cantonese cuisine in a country where chilli chicken is clearly the go-to Chinese dish?

■ The genesis of Cantan was my recent travels to Hong Kong and Taipei. I was so used to eating Indian-Chinese food that I had completely forgotten what Chinese food would probably be like. Indians appropriate a lot of cuisines, as does the rest of the globe. We give it a desi twist.

I felt the market has evolved and is discerning enough, adventurous enough now. I thought it was time to open a Chinese restaurant that would challenge the existing paradigm. It was all about introducing a layer to a Chinese product that didn’t really exist.

Do you believe foods should stay authentic? That foods are heritage?

Yes, I believe in heritage, preservation of heritage, biodiversity. I do believe that what is inherently ours, what we grow or cultivated that was culturally relevant shouldn’t disappear. We shouldn’t become a mono culture. But authenticity is tricky. Food will continue to evolve and change.

A lot of Indian cuisine has come from confluences, cross-cultural contamination, practices that have seeped into different cultures.

Two generations from now, people may be eating something completely different. Hopefully, healthier, better for the environment. People are realising the benefits of eating more millets, local monsoon greens.

Can you as a restaurateur help create healthy eating trends?

■ The whole millet movement started from this restaurant (Toast & Tonic). The then Agriculture Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and I got together and said we should do this, push for millets. That was nearly three years ago. Now, there has been a lot more traction, which is great. Unfortunately, a lot of millets have disappeared from the repertoire of farmers. There is no price elasticity, so it is expensive. Suddenly the thing which was the cheapest thing to grow has become expensive due to short supply. It is going to take a while for it to mend. The 65-70% per capita consumption of millets in Karnataka has come down to 7-8% in 40 years.

You have said that you don’t want to be part of food shows.

■ I would never introduce myself as a celebrity chef; I think it is terribly self-defeating. I can’t be fake on TV. Let me be me, and I can be quite crass at times in the kitchen and that’s my personality. If Indian TV doesn’t want to accept that and they want me to wear foundation and make audiences swoon... that’s not my scene. I cook for a living and I enjoy it.

A lot of Indian cuisine has come from confluences, cross-cultural contamination, practices that have seeped into different cultures

Are you social media shy?

■ I consider myself a social media pariah. I hardly use Facebook, I Instagram occasionally. I have been off Twitter for more than a year now. There was an episode where I ranted and it made me realise later that Twitter had become a platform to rant. It was a toxic and negative space and I felt I had to get off it. While I understand the importance of social media, it doesn’t appeal to me. There is a level of voyeurism and I want to keep my life private.

Why is cuisine suddenly so talked about now?

■ TV, in combination with travel, is making people experiment. That and the restaurant boom of the last 10 years. A lot of people who have studied abroad or live abroad have opened restaurants with new cuisines. The customer has been able to experience a lot.

With apps, one can order Vietnamese from the comfort of the home. While growing up in Delhi, my only option for Thai was Imperial, and my parents couldn’t afford that. So when I finally tried Thai food years later, my first reaction was, oh my god, it is so Indian.

Who is your least favourite kind of customer?

■ The kind who tries to make his own food. Don’t come to a restaurant if you want to create your own food. Cook at home. You can’t pick a dish and change it 20 different ways. Cooks are creatures of habit. Not every cook in the kitchen is a gifted chef. They work on muscle memory, experience, benchmarks have been set for them. A particular dish can only go out (of the kitchen) this way. It should taste a certain way.

If you are gluten intolerant and want to eat a burger, then take the bun out and eat the meat. But don’t expect the chef to run around and make a cauliflower-something for you. It’s the sense of entitlement. I am seeing this a lot more these days.

You have started your own artisanal cheese enterprise, Begum Victoria. Is cheese-making coming of age?

■ It’s due to cow milk availability. Cow milk makes much better cheese than buffalo milk. Cheese making has been around for a while, but it’s still nascent. It has not got a tremendous quality benchmark. It’s bizarre, since we have such a large dairy industry. Good cheese requires a lot of nuanced processes, effort and time. The cheese industry is going to grow. The market is small now, for artisanal cheese.

What is the one millennial food trend that irks you the most?

■ Every food trend irks me. Trend by definition is something that dies. It keeps coming and going. Instant gratification is how things work these days, but I try to keep my restaurants as consistent brands that evolve.

DHAKA

The troubled legacy left behind by Ershad

What does it mean to grow up in the shadows of the Ershad regime? It's just living in a dark age that changed Bangladesh for the worse, says a political analyst based in Dhaka.

The dictator is gone, but the legacy General Hussain Muhammad Ershad has left behind will continue to influence Bangladesh politics for many decades to come. He will be judged for a deadly mix of religion-peddling and gun-toting, carefully designed to tighten his grip on power. That set the future course of politics in Bangladesh.

The death of Ershad at the age of 90 on July 14 brought down the curtains on a long life reviled by many and revered by his legions of supporters in his stronghold in northern Bangladesh. Immediately after his death, his burial place was designated in a military graveyard in Dhaka, about 300 km from his hometown of Rangpur. In a dramatic turn of events, his supporters forced his family and party to change their decision to bury him in the capital. He was later laid to rest with full state honours at his ancestral home in Rangpur. "Ershad's popularity among his voters indicates that every dictator has an enclave of support. He was a man of means to them," said Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, a teacher of international relations at Dhaka University.

The death of former dictator General Ershad brought down the curtains on a long life reviled by many and revered by his supporters in Bangladesh

Brute force

In his desperate endeavour to hold on to his position, Ershad leveraged the brute force of local ward commissioners, armed hooligans and thugs, according to Mr. Khan. He still remembers the day his classmate showed him a pistol, a new-found weapon given by his friend's "big brother". "Those memories are still deep in my mind and don't help me have a better picture of Ershad," said Mr. Khan, who was then a school student in Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

A former Army chief, Gen. Ershad took over the state power in a bloodless coup in 1982. He declared himself the chief martial law administrator, suspending the Constitution and dissolving Parliament and the Council of Ministers appointed by figurehead President Abdus Sattar. Gen. Ershad ran the country with enormous power until he was forced to step down in a pro-democracy movement in 1990. Sheikh Hasina, the current Prime Minister, and her supporters led the campaign, along with Khaleda Zia, chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), against the man who once seemed unassailable.

Despite being imprisoned subsequently on several charges, Gen. Ershad later emerged as a powerful leader after his Jatiya Party became the country's third largest political outfit. His election-time allegiance to either of the two major political parties – the Awami League and the BNP – was a routine subject of discussion in the media. His last political title was that of the leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

In the days since his fall, he battled a barrage of court cases and moved past all of them but one – the murder of Major General Abul Manzoor in 1981. Ershad, who was the Army chief during the murder of Maj. Gen. Manzoor, pleaded not guilty. "No one is as unfortunate as I am. No one has suffered more than me for my party," Gen. Ershad said at an event in 2018.

Gen. Ershad's legacy has found its way into modern-day politics. "Our leaders should have rejected his legacy. It's unfortunate that the major parties failed to free themselves of the culture he established in Bangladesh. Politics now completely hinges on a structure built with muscle power and mindless hooliganism," Mr. Khan said.

The ruling Awami League brought Ershad into the fold in the final years of his life, just as the BNP used the Jamaat-e-Islami to boost its political fire-power. "This political strategy is devoid of ethics, a culture that disenchanted a whole new generation," Mr. Khan said.

Now, with the political actor's exit from the stage, a question emerges: will his party survive without him? There's uncertainty on the horizon.

In his political career, Gen. Ershad triumphed by his sheer force of personality. His party had never reigned supreme. Mr. Khan says the future of the party depends on whether the new leaders hold financial resources and means to keep the party up and running. The Jatiya Party, as it appears, will flounder in the days to come.

Arun Devnath is a journalist based in Dhaka.

STUTTGART

The captain who riled Europe's far-right

German boat captain Carola Rackete (in picture) has made headlines all over the world in the past few weeks.

Together with a crew of volunteers of her *Sea Watch 3*, the 31-year-old woman rescued 53 refugees from a small dinghy in the Mediterranean in June. Two weeks after that incident, Ms. Rackete's ship, still carrying 40 refugees, defied authorities and docked at a small port in Sicily, Italy. As a result, she was welcomed with handcuffs.

Officially, the captain was arrested for breaking an Italian naval blockade that was trying to stop her from docking the ship at Lampedusa. The ban was initiated by Italy's far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, known for his harsh anti-migration policies and rhetoric.

Shortly after Germany called for the release of the captain, Ms. Rackete was set free by Italian judge Alessandra Vella, who said that she had not broken any law. The judge also pointed out that Ms. Rackete had been carrying out her duty to protect human life. While Ms. Rackete still faces possible charges of helping in illegal immigration, her release was a setback to Mr. Salvini and his supporters.

Nevertheless, the controversy rages on, with one side celebrating Ms. Rackete as a heroine, and the other projecting her as a criminal.

German captain Carola Rackete, who rescued 53 refugees from a small dinghy in the Mediterranean, has been called "a pirate" by far-right leaders

'Dirty political game'

Europe's far-right parties and movements have immediately found a common enemy. Even before Ms. Rackete was arrested, Mr. Salvini had attacked her and NGOs for supporting and rescuing refugees. "We will use every lawful means to stop an outlaw ship which puts dozens of migrants at risk for a dirty political game," Mr. Salvini had said on a Facebook video. He repeatedly attacked Ms. Rackete, calling her a "pirate" and a "criminal German".

After her release, the captain said she would take legal steps against Mr. Salvini. In detail, Ms. Rackete's complaints said that the Minister spread a "message of hatred" and participated in "vilification", "delegitimisation" and "dehumanisation" of refugees. One of Ms. Rackete's aims is to prevent Mr. Salvini from using social media channels like Facebook and Twitter.

"I believe that Carola Rackete did the right thing. She saved the lives of those people while many other European countries ignored the situation. The Mediterranean Sea has become like a wall that regularly kills people," said Maryam Akbari, 29, an office employee from Stuttgart. Ms. Akbari, who has Afghan roots, believes that many people who entered Europe as refugees have a better understanding of the ongoing events than many white Europeans who live in wealth and security.

"Nineteen years ago, I came to Europe with my mother and my siblings. It was a harsh trip, and often we risked our life. I know the situation of refugees from African, Asian or Arab countries very well. Anyone who saves them should be considered a hero in this rotten society," she said.

In the meantime, another refugee and migration debate has emerged in Germany and other European countries. Ms. Rackete herself is participating in this debate. Recently, she stated that Libya was not a safe country and that Europe needs to absorb refugees from there.

Additionally, she demanded the absorption of climate refugees from African countries. "In some African countries, basic food resources are being destroyed. This destruction is caused by industrialised countries in Europe. For that reason, Europe can no longer say 'that we do not want those people'. It's Europe's responsibility to take them," Ms. Rackete said.

It was obvious that such words created anger among certain circles. *Die Welt*, a conservative German daily, described Ms. Rackete's demands as "irresponsible" while far-right politicians like Mr. Salvini described her as a "crazy communist".

However, many continue to express their solidarity with Ms. Rackete. "Many know that her words reflect the truth. But they want to continue their lives in wealth and prosperity. They believe that young men from Libya, Syria or Somalia are going to steal their good lives from them. We have to break this narrative, and Carola Rackete is one of those who can break it," said Maria Farhad, 63, a teacher from Vienna.

Emran Feroz is a journalist based in Stuttgart.

BEIJING

Trade war taking a toll on China's economy

Langfang, the furniture capital of northern China, is facing a hard time. A 25% tariff hike on furniture imported from China by the Trump administration is chipping away at the already shrinking margins and jobs in the city.

Visitors to Langfang's vast showrooms say the crowds of shoppers are thinning out. Pressure on order books has been mounting, especially after May, when the U.S. levied a 25% duty on $200 billion worth of Chinese products.

"There has been an unmistakable impact ever since the U.S. raised tariffs," the *Asian Nikkei Review* quoted Wang, a sales associate in one of the city firms, as saying. Exporters in Langfang say European and South Korean clients had already elbowed out American furniture buyers. But the U.S. numbers have further dropped after the tariff hike.

Some analysts say higher labour and other costs in China had already pushed out some of the manufacturers from Langfang to Vietnam, where production costs are much lower. But alarm bells are ringing louder in the Langfang business circles and elsewhere out of fear that the Trump administration could also clamp down on Chinese exports routed through Hanoi, with a 'Made in Vietnam' label. Earlier this month, the U.S. Commerce Department imposed steep duties on South Korean and Taiwanese steel products that had undergone final processing in Vietnam.

Two other factors have dampened the commercial mood in Langfang, located in Hebei province – the heart of China's coal mining belt and steel industry.

Many private steelmakers in the city have been forced to down their shutters after authorities in Beijing imposed strict pollution controls on factories. But more pain and job losses could follow as the Central government is unhappy with the efforts of the local administration to clean up the water and toxic air, which can easily drift into neighbouring Beijing.

Last month, authorities in the Chinese capital admonished the Mayor of Langfang and his counterparts from five other cities for failing to meet the country's iron laws on pollution. This followed findings by China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment that air quality in the six cities had deteriorated. It attributed the rise in PM2.5 particles to the sluggish efforts by local authorities to enforce the country's anti-pollution norms.

Many observers have been tempted to conclude that the slowdown in the Chinese economy, amply visible in Langfang and elsewhere, is a partial victory for the Trump administration in its trade war with China. The perception that the U.S. has won its first battle in the tariff war is taking root after the Chinese economy grew by 6.3% in the first half of 2019, the slowest in 27 years.

The perception that the U.S. has won the first battle in the trade war is taking root after China's growth hit a 27-year low in the first half of 2019

Natural transition

Soon after the numbers were out, President Donald Trump triumphantly sought to link the slowdown to the trade war by tweeting that the U.S. tariffs were having "a major effect" on China's economy. He laced it with a warning that Washington could impose more pressure on Beijing.

But the hard-nosed Chinese, known for playing the long game, have been unfazed by this attempt to browbeat Beijing into a compromise. In their riposte, they asserted that the slowdown was the result of a natural transition of the Chinese economy as it moves up the value chain.

They pointed out that in tune with the changes in the global industrial landscape, high-end companies were expected to expand in China, while the low-tech industry was likely to move overseas, chasing lower labour costs and other advantages.

"Most of those pulling out are mid- to low-end firms and the impact on China's economic growth, industry upgrading and employment is generally controllable," said Meng Wei, a spokesperson of the National Development and Reform Commission, China's top planning body, at a press conference.

Rejecting the possibility of an industrial exodus from China, she stressed that "it is not easy for companies to relocate, and there are a number of factors to consider, including operating costs, industrial workers, supply chain support, transportation and even manufacturing culture".

Atul Aneja is *The Hindu's* Beijing correspondent.

COLOMBO

Tapping the palmyra to boost the economy

Whether in popular culture or in niche art, the palmyra tree has, for long, been an icon for all things north in Sri Lanka. It is often invoked as a symbol of the "Tamil homeland", a witness to the community's incessant struggle for political rights, the tragedy that befell the people during the years of war and in its gory end, and their endurance since.

After a decade and many futile attempts by the central and provincial governments to revive the war-hit economy, the palmyra tree is standing tall, as it renews hopes of boosting livelihoods in the north and east.

With the palmyra cooperatives taking the lead, its worker-members and marketing experts have come together to jazz up palmyra arrack and toddy in quality and packaging, to make the drinks export-worthy. "It is the first time in some four decades that we're exporting palmyra arrack from northern Sri Lanka," says M. Selvin Ireneus, a member of the Palmyra Development Board, Jaffna.

The palmyra tree is abundant in the north, he says, citing old government records of "about 11 million trees" in the region. While shelling and war-time destruction altered the landscape, the trees that remained have persisted. "But neither the development board nor the palmyra research institute here has done enough to tap the economic potential of this rich natural resource in our midst," Mr. Ireneus adds.

The current efforts to rejuvenate the sector have come as a boost to the palmyra cooperatives. There are 41 across the Northern Province with 12,000 members, all either full-time or seasonal toddy tappers.

Set up in 1972 by then Finance Minister N.M. Perera, a Marxist politician, the move came on the heels of an anti-caste struggle in the north, in which activists, including from the Communist Party, agitated for temple entry and equal rights. "The cooperatives challenged the Vellalar caste dominance of the trade and gave control to the members, who had to be toddy tappers," says Ahilan Kadirgamar, a senior lecturer at Jaffna University.

After functioning intermittently during the war, the cooperatives are on revival mode now. According to P. Selvarajah, general manager of the Federation of Palmyra Cooperatives, the immediate focus is on upgrading the three distilleries and replacing old machinery to scale up production.

This is where the government's belated but significant budgetary allocation to the sector has come in handy. Amid mounting protests by residents of the north and east over rising household debt, often induced by predatory microfinance loans, the Ministry of Finance in 2018 allocated LKR 1 billion for small industries and cooperatives, with an additional LKR 40 million exclusively for palmyra cooperatives. This year, over the LKR 750 million allocated for the sector, the government has pumped in another LKR 100 million into the palmyra industry, as per official data.

While welcoming the funds, Mr. Selvarajah points to the challenges. "What we lack is the technical knowhow to enhance production methods and quality. If the government can help us acquire that through training, then we can put all this money to even better use."

Palmyra cooperatives in the north and east are trying to jazz up palmyra arrack and toddy in quality and packaging, to make the drinks export-worthy

Hidden treasure

The palmyra is a "hidden treasure", says Suganthan Shanmuganathan who returned to Jaffna in 2014, after 25 years in Canada. An engineer with experience in business, Mr. Shanmuganathan, who fled Jaffna during the war, is sourcing modern bottles and labels for the cooperatives.

"If we can raise the quality of palmyra liquor and the packaging, there is an eager export market." His company is already exporting to Canada, France and Australia and is about to add England to the list. It is not just old arrack in a new bottle, but a host of allied products, including padaneer (the sap, considered a healthy drink), toddy, palmyra jaggery, mats and baskets that are in line for export.

However, Mr. Sevarajah, of the cooperatives' federation, doubts if the next generation would take to climbing trees and tapping toddy - which is hard and risky labour. "Our children are studying to become doctors and engineers. But for the previous generation of tappers, this was the primary source of survival. The recent efforts have motivated our members after a long time," he says.

Meera Srinivasan is *The Hindu's* Colombo correspondent.

DELHI THE HINDU Magazine
Sunday, July 21, 2019

V.V. KRISHNAN & R.V. MOORTHY

Sumit Sharan, 31

Oyster mushroom farmer

Abhishek Mishra, 35

Founder, Tabono Sports & Events

CHOICES

Man on a *mission*

The millennial man is chucking the rat race to go looking for meaning in life. In the process, he is redefining malehood and the breadwinner role

SUNALINI MATHEW

Anand Chowdhary, 21, is on the millennial cusp. He established a company in 2014 while still in school, and then moved to Finland after Class XII to pursue a degree in design technology, while continuing to work in his start-up. "Over the last 30 years, work has become a larger part of life," he says. So, it's important to "do what you like to do versus just a job." Chowdhary likes to travel and is happy to spend on it. "Our generation doesn't have savings, we don't own homes, and we live in the moment." He says a lot of his friends live and work out of their parents' homes, and, "It doesn't matter that they don't bring significant money in; it's about doing what makes you happy."

In 2013, *Time* magazine ran a cover article that said: "The Me Me Me Generation: Millennials are lazy, entitled narcissists, who still live with their parents; why they'll save us all." The article summarised the generation as people who are growing up with tech and abundance, have high self-esteem to the point of being cocky about their place in the world, and measure their success "with 'friend' and 'follower' tallies that serve as sales figures".

The article didn't make a difference between men and women, but Sujata Sriram, a professor at the School of Human Ecology, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, says there is. "Millennial women are performing better and better at both school and college, and if you look at the toppers, they are often women," she says. So while more women are taking on corporate jobs, and choosing the swipe-in-swipe-out system, horrible bosses and traditional 'secure' workplaces, men, who have always had more choices, are opting out, supported by their families in their decision.

Building the business

Take Sumit Sharan, 31, who worked with Airbnb and quit to grow oyster mushrooms at a farm on the outskirts of Gurugram. He has always been a bit of an entrepreneur, starting a solar energy plant right after college. And he has always had the support of his parents and doctor wife (he wasn't married when he began the venture) and his parents. Right now, he's building the business, talking to chefs, stabilising output, and speaking to customers, "looking for a sweet spot between people appreciating what I'm

doing and giving me the price I want." The burden of expectation on men seems to have gone down, at least in some parts of urban, upper-middle-class society.

In that sense, the millennial man is quite unlike his father, even if you put aside cultural crutches like bean bags, tech toys and coffee shops. For starters, he doesn't resent his father, because he's not rebelling. In fact, he's almost sympathetic towards him: parenting is about "paying to have another human being grow up; and then you die," as Chowdhary puts it, talking of the linear graduate-work-marry-children life that his parents' generation followed.

It's a reshaping of opportunity, feels Anjali Raina, Executive Director, Harvard Business School India Research Centre. She believes the change is gender agnostic, with a wider safety net today.

"People are willing to hire you again if you fail. There's no social stigma in changing jobs," she says.

Sriram disagrees, however, saying androgyny, when it comes to work, is more acceptable coming from men. She also sees the phenomenon of men moving out of high-paying MBA-centric jobs and into more flexible options as a good thing for women. "It is increasing the market value of that job," she says. Women have been 'steered' towards part-time and freelance work, or options that offered 'easier' work hours (education, therapy, NGOs), so that they could care for families on their next shift; but it's also true that these jobs paid much less. This move that men are making, she hopes, will increase salaries in jobs that were traditionally held by women.

In a sense then, there is a redefinition of malehood, a relinquishing of the power that comes from being the breadwinner. There has to be, says Harjant Gill, a documentary filmmaker and Associate Professor of Anthropology at Towson University, Maryland. He's studied populations in Punjab and says that the lack of jobs is a major factor in this shift in attitude. Also affecting the sense of manhood is upward class mobility, where "being a bureaucrat, the epitome of masculinity, available to only a few castes and classes," is no longer the 'gold standard'. Now, there are more opportunities.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anand Chowdhary, 21
Student and founder of Oslo Labs, Finland

21st century skills

Tarang Tripathi, 26, is a part of this shift. He originally thought of going abroad for higher studies after a degree from Hindu College in Delhi. Both his parents, at the time media professionals who had reached senior positions in their companies, supported him. Before he left, however, he thought he would do a fellowship with Teach For India. "I thought it would look good on my CV," he says frankly. After that stint, however, he decided not to go overseas after all.

Finding a gap in the existing school curriculum, he piloted an organisation called Awaaz under the Teach For India mentorship (a word and concept millennials love). His organisation imparts what are called 21st-century skills (critical thinking, problem solving, public speaking) to students, both in government and private schools.

When I quit my job, my father didn't ask me what my plan was; he asked me what people would say. The risk appetite was zero in their generation

Tarang, who lives with his parents, says he wouldn't have it any other way. "I'm extremely active. I have classes all over the city, and it never gets boring," he says, echoing the thoughts of the generation. "It gives me an opportunity to do things I like." Today, he and his co-founder employ 10 people, five full-time and five part-time. "Everybody does everything," he says, in a sense overturning generations of class and role superiority.

He derives the most pleasure when he sees an immediate response to his work, with children as young as 8 or 10. "They have a deep understanding of things, even of ideas like caste. They just need the right environment to express themselves," he says.

This desire and ability to carry a project from start to finish is unique to this generation – they don't see themselves as part of an assembly line, but as people changing the world, a little at a time. In a sense, it's

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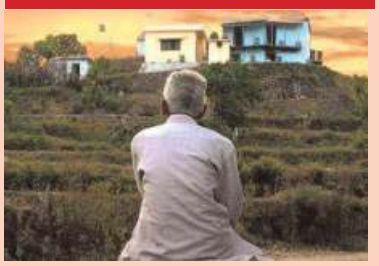
CREDITS



Moti Bagh

NIRMAL CHANDER, 59 MIN

This award-winning documentary about a man who quit his government job more than 50 years ago to take up farming is both a portrait of a survivor and a study of conditions in rural Uttarakhand — rising aspirations leading to a declining interest in agriculture, locals moving away and discrimination against migrant workers who try to fill the gap.

The Trans Women Athlete Dispute

BEN RUMNEY, 58 MIN

Martina Navratilova had courted controversy earlier by saying that allowing trans athletes to compete in professional sport was "insane", but presenting this BBC documentary — in which she speaks to trans athletes and scientists — seems to have changed her opinion; she concludes that trans women should be included at all levels of sport.

Seadrift

TIM TSAI, 68 MIN

In 1979, in the fishing village of Seadrift, Texas, a refugee Vietnamese fisherman shot a local white fisherman to death, after communal hostility had escalated over the past couple of years. The Ku Klux Klan responded to the murder with a campaign of violence. This documentary brings to light a microcosm of issues that are ever more relevant today.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tarang Tripathi, 26
Founder, Awaaz

Man on a mission

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

a new start-up culture of moving fast, but being careful not to break things. "Success is about having an impact," Tarang says, adding that it's about being socially and economically responsible. Emotional intelligence and ethics are not concepts that were commonly articulated by men of previous generations.

This need both validates and veers from the findings of the Deloitte Global Millennial Survey 2019, which finds that the biggest driver for millennials (born between January 1983 and December 1994) and Gen Zs (born between January 1995 and December 2002) is to travel the world, with 57% aspiring to this, while the second is the need to be wealthy (52% millennials, 56% Gen Zs).

Living the life

This might be why they're okay with opting out of the rat race of the previous generation, which continues with its stressful demanding jobs, with pollution and commuting adding to ill-health. Abhishek Mishra, 35, who graduated with an engineering degree, went on to do his MBA and work for several years, until at 29, he decided to quit and start a company that specialises in taking running to small-town India.

His father was a government employee, and Mishra, from Varanasi, didn't have the English-as-native-language advantage or parents who understood what he was doing. "When I quit my job, my father didn't ask me what my plan was; he asked me what people would say," says Mishra, understanding of where his father was coming from. "The risk appetite was zero in their generation. Once you know *why* you're living, you'll find out *how* to live. They didn't know why they were living."

There is a definite shift from respectability to respect, and Mishra feels it's about knowing yourself better first, and then following a path – respect will follow. He talks of the son of the *pujari* from his family temple who moved to Gurugram, learnt Chinese, and is now on a path very different from what his father would have imagined.

He remembers how he took to running at a time when the country's top business heads were passionately doing marathon after marathon. He began to meet them informally, at the start and finish lines, and soon realised that his passion and profession could intersect.

Dominating ideas

A study by Michael Baas and Julien Cayla, published earlier this year in *Consumption Markets & Culture*,

He talks of the son of the *pujari* from his family temple who moved to Gurugram, learnt Chinese, and is now on a path very different from what his father would have imagined

recorded interviews of 85 new-service professions (baristas, gym trainers), about 70% of these of men. They found that even in lower socio-economic classes, the idea of speed, of fast progression, dominated. "I remember this interview with a barista, who talked about how his brother was a driver and had a stable job. But it came with the idea of being stuck. It felt like he wanted to be in a profession that followed India's idea of progression," says Cayla. Ironically, it mirrors what Tarang, who comes from a relatively privileged family set-up, says – of wanting to see results immediately.

As men follow their dreams, connect with their passions, and look at transforming themselves and their realities, women still have fewer choices, people still expect more from them, mobility remains an issue, and financial decisions are still not in their hands. "There is a tacit barrier," says Sairee Chahal, CEO of Sheroes, a community platform for women. Even in the most well-to-do, liberal homes, women "should do things that are containable, that don't impact marriage choices; the degree of audacity must be low," she says. But within the marriage, things are changing, and relationships are being co-managed, with women abandoning permission-seeking behaviours, even in small towns.

Is the millennial man stuck in Guyland, refusing to grow up, or is he really transitioning to work fluidity? We'll only know a few generations on.

LUSTRE

Romancing the *green stone*

An Indian museum might soon get the world's largest emerald ever, weighing 1.1 kg and costing over a $100 million

RITIKA KOCHHAR

Everyone is talking about Choksi, Modi, and so on, but no one remembers that 4.5 million Indians are employed in the gem and jewellery industry," says Rishabh Tongya, the young creative director of luxury jewellery brand Diacolor.

He plans to change this by offering the Inkalamu – a 5,655 carat or 1.1 kg emerald – to an Indian museum. Inkalamu or 'the lion' in Zambia's Bema language, is possibly one of the largest gemstones ever found, and while Tongya won't reveal the exact price offered for it at the auction in Singapore last September, experts peg the cost at around $50 million, making it one of the most expensive gemstones in the world.

In 2017, Diacolor bought an even bigger emerald, called Insofu or 'baby elephant', that weighed 6,100 carats. Both stones were found in Zambia's Kagem mines, albeit nine years apart, by Gemfields, a U.K.-based mining, processing and marketing company.

But are these really among the largest uncut emeralds the world has seen? Tongya and Gopal Kumar, Director of Gemfields India, refuse to confirm this, choosing to talk instead about the clarity and quality of the stones.

The Kagem mines are relatively young, but emeralds go back to the age of Cleopatra of Egypt. She was known to love emeralds and the Cleopatra emerald mines, dating back to 2000-1200 BC, were some of the earliest known mines. The emeralds from these mines had healing and spiritual properties ascribed to them, including the ability to prevent epileptic seizures, cure dysentery, drive away evil spirits, and preserve chastity!

Many virtues and healing properties were ascribed to emeralds, including the ability to prevent seizures, cure dysentery, and preserve the chastity of the wearer

In fact, unlike rubies, diamonds and sapphires, emeralds are fairly uncommon. "The rich green colour is created by small amounts of chromium or vanadium embedded within the crystalline lattice of the stones, and chromium is fairly rare," explains gemmologist Amit Kapoor. Small quantities used to be found in Rajasthan, but Kapoor says they're now mined out.

Rarest and finest

The Panjshir mines in Afghanistan once had the rarest and finest emerald stones. And in Russia, an emerald weighing more than 1.5 kg was found in the Malyshevsky field last year.

But the world's finest emeralds originate in Colombia, specifically the Muzo mine, and it is from here that their association with cruelty begins, as well as their link to the greatest gemstone lovers in history – the Mughals.

The Incas had always used emeralds, but when the Spanish reached Peru and Mexico in the 16th century and saw the brilliant green stones, less than 10 years later they had started developing and exploiting the mines in incredibly cruel conditions.

And it was from the Spaniards that the Portuguese bought the exquisite Colombian emeralds that they presented to the Mughals in return for trading rights.

Precious find (Clockwise from top) The Inkalamu from Zambia; an emerald mined in Colombia; and the world-famous Patricia Emerald with a gun's silhouette embedded in it. GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The most famous emerald in the world today is the Patricia Emerald from Colombia's Chivor mines. This 632-carat rare bi-hexagonal uncut stone resides in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and has the silhouette of what looks like a gun embedded in it, a subtle reminder of the link between gems and drug wars in Colombia.

There's also a strong connection between emeralds and India. Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II of Jaipur invited craftsmen to the city in 1728 to help develop it as a trading centre. Today, most of the world's coloured gemstone cutting and polishing happens in Jaipur. Overall, around nine of every 10 rough emeralds from Zambia and Brazil are cut and polished in India, and it's this statistic that Zambia would like to change. The Zambian High Commissioner, Judith K.K. Kan'goma Kapijimpanga, says she would like Zambia to become a polishing centre instead of just a raw material provider. Gems and jewellery is the second largest foreign exchange earner for India, while Zambia says it loses billions to foreign miners.

Interestingly, Zambia has a policy India could learn from. Mining companies like Gemfields have to contribute a percentage of their auction proceeds to conservation efforts. In the case of the Inkalamu emerald, the partner was the Zambian Carnivore Programme, which looks at conserving large carnivores and their ecosystems.

Meanwhile, Diacolor hasn't decided yet which museum will get the Inkalamu. So watch this space.

The writer, the author of a fantasy series, specialises in the art and culture of Southeast Asia.

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DRAMA DOCU

A holy place I can't visit

An unusual documentary film traces the making of a play — *Chandala: The Impure,* which weaves caste politics into *Romeo and Juliet*

NAMRATA JOSHI

Love struggles to survive as Jack and Janani are trapped in different worlds — Ambedkar Colony and Vaishnav Nagar — that can't be brought together

Koumarane Valavane's play *Chandala: The Impure* is a radical reinterpretation of *Romeo and Juliet,* which moves away from the family rivalry trope and instead places it at the intersection of caste and gender politics. Pankaj Rishi Kumar's documentary *Janani's Juliet* is equally significant in taking us backstage to show how director Valavane and his Puducherry-based theatre group Indianostrum introspect on, respond to, negotiate and weave these faultlines into the original. The film deconstructs, so to speak, Valavane's own deconstruction of Shakespeare, and makes us privy to how a critical play of our times has evolved and taken shape.

Kumar's camera follows and documents the "device process" that Valavane works with. "There is no script but a lot of improvisation in his plays," says Kumar; it comes together from an outline of the story and lots of conversations and discussions. It's a democratic, participative process where everyone pitches in with ideas and contributes to the emerging performance. In the film, Valavane talks about the original not being sacrosanct, about questioning it; changing, deleting and adding to it.

The filmmaker's camera is intimate but not intrusive – seemingly a silent fly on the wall. However, Kumar was deeply involved and engaged when it came to the rehearsals. "I had complete access. I participated in the group discussions as though I was one of the actors. I would ask all possible questions. I participated in the theatre exercises. It wasn't about flying in and out but being a part of the process," he says.

Kumar shot the film over 75-odd days from June to September last year. They still hadn't finished work on the play when he finished shooting. Incidentally, *Chandala* had its international première at the Festival des Francophonies en Limousin last September. In India, it premièred at the Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival in Bengaluru late last year, and was also staged at the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards and Festival in New Delhi earlier this year.

What's love?

It's fascinating to see the thinking that the group's members are going through. For instance, while handling the caste issues, it's the centrality that the play eventually accords to Janani (Juliet) that sets things apart. The three actors working on the lead role find it strange that not much is spelt out about her in the original. What is it for her to love Romeo? Is love a look? Or does a touch inspire love?

Somewhere along the way they begin to be drawn heavily towards the story of the real-life Tamil couple Shankar and Kausalya, and how Shankar was the victim of an honour killing in 2016. They eventually speak to Kausalya on the phone.

Kausalya's life inspires Janani's within the play, with many real-life incidents such as her parents demanding that she return everything they gave her, down to the clothes on her back. Despite being a privileged Brahmin girl, she faces patriarchal restrictions. No short hair, no playing the drums.

Kumar and Valavane met and interviewed her on August 19 last year. "We were overwhelmed by the interview," Kumar says; it was something they wanted to share with the team. Kausalya became the

Radical Stills from *Janani's Juliet*.

starting point for Kumar's editing as well. "My interpretation is nothing but Kausalya's story," he says. It wasn't difficult to edit the 120-odd hours of footage into a 52-minute documentary. "I knew exactly what I wanted. It was one of the easiest edits, effortless. The film was in place in a week."

Two worlds

Love struggles to survive in real life. Jack and Janani are trapped in different worlds – Ambedkar Colony and Vaishnav Nagar – that can't be brought together. "Your hand feels like a holy place I can't visit," Jack tells Janani, kissing her hand in a movie hall. The hall, which has traditionally granted privacy to many couples, remains a divided space for them. Despite paying for a first-class ticket, Jack is shown sitting at a lower level.

Kausalya's interviews are interspersed through the documentary, played back to the actors. Her related experiences punctuate the action. How, when she was in Class VII, her parents discouraged her from talking to a lower-caste friend. How she was told not to walk fast, to walk soundlessly, how music and dance were forbidden. "Purity of caste is dependent on a woman's behaviour," she says.

But she could play the drums in Shankar's house. "I got freedom, of being myself," she says. It makes the actors dwell on the transformative power of love.

Kausalya is now a social activist working on caste issues. How do I end my play, wonders Valavane. "I wouldn't die for love," says one of the actors playing Janani. The consensus of the actors is that she shouldn't die. There has to be an alternative for her. It's about carrying on without Romeo. Says Kumar: "That's why the title is *Janani's Juliet*."

Kausalya was told to walk slowly and soundlessly; music and dance were forbidden. "Purity of caste is dependent on a woman's behaviour"

BINGE WATCH

All about mom

Big Little Lies is a masterclass on the traumas of motherhood

By the time you read this, HBO's *Big Little Lies* (streaming in India on Hotstar Premium), by any standards one of the most remarkable TV shows of recent times, will be just hours away from the final episode. Based on Liane Moriarty's 2014 novel of the same name, the show brought together an ensemble cast including Reese Witherspoon, Nicole Kidman, Laura Dern and now Meryl Streep in the ongoing second season. The narrative follows the fortunes of the so-called Monterey Five, five women connected by a death that they all allegedly witnessed. Beyond its acerbic humour and its thoughtful critique of American suburbia, *Big Little Lies* gave us a masterclass in depicting trauma, sexual violence and intimate partner violence, among other things.

The second season does a wonderful job of showing us the perpetual scrutiny mothers (especially young mothers) are subjected to. In the very first episode, Madeline (Witherspoon) remarks that the first day of a new school session meant having to "earn our 'good mother' tags" all over again. It's worth noting that according to almost every other character, Madeline is, if anything, a little too involved in her child's school.

Single and on trial

The first season saw Jane (Shailene Woodley) battling a group of angry parents after her son Ziggy was accused of bullying one of his classmates – yes, the parents were angry on their kids' behalf, but they chose to highlight Jane's status as a young, single mother. Her youth and singlehood are both seen as proof of her incompetence as a mother – because mothers are supposed to be asexual creatures, young (but not too young) or old (but not too old).

In the ongoing second season, we see Celeste (Kidman) fighting a custody battle for her twins because her scheming, old-fashioned mother-in-law Mary Louise (Streep) feels she's not a good enough mother. Every aspect of her personal life (sleep medication, therapy, one-night stands) is brought up loudly and persistently in court. Everything is fair game for the world to dissect. In a masterstroke, HBO even hired a famous TV mom to play the family court judge here (Becky Ann Baker from *Freaks and Geeks* and *Girls*), amplifying the motherhood-on-trial angle. "I am a good mother, all this has nothing to do with my capability as a parent," Celeste keeps insisting, but nobody has any intention of seeing her as a person. Strictly speaking, the mother is not corporeal.

Bunker mentality

This idea, of mothers being omnipresent, incorporeal entities – essentially empathetic voices – is explored in an impressive way by the recent Netflix movie *I Am Mother*, a post-apocalyptic thriller starring Hilary Swank and Clara Rugaard. The movie is set in a wasteland where, after a massive extinction event, a robot named Mother grows an embryo and comes to care for the girl, referred to only as Daughter (Rugaard).

Mother, tasked with repopulating the earth, raises the child in a hermetically sealed bunker designed for surviving a war-ravaged landscape. Soon, Daughter starts asking Mother why she can't ever venture out. Mother's response is a familiar one: which mother would risk her child's life for a few, fun-filled outdoor hours? An even more interesting moment happens when Daughter asks why the robot hasn't developed more embryos. Mother says she needs time in order to be a better parent. "Mothers need time to learn," she says.

Her youth and singlehood are seen as proof of her incompetence as a mother — mothers are supposed to be asexual creatures, young (but not too young) or old (but not too old)

A robot is the source of these insights on motherhood – *I Am Mother* does a fair bit with this conceit. What's even more impressive is the way it plays with the idea of 'competitive motherhood' – in the Monterey of *Big Little Lies*, it's a plague, especially if you're the long-suffering school principal.

In a post-apocalyptic wasteland, however, it's precisely what a robot mommy is shooting for. Failure, after all, means having to start humanity all over again.

For real-life young mothers, however, both narratives will sound all too familiar, our judgmental world's engines humming along as soundtrack.

Aditya Mani Jha, a writer and journalist, is working on his first book of non-fiction

SPOTLIGHT

The language of the night

Soham Gupta's haunting photographs of Kolkata went to the Venice Biennale this year

RUSHATI MUKHERJEE

Starkness (Above) Soham Gupta's photos at Venice Biennale; photos from *Angst*; (below) Gupta. FRANCESCO GALLI/ LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA, SOHAM GUPTA & RUSHATI MUKHERJEE

When Soham Gupta, 31, first received the email inviting him to be a part of the 2019 Venice Biennale, he assumed it was a hoax. Perhaps that fits the Kolkata-based photographer's personality: quiet, reserved, a little socially awkward, but belying that is the mind behind the haunting series of photographs titled *Angst* that was exhibited at the Biennale.

The series, invited by curator Ralph Rugoff, the director of London's Hayward Gallery, is reminiscent of Francisco Goya's Black Paintings, and was developed over eight years. It began in 2011 as an aimless series of pictures taken under the Howrah Bridge, and solidified into a project with a specific goal around 2013, after a workshop with French photographer Antoine d'Agata: "A series of psychoanalysis and soul-searching led me to *Angst* when I returned home," says Gupta.

Taken in black and white as well as bleached colours of a startling starkness, the project has expanded in scope to include not only large-scale exhibitions but also a photobook, whose first edition was published last year.

Gupta read comparative literature at Jadavpur University before dropping out, hinting at the literary bent that's clearly visible in his works, especially in the text that accompanies the images. The novel *Last Exit to Brooklyn* affected him deeply with its portrayal of the human condition; "the decay of the characters in a city," as he says. Other influences are more obvious: the picture of a man called Raju from the *Angst* series, his mouth gaping open and face covered in some sort of powdered drug, immediately recalls Goya's *Saturn Devouring His Son*.

Bleached white

There is a certain quality to the collection that makes it hard to look at the images for too long. Perhaps it's the closeness of the subjects, the harshness of the lighting or the unflinching corporeality of the bodies portrayed. He attributes his bleached-white choice of colour to the visual nature of the city: "Calcutta is a colourful city, but I don't see colour anywhere I go, I only see dust." Fiction and reality merge and overlap in his works: he creates a fiction out of reality, creating an idiom of his own. "Instead of simply photographing the city, this time I focused on a specific language; the language of the night."

In 2018, Gupta won a place in the *British Journal of Photography's* 'Ones To Watch: The Talent Issue', along with 15 others from across the world, and his book was shortlisted for the Photo and Text Book Award at Les Rencontres d'Arles and the Paris Photo-Aperture Foundation First Photobook Award.

The day we meet, he is giving a talk on his Biennale exhibition at the Kolkata Centre for Creativity. He says he liked watching people looking at his images in Venice, and noting their reactions: "I saw some of them weeping," he says. This he takes as an achievement, believing that the role of the artist is to shock the viewer out of complacency. "I like to make people uncomfortable with my pictures." In India, his work has made people angry, as happens at the Q&A after the talk. Two angry men question him for portraying India in a 'bad' light.

For someone whose eye turns again and again to the harshness and beauty of the streets, what does Gupta think about the ethics of viewing uncomfortable art in comfortable spaces? "But this is exactly where I want

These places are where I want my photographs to be seen, because they are subversive. I want to provoke a reaction among these people who wear Chanel No. 5

SCANNER

Skin: The Finer Nuances

An exhibition themed around human skin, in the context of race but also its "personal and erotic aspects," is on at Delhi's Threshold Art Gallery until August 20 and features works including a sculpture by Mithu Sen and photographs by Shibu Arakkal and Baptist Coelho.

Trucks of Art

New York City's Department of Sanitation has added five new trucks to its fleet — trucks hand-painted by artists, that is. The five final designs were selected from among more than 100 entries submitted for the 'Trucks of Art' project.

to make people uncomfortable," he says. "These places are where I want my photographs to be seen, because they are subversive. I want to provoke a reaction among these people who wear Chanel No. 5".

Venice vs. Calcutta

Venice will never be seen in his photographs. It lacks the complexity of nightlife that one finds in Calcutta, he says. "I want them to see this, especially in times like now. When you see the city being polished and gentrified, almost cleansed, I feel strange because people are made to move away. The places I have shown, with people, they have been shooed away from there."

The images in *Angst* are not spontaneous. Gupta spent hours getting to know the people, sharing cigarettes and meals with them, listening to their stories, and then he asked them to pose with objects he found lying around at the locations. His subjects chose how they would pose, deciding how they wanted to be captured, thus effectively telling their own stories with Gupta as the medium. He stays in touch with them even now.

Gupta's works have never been sold. Does he want them to? "To museums, yes. I will be gone in some time, and I want my work to survive."

And if he ever makes money, he would like to open an NGO for the mentally ill on the streets. "As of now, I can only be a messenger. Nothing else is possible."

The writer is a journalist, poet, blogger and translator from Kolkata.

POP-A-RAZZI

Jai Shri Ram, or else

Rallying cry, dig at Didi, weapon of the lynch mob. The slogan has done very well in Bengal

The day after the election results came out, a friend said that an excited woman on the treadmill next to her in a gym in Kolkata started pumping her fists in the air and shouting *Jai Shri Ram*. "Oh, I remember a woman in my gym gleefully greeting trainers with *Jai Shri Ram*," I said. In the wake of the elections, *Jai Shri Ram* has been getting quite the workout in these parts.

It's true that as a religious slogan it's a bit of a cultural immigrant in Bengal. Whenever we set out on a journey, our mothers and grandmothers would say *Dugga Dugga*, invoking Ma Durga's blessings. Rama didn't feature much. Even the BJP gets that. It has said that it will also use *Jai Ma Kali* among its slogan offerings in Bengal.

But as a political tool, *Jai Shri Ram* has worked extraordinarily well. Thanks in part to Mamata Banerjee herself. When Didi grossly over-reacted to youths taunting her with the slogan, she gifted the BJP a dream weapon. They understood they had found a way to get under her skin. BJP leaders chanted it at every rally, daring Didi to arrest them. The BJP said it would send her 10 lakh postcards with *Jai Shri Ram* written on them.

Now, *Jai Shri Ram* has become not just a rallying cry for the faithful or a slogan of resistance, but also the cry of the lynch mob. While the Prime Minister asked us to help fulfil the dream of a safe, modern and inclusive nation, a 20-year-old madrasa teacher was allegedly punched, kicked and pushed off a Kolkata local train for refusing to chant *Jai Shri Ram*. A 24-year-old man suspected of stealing a motorcycle in Jharkhand was tied to a pole and beaten, and in a video that went viral, he was seen being forced to chant *Jai Shri Ram* and *Jai Hanuman*. He died of his injuries. Members of a little-known right wing organisation uploaded a video of themselves stopping an autoricksaw in Barpeta, Assam, and forcing the Muslim occupants to shout *Jai Shri Ram*, *Bharat Mata ki Jai* and *Pakistan Murdabad*. A youth in a skull cap in Gurugram, a doctor in Pune, a cleric in Rohini in Delhi, they have all claimed harassment *Ram ke naam*.

Kali Raja Ravi Varma. WIKI COMMONS

I hear it all the time these days everywhere from my local market to my gym in Kolkata. The vegetable sellers *Jai Shri Ram* each other as if doing a high five

Alleged attacks

On the other hand, the BJP says the West Bengal Police shot at three of its supporters in Bankura, including a 14-year-old boy, for chanting *Jai Shri Ram*. They also allege that a 43-year-old party supporter was strangled by Trinamool Congress workers in Howrah district for chanting the slogan, though Trinamool denies it.

The Prime Minister has said he's pained. Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi says there is nothing communal about the slogan and Rama is a part of Indian culture. That's not the point. The issue is whether I get to hector, harass and beat up someone who does not chant *Jai Shri Ram*.

That Rama, the most righteous of our heroes, the likely winner of any mythological Good Conduct Medal contest, can be brandished as a bully's truncheon is ironic to say the least. But the weaponisation of *Jai Shri Ram* did not start with Banerjee confronting slogan-shouters in Midnapore.

Out of the wilderness

When L. K. Advani kicked off his Rath Yatra at the Somnath Temple in Gujarat in 1990, it happened amidst ear-splitting chants of *Jai Shri Ram*. It was a political slogan for a party seeking to come out of the wilderness and it worked. In 1992, Babri Masjid fell and *Jai Shri Ram* became the slogan for victory, a way to knit Hindus together into a voting bloc. Now that the BJP has achieved a thumping majority, the victory slogan has morphed into a weapon, a bludgeon to show minorities their place in new India.

Banerjee wants to counter the resurgent *Jai Shri Ram* in Bengal with billboards of Bengali icons proclaiming *Joy Bangla*, a face-off between Hindutva and Bengalitva as it were. Whether it will work remains to be seen. The slogan has crossed the blood-brain barrier from politics to pop culture. I hear it all the time these days everywhere from my local market to my gym in Kolkata, not just as a war cry in a pumped-up BJP rally. The vegetable sellers *Jai Shri Ram* each other as if doing a high five. Thanks to Banerjee's shrill opposition, it's acquired a cultural life of its own, a mocking taunt, a dare, a sly poke in the ribs, a new code word for comeuppance.

Once we had the politics of Aya Ram and Gaya Ram. Welcome to the age of *Jai Shri Ram*. As my mother would say, *Dugga Dugga*.

Sandip Roy is the author of *Don't Let Him Know*, and like many Bengalis likes to let everyone know about his opinions whether asked or not.

Olafur Eliasson: In Real Life

A retrospective of the artist's career, with around 40 sculptures and installations, is on show at Tate Modern until January 5. Eliasson's interests range from geometry to natural phenomena; one installation is an 11-metre high waterfall made from scaffolding.

Nicholas Roerich

The Indian Museum in Kolkata will host an exhibition of the Russian painter's works this August. The works on display will mostly come from Allahabad Museum's collection of the landscapes that Roerich painted during his expedition to Central Asia in the 1920s.

Colossal A view of Vellore Fort; (below) the entrance to the ammunition dump; (facing page, from top) the memorial in a traffic island; and the flagstone where the mutineers hoisted the Mysore flag. UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

RUBRIC

John Company's bloody lesson

A little over 200 years ago, soldiers at Vellore Fort staged India's very first uprising against the British, but the city and the country have long forgotten it

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

The fort in Vellore dwarfs everything else in the city like a massive man o' war in a small bay. I spent two days exploring it, and marvelled at its vastness, the solidity of its construction and the durability of some of the buildings within, such as the surprisingly well-preserved ammunition dump and jail.

Built by chieftains of the Vijayanagara Empire in 1566, Vellore's fort was designed to hold out indefinitely, as a British garrison did for two years against Hyder Ali before the latter gave up and lifted his siege. Following Tipu Sultan's defeat and death at the battle of Srirangapatna in 1799, his large family and their massive retinue were relocated there.

Vellore Fort is best known for the brief but violent mutiny there in 1806 by the East India Company's sepoys. It was no freedom struggle. Rather, as three inquiries revealed, it was a violently emotional reaction to a move that hurt the religious sentiments of Hindu and Muslim sepoys in British pay.

The mutineers killed over 100 unsuspecting British soldiers and their families, most of them in their sleep

If Sir John Cradock, the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, had not insisted that the sepoys exchange their turbans for round hats, compelled them to shave off their moustaches and beards, and barred them from wearing caste marks and ornaments, the mutiny would never have happened. It was a direct result of Cradock's obduracy and the pusillanimity of the Governor of Madras, Lord William Bentinck, who, against better advice, supported him.

Cassandra truth

The Auditor-General of the British army at Madras, Colonel Brunton, had sent a letter well before the mutiny, warning Cradock that "many things of serious moment have originated in trifles," and advising him to redress the grievances of the sepoys, considering that "native troops" were "absolutely and indispensably necessary". His warning went unheeded.

The mutiny was savage and brief. Starting in the wee hours of July 10, 1806, it went on until just past 2 p.m. of the same day. The mutineers killed over 100 unsuspecting British soldiers and their families, most of them in their sleep. This included Colonel Fancourt, the commander of the fort, who had actually stood by the sepoys in their opposition to Cradock's orders.

Writer and Tamil scholar Theodore Baskaran showed me around the cemetery at Vellore's Central Church where, unknown to most, Colonel Fancourt is buried along with two lieutenants, four corporals, a drummer and 70 privates, all of whom were killed by the mutineers. Of the Indian dead I could find no trace.

Early in their uprising, the sepoys cleaned out the paymaster's treasury, and soon after raided the munitions depot, leaving them in control of the formidable fort. The rebels could have held out much longer had they not gone on a looting spree and got drunk on a large cache of arrack they happened upon, while failing to firmly secure the fort's entrances or man its ramparts. All this enabled the few surviving British soldiers to regroup and position themselves strategically, enabling a relief force from nearby Arcot led by Rollo Gillespie to easily break into the fort and regain control.

A bloody reprisal followed, with Gillespie and his men killing over 600 of the mutineers, including 100 who were lined up and summarily shot against one of the walls of the fort. A subsequent court martial resulted in the execution of 19 ringleaders of the mutiny, five or six of whom were blown from the mouths of cannons. Although the mutineers raised the flag of Mysore in the fort, investigations failed to establish any involvement of Tipu's family in the bloody event.

As an uprising, the mutiny was brief and confined to Vellore Fort. However, it had far-reaching administrative and military implications reaching into our times. Cradock and Bentinck were sacked and recalled. The British began to reorganise their largely Indian army

A subsequent court martial resulted in the execution of 19 ringleaders of the mutiny, five or six of whom were blown from the mouths of cannons

on more humane lines, while bringing in a degree of professionalism and regimental pride in the soldiers.

Imperial academies

At the time, the British were in the early stages of appreciating that administering an India with a rich and complex civilisation and culture of its own required a depth of understanding beyond what they then possessed. A few months before the Vellore mutiny, the East India Company College had been established in Haileybury to train administrators for India, drawing its faculty from the best that Oxford and Cambridge had to offer. Indian languages like Hindustani, Telugu, Bengali and Marathi were taught there in addition to Persian. Three years after the mutiny the East India Company Military Seminary was opened in Addiscombe to train military officers for service in India. Clearly, patronage was giving way to merit in selecting administrators and soldiers for their prized domain.

Strangely, the British did not heed the warning of the Vellore revolt, repeating their mistake half a century later to devastating effect, sparking the first war of independence in 1857.

India's first major armed uprising against the British deserves to be commemorated by something more substantial than that slight and absurd memorial set in the middle of a small traffic island facing the fort, one that fast receded in my wing mirror as I headed back to Bengaluru.

The writer teaches at IISc, Bengaluru.

PLACE, WORK, FOLK

Out of the box

Why city planners need to add "recognition" to their lexicon

MATIAS ECHANOVE & RAHUL SRIVASTAVA

The idea of recognition is central to gender and identity theory. Philosopher Judith Butler argues that not everyone has equal access to social and political recognition. People with identities that don't fit the norm can easily be disenfranchised. According to her, we should recognise others based on the shared precariousness of our human condition, rather than fixed qualities or status.

She invites us to acknowledge the expression of complex identities. We must learn to recognise even what goes beyond our normative framework. It is not because we can't quite comprehend what something is, that it becomes irrelevant or doesn't deserve to exist.

We take this unusual detour through identity politics only to come back to our familiar topic – places and the people that shape them. We often find it difficult to talk about habitats that don't fit the urban development framework but which nonetheless have enormous relevance. Neighbourhoods such as Paraisópolis in Sao Paulo, Cazuca in Bogota, or Dharavi in Mumbai are generically referred to as slums, even though they represent a more nuanced reality to their inhabitants. The slum label reinforces reductive stereotypes, which have heavy implications on planning and policy.

Homegrown settlements

We coined the phrase "homegrown settlements" to describe certain kinds of habitats, including those mentioned above. Many such habitats exist all over the world. They are built from within, by people who live and work in them. Homegrown evokes a process rather than a steady state. The term admittedly has a positive connotation, because nowadays, everyone values what's local and organic.

However, we are not arguing that everything that is homegrown is necessarily good. It depends on the context: mould on the kitchen wall is local and organic, yet not really desirable. Garden vegetables, worms and mosquitoes are all homegrown. A vernacular house is homegrown. Neighbourhoods like Paraisópolis and Dharavi are homegrown because their inhabitants built it incrementally, just like hundreds of thousands of other settlements around the world.

There is nothing intrinsically wrong about user involvement in the gradual development of habitats. It can even be seen as a strength.

Alley art The"Alley Gully" biennale was held in Dharavi, 2015. VIVEK BENDRE

However, the urban planning normative doesn't allow homegrown neighbourhoods to be recognised and accepted. This lack of recognition makes them particularly vulnerable. They don't fit in and what doesn't fit in must be thrown out. Slums are often equated to urban junk that must be cleared up and redeveloped.

Slum stigma

Not only are homegrown habitats stigmatised, but the stigma extends to the people who live in them.

The urban planning normative doesn't allow homegrown neighbourhoods to be recognised and accepted. Slums are often equated to urban junk that must be cleared up and redeveloped

Residents are framed (as Butler would say) as "slum dwellers" – a modern term evoking disenfranchisement and deviance from the urban normative. The only recognition they get is a negative one.

The problem goes well beyond social stigmatisation. Negative recognition makes homegrown neighbourhoods vulnerable to abuses of power. Not only are "slum dwellers" forbidden to improve their own infrastructure – only the state is empowered to do so.

"Slum dwellers" can be dispossessed from the houses they built at any point. The result is a form of "arrested development", a status quo imposed from above. In India, unlike in countries such as Japan, homegrown neighbourhoods are prevented from following their developmental logic. If instead they were recognised and normalised, they could continue their gradual evolution, absorbing new technologies and infrastructure along the way.

A first step towards recognition of homegrown urban habitats may be for planners and policymakers to question their frame of reference. What is considered legitimate urban form and why? What does it take for atypical neighbourhoods to enter the normative? Can they at least be tolerated on the basis of what they mean to those who inhabit them? And finally, shouldn't we recognise the precariousness and strength of disenfranchised habitats as our own collective condition?

The writers are co-founders of urbz.net, an urban network in Mumbai, Goa and beyond.

ON TRACK

Water wagon

Water now comes by train to drought-hit Chennai every day

TEXT BY R. SRIKANTH & T. MADHAVAN

Every day, a 50-wagon train chugs from Jolarpet in Vellore to Chennai 215 km away, carrying that precious commodity – water.

It is a laborious process. It takes nearly four hours to load 2.5 million litres of water on the train, another four hours for the journey, and four more hours to offload the water at the depot near Villivakkam railway station, where it is pumped to Kilpauk Water Works. That's a 12-hour ride.

An official of the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board explains how around 5 million litres of Cauvery water is sourced from Mettur Dam and sent through a pipeline to Mettusakkarakuppam village, into an underground tank especially built for the purpose. The pipeline is part of the old Cauvery-Vellore Combined Water Supply Scheme.

From the tank, the water is sent via a new 3.2 km pipeline to Parsampet village (near Jolarpet) where the source valves are located. Here, it is loaded on the train.

A Southern Railway official says the train has two engines, one in the front pulling it and the other in the rear pushing it, for extra speed and to avoid any delays in the turnaround time. Each wagon can carry 50,000 litres of water. A second rake will soon bring in the remaining 2.5 million litres, officials say.

The source The Mettur Dam from where the water's journey to Chennai begins. VENKATACHALAPATHY C.

Pipe dream The pipeline to carry water from Mettur to Jolarpet being laid beside the highway. Water is sent to Mettusakkarakuppam village near Jolarpet. VENKATACHALAPATHY C.

Thirsty city The first water train crosses Vaniyambadi town with 50 wagons carrying 2.5 million litres of water to a parched populace. VENKATACHALAPATHY C.

Conduit Another pipeline being laid near the tracks at Jolarpet station. From here, water is transported in wagons. VENKATACHALAPATHY C.

Tinker Some final welding work at Jolarpet. VENKATACHALAPATHY C.

Nuts and bolts Workers fit ball valves and hoses to a wagon in Villivakkam. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Destination Water flows into the Kilpauk Water Works where it is treated. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

By road From the water works, tankers carry water across the city. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

THE LEAD

I am a woman and *I write about food*

Unfazed by criticism that cooking is frivolous and writing about it is tosh, generations of women have been making literature out of cookery

ARCHANA PIDATHALA

In a world where food is somehow the lesser genre, I worried if I was at the losing end of a battle in both gender and genre

On a cold winter night this January, I was on a flight to Colombo from Bengaluru, to attend the Galle Literary Festival where I was to talk about my cookbook, *Five Morsels of Love*. The man seated next to me struck up a conversation, and after the initial pleasantries, asked, "So, from when have cookery books become literature?" I laughed the question away but, of course, felt stung.

Some years ago, in the aftermath of my grandmother's sudden death, I traded pantsuits for aprons, as I became the unlikely custodian of my grandmother's recipes. After what seemed like a lifetime of running after grades and scholarships and job titles, I decided to drop out of the race to write about food. In those early days I would evade questions around how long this break was for, if I was on a sabbatical, and when I would go back to a 'real' career. I even sounded apologetic at times for having the courage to chase a dream. And as I looked back over the history of women in food, I realised I wasn't alone. One of the greatest food writers of all time, M.F.K. Fisher, whose autobiographical essays created a genre, was dismissed by critics and serious writers for years. To begin with she was a woman and to add to that she was writing about food, a trifle. The poet Maya Angelou, who authored two cookbooks, once said in an interview with *The Guardian* that people thought it was odd – unworthy even – for her to have written cookbooks. "But I make no apologies" she retorted.

A gendered trap?

I never seem to have an answer to the question 'Aren't you overqualified to cook and write recipes?' In a world where women are constantly made to feel apologetic and small for their choices and food is somehow the lesser genre in literature, I worried if I was at the losing end of a battle in both gender and genre. I think the anxiety also stemmed from having espoused a worldview – not unlike many women of my generation – that cooking is a gendered trap. Would writing about food then be falling into the same trap albeit through a different door? It did not help that I didn't own a single cookbook till that point and the only food writing I knew was the kind classified as lifestyle journalism.

While I don't have scientifically verified data to back this claim up, a scan through the 'Cookbooks & Food' genre under the 'Books' category on Amazon suggests this is a genre upheld, overwhelmingly so, by women. And if one were to exclude the restaurant cookbooks that seem to be written mostly by male chefs then the verdict becomes even clearer – over 90% of all food writing is done by women. Here I was at the threshold of tumbling into a 'female' genre in writing which the world seemed to think suited women homecooks with artistic aspirations and plenty of time on hand. I had to find out what I was getting into.

One of the first writers I discovered in that journey was M.F.K. Fisher and she led me to places in a way only language can. In my imagination I shared a warm peach pie with cool yellow cream with her, ogled at kettles of strawberry jam on juice-stained tables, had my first taste of oyster and travelled to Paris enveloped in a passionate mist. Fisher wrote like a poet. Soon I was following Claudia Roden into the markets of Cairo, getting immersed in the kitchen bustle of her Egyptian childhood, stuffing grape leaves with ground beef, passing around plates of mezze and taking in the delicate scent of rose- and orange-blossom waters. Roden wrote *A Book*

Ben Okri's latest book, ***The Freedom Artist***, is a sombre allegory about society under authoritarianism p22

In ***The McMahon Line*** J.J. Singh gives an exhaustive account of the Indo-China border dispute p24

of Middle Eastern Food in an effort to preserve the flavours, emotions and memories of a land she and her family were forced out of during the Suez crisis in the mid-50s. In reading her I encountered a woman who communicated history through taste.

Heritage in the kitchen

To read Anissa Helou's *Feast: Food of the Islamic World* – an extensively researched 500-page tome – is to trace the history and food of Islam from the oasis of Medina to the Mughal dynasty in over 300 recipes. Helou, a former art consultant, tells me over a shaky phone connection from New York that it worried her that post 9/11 Muslims were vilified the world over and Islam was presented in such a negative way. "I travelled from Zanzibar to Senegal to Indonesia to Xinjiang collecting recipes, social information and historical context. We owe this people and civilisation a great debt in terms of ingredients and culinary lore." Helou writes with authority and scholarship and her approach to food writing has always been that of preserving culture, especially in conflict-torn regions like Syria and Lebanon where populations are displaced, entire cultures wiped out and the matrilineal transference of food knowledge is all but broken.

Zaitoun, a book on Palestinian cuisine by Yasmin Khan, captures stews and meat dishes from the West Bank, plant-based dishes from Galilee and Gazan food in danger of extinction, depicting the everyday life of Palestinians in an effort to humanise them. A former human-rights activist, Khan believes that her current role as a food writer is no different from that of her previous one as a journalist and activist to bear witness to a human-rights situation. "I am really committed to do what I can to use the power of story and cookery to shine a light on places of conflict. I strongly believe that cultural change is a precursor to political change. And food provides a neutral entry point to open up conversations, build empathy, challenge stereotypes and shift perspectives. Being a woman was an advantage as it helped take me into the kitchens and hearths of Palestinian women. It was such a responsibility and honour to translate the personal heritage that the Palestinian women shared with such generosity into recipes," she tells me.

Redemptive power

While writers like Helou and Khan usher us into geographic and cultural worlds where we otherwise might never go, writers like Laurie Colwin are interpreters of the less-than-perfect everyday life.

"...and that life itself is full, not only of charm and warmth and comfort but of sorrow and tears. But whether we are happy or sad, we must be fed. Both happy and sad people can be cheered up by a nice meal," Colwin writes in the introduction to her book, *More Home Cooking: A Writer Returns to the Kitchen*.

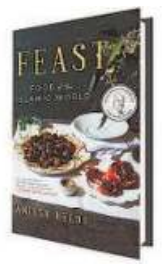
Colwin inspired a whole generation of food memoirists to blend in prose and recipes in an engaging first-person voice. Colwin's essays are like dinner conversations with an old friend, weaving together tales of triumph and disaster in her kitchen and life. Tracing that line of descent from Colwin to the present, one arrives at Ella Risbridger. Risbridger's *Midnight Chicken & Other Recipes Worth Living For* is being hailed as a genre-bending cookbook as it could find itself in the memoir, self-help or food sections of any bookstore. Cooking and writing about it was Risbridger's way of lifting herself out of depression and face the loss of her partner, the writer John Underwood, who died just as she finished the last draft of her book. It is a book that celebrates the redemptive power of cooking and offers a way to look at life with hope.

In the bones

Moving into the realm of food journalism, one encounters Ligaya Mishan, who has been writing the 'Hungry City' column for *The New York Times* for several years now where she reviews 'smaller' restaurants, almost always immigrant-owned, guiding one into hitherto undiscovered alleys of New York. She tells the stories of immigrants with food at the centre but questions of politics and race are never too far away. Mishan has been challenging and stretching the boundaries of food writing by always evocatively describing food (she has an MFA in creative writing and poetry) but giving just as much importance to the lives and thoughts of the people around the food. For years food writers have been given the memo to stay apolitical and Mishan detonates that by wearing her Asian-American activist hat every single time she writes about food. This is urgent and important work in a world most definitely swerving to the Right everywhere, with no tolerance for minorities and immigrants.

As this journey of discovery of women's voices in food continues, I am more convinced than ever that some of the most significant stories of our times are related to food – from hunger, to issues of ecology and sustainability, to questions of identify and the self. Food writing isn't about peripheral text around glossy-styled photographs, endless descriptions of how a dish or an ingredient tastes or culinary flights of fancy. As with food, the writing about it can help us understand what forms our body and bones, our thoughts and aspirations and who we are as a civilisation. Untouched by criticism that cooking is frivolous work and writing about it is sentimental tosh, generations of women have tirelessly documented life as it happens, transforming themselves into unacknowledged anthropologists, ethnographers, historians and activists. It is perhaps time we begin to take notice and recognise that contribution in the pages of world history.

The writer is the author of the cookbook, *Five Morsels of Love*.



I am more convinced than ever that some of the most significant stories of our times are related to food — from hunger, to ecology, to questions of identify and the self

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

Cook for life

The exceptional few who broke out of traditional roles to become chefs

RAHUL VERMA

A musician friend of mine is particularly fond of a line that figures in a Dev Anand-Hemant Kumar song from the 1952 film *Jaal*. *Zindagi key geet ki dhun badal key dekh ley* (Change the melody of your life), he often sings. He knows what it means. A toxicologist, he chucked academics several years ago and now regales millions with his music. Whenever I hear the song, I doff my cap to people who break out of a familiar and comfortable world. And I am sure that people who follow their hearts have stories to tell.

Ritu Dalmia, for one, certainly does. She is a self-taught chef who runs several Italian restaurants. In her book, *Italian Khana*, she writes about how she embraced cooking. "My love affair with Italian food began when I was sixteen," she writes. "I had dropped out of school and was travelling all over Italy, trying to sell marble. Everywhere I went, I was surrounded by food. Markets overflowed with boisterously coloured fruits and vegetables. In small shops I found baskets of still warm ricotta cheese. I could hear the hiss and sizzle of artichokes dropped in hot oil in the Jewish quarters in Rome. If I close my eyes I can still smell them."

Eureka moments

I love reading this book, not just for the simple recipes it carries, but also for the way she describes food. She travelled around Italy, trying out a red mullet encrusted with black olive pâté, with just a squeeze of lemon over it, buttery goose liver, and zucchini and feta cheese fritters. Her Italian love affair soon turned into a "full-blown obsession" and she started out as a chef-entrepreneur with a restaurant called MezzaLuna in New Delhi.

In many of the books in my cookbook corner, chefs mention the eureka moments that pushed them towards food. In *How I Learned to Cook*, Tamasin Day-Lewis refers to her turning point – a meal with her boyfriend and a rich American at La Tante Claire in England when she was 19 and about to study English at King's College, Cambridge.

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

"The moment the fine linen was napped across my knee, the menu perused, the champagne poured, and the bread served with sweet, unsalted French butter, I felt as excited as one does after a spectacularly fine overture or the first act of a brilliant play. But it wasn't until the dinner that I was really blown away," writes the filmmaker, author, and TV show presenter. Dessert was feuillete aux poires: "A coffin of the most stratospherically light puff pastry into which was set a perfectly poached half pear covered with a thin vein of caramel arrived." The dish had an "extraordinary influence" on her life. "It was about entering the world I had seen as somewhat frivolous before, realising that it could be serious, that perfecting the craft of cooking could be a lifetime's very happy work, even in the domestic kitchen of an enthusiastic amateur."

My friend, celebrity chef Ranveer Brar, has often talked about how he started. His landowning father wanted him to be an engineer. But Brar had been charmed by the culinary art ever since he prepared some *meethey chawal* (sweet rice) in a gurdwara where he was helping as a small boy. He recalls in *Come into My Kitchen* how he ran away from home as a teenager, and started working with Ustad Munir Ahmed, one of Lucknow's oldest kababchis. "At 17, after six months with Munir Ustad, my parents finally gave in to my decision," writes Brar.

Whether Brar or Dalmia, I am glad they chose to become cooks. Feeding people well is a special skill not everyone can boast of. Clearly, the marble and engineering industries' loss is the culinary world's gain.

Perfecting the craft of cooking could be a lifetime's very happy work, even in the domestic kitchen of an enthusiastic amateur

The writer likes reading and writing about food as much as he does cooking and eating it. Well, almost.

IN CONVERSATION

‘Turkish is a language of the heart’

Bestselling Turkish author Ayşe Kulin says it’s foolish to ban the written word

ARUNIMA MAZUMDAR

ARUNIMA MAZUMDAR

Freedom of speech is a much-abused concept in Turkey today. In the last five years, more than 100 Turkish journalists have been detained, writers have gone into exile, and several bookstores have been shut down in the country. Recently, authors like Elif Shafak and Abdullah Şevki have been charged of ‘promoting’ child abuse in their fiction because they have dared to deal with this ugly social reality.

Naturally, these topics come up when I meet bestselling Turkish author Ayşe Kulin for a breakfast of coffee and apple pie at a café in the historic Taksim Square of Istanbul.

“We are going through one of the most difficult periods of our republican life. As Ottomans, we faced war and collapse. All our institutions are getting shattered again, economically we are busted, and our secular system, which made us very proud, is falling apart,” says Kulin, sipping her coffee and staring into space.

Kulin has several novels to her credit, besides five short-story anthologies and one poetry book. “I was in Rome for a literary conference when I heard about the controversy around Abdullah Şevki’s novel. Frankly, I have never heard of him or his book. Elif (Shafak) and I are writers who make critical statements about our leader from time to time. I’ve written three open letters to the President till date. Both our names were dragged into this debate but I’ve chosen not to react.”

Elif (Shafak) and I are writers who make critical statements about our leader from time to time. I’ve written three open letters to the President till date

No boundaries

“Literature is not meant to preach or teach. It is meant to portray all aspects of life and human nature, and it’s foolish to censor the written word. Time has proved that today we read freely all the works that were banned once, like *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* or the works of Oscar Wilde. Whatever is banned today will be free tomorrow, because literature has no boundaries.”

Kulin won her first literary award, the Haldun Taner Short Story Award, in 1995 for her short story *‘Foto Sabah Resimleri’* (‘Morning Images’). A year later, the story won her the prestigious Sait Faik Short Story Award. Then, in 1997, she was chosen as the Writer of the Year by the Istanbul Communication Faculty for her biographical novel, *Aylin*. From then on, she has received at least two to three awards every year from different organisations, societies, foundations and universities. Today, at the age of 77, she has 40 awards – national and international – to her name.

Kulin writes in Turkish, and her works have been translated into as many as 23 foreign languages. Yet she is not happy.

“Turkish is not like any other methodical language of the European linguistic group. A writer like me, who writes with the dancing steps of her tongue, capturing readers with the eloquence of her language, making them feel each time as if they are reading their own story, does not benefit from translation.

I know it’s not the fault of the translators, but I am always disappointed with my translated work. Turkish is not a language of the mind, but of the heart, and it loses its soul when translated,” she explains. Her novel, *Kanadı Kırık Kuşlar*, translated into English as *Without a Country*, was released in India recently.

Life as literature

Kulin’s novels are based on the life she has lived, the relationships she has experienced, and the people she has grown up with. Her journey has been unique.

She married soon after graduating in 1961 and then went to study at London School of Economics (LSE). But fate had different plans.

“I had no idea of birth control pills at that time and with my two boys born 11 months apart – almost like twins – I had to drop out of LSE and become a mum instead,” she recalls.

The marriage lasted only three years, she says. She then worked, first as a journalist and then as an art gallery director. She remarried in 1967, and gave birth to two more boys and

BOOKMARK

Translation award

Sumangala Mummigatti has received this year’s Kannada Sahitya Parishat’s Translation award for *Koneya Ale*, her translation into Kannada of *The Last Wave*, Pankaj Sekhsaria’s debut novel on the people, ecology and history of the Andaman Islands.

Library of the year

North Yorkshire’s Harrogate Library has won *The Bookseller*’s Library of the Year Award 2019. A further eight libraries are also celebrated in the shortlist, published on July 12, including a school library and a specialist audiobook library.

translated tonnes of books on history.

By 1978, Kulin was twice divorced and working behind the camera as a stage producer, art director and assistant director. She continued writing for daily newspapers and magazines as a freelance journalist.

Unwise transition

"You see, I had to work overtime to make ends meet. Filmmaking is very exciting and rewarding, but a tiring profession. So I gave it up to try my luck at public relations. I wrote the two short stories that won me awards. I also started writing *Aylin* at that time. I used to write either late into the night or wake up early in the morning to write. When *Aylin* became a bestseller, I quit my job and decided to write non-stop. That's what I have been doing since."

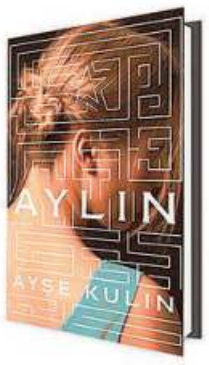
Of course, when you talk about Turkish literature, Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk's name crops up automatically. Speaking about Pamuk, Kulin says, "I think he's a great writer and I am thankful to him for the honour he has brought to Turkey. For me, his best work and what I'll call his masterpiece is *My Name is Red*. How I wish that I had written that book! To be honest, I like the books he wrote before he won the Nobel. *The Museum of Innocence* and the actual museum (of the same name) have had no impact on me."

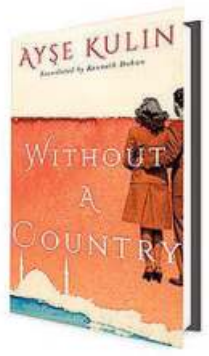
"But yes, his victory had a global significance and it did open a locked door to Turkish writers, including me. For the first time in many years I had the chance to meet a foreign publisher in Switzerland and had my first book translated into German. It's a novel called *One Day* (in Turkish) and is about the Turkish-Kurdish conflict," she adds.

In her spare time – which is very rare – Kulin likes to visit art galleries and watch "meaningful cinema or theatre". She likes to spend her summers with her big family – consisting of four sons and eight grandchildren – at a farmhouse on the Aegean coast.

"The whole world is experiencing an unwise transition. Take a look at the most influential leaders, they are either dictators like in the far East and West-Asian countries or the fools in the U.S. Fascist movements are on the rise in Eastern Europe. And then there's the bigger issue of climate change that hangs like death over all our heads. The future looks scary," she says. Suddenly, the sunny Sunday morning seems a little bleached.

The interviewer is a Delhi-based writer.





STRANGER SHORES

Leaving the fields behind

Dhan Gopal Mukerji was writing diaspora fiction in the 1920s, long before the concept became fashionable

SACHIDANANDA MOHANTY

Indian-American authors might be all the rage today but they were a rarity at the beginning of the 20th century. But there was one man in the 1920s writing children's books in America with clearly Indian themes and settings.

He was Dhan Gopal Mukerji (1890-1936), a writer largely forgotten today. Eminent Stanford critic Gordon H. Chang describes Mukerji as a person who "holds the distinction of being the first author of Asian-Indian ancestry who successfully wrote for American audiences about Indian life".

Dhan Gopal was born on July 6, 1890, in a village on the outskirts of Calcutta. His early education was in schools set up by Scottish missionaries; eventually he went to the University of Calcutta, where he displayed a special flair for English. The memories of his serene childhood would serve him well in his later turbulent years.

An intellectual life

Dhan Gopal greatly admired his elder brother Jadu Gopal, who was part of the militant nationalist movement in British India. Although Jadu seems to have played a crucial role in the immigration of his younger brother, what Dhan Gopal did exactly to make his way to American academia remains ambiguous. Chang says there are two versions, one heroic and another more practical, and both seem to have been encouraged by Dhan Gopal himself. According to the first, "Heeding his brother, Mukerji escaped by diving into the Ganges in Calcutta and swimming out to seek refuge aboard a Dutch ship, which happened to be bound for Japan."

To his family, he said that "he may have worked as a laborer in Idaho harvesting sugar beets, and somewhere along the way, his charm, intelligence and English language ability impressed the foreman, who encouraged him to leave the fields to get a higher education." Whatever the case, Dhan Gopal entered the University of California in August 1910, one of the few of his compatriots to do so.

The cosmopolitan Portrait of Dhan Gopal in the April 1916 issue of *The Hindusthanee Student*. WIKICOMMONS

Dhan Gopal's fame has to be measured against the fact that there was a fair bit of discrimination at this time against Asian-Americans, which had culminated in The Immigration Act of 1917, also known as the Asiatic Barred Zone Act. Dhan Gopal probably survived by largely keeping himself confined to academics, unlike his celebrated countrymen Sailen Ghosh and M.N. Roy, who were part of the Indian freedom struggle in the U.S.

Jungle tales

Although sensitive to race relations, Dhan Gopal never allowed racial prejudices to affect him. His books for children were mainly his own versions of tales he had heard in India, filled with nostalgia for a life he had left behind. They were hugely successful.

One of them, *Gay-Neck: The Story of a Pigeon,* won the 1928 Newbery Medal, awarded for the best children's literature of the year. He also wrote non-fiction, poetry and translations, which were published in prestigious forums such as *The Century Magazine* and *The Atlantic*. The first part of his 1923 autobiography, *Caste and Outcast,* deals with his India experience, in particular his rebellion against the Brahminical tradition of his family ('Caste'), while the second section ('Outcast') is about how he felt in America.

As Dhan Gopal's publishing fortune declined, he often came into conflict with his editors, publishers and literary agents. But he continued with his lecture tours, and even wrote a rejoinder to the hostile account of India by Katherine Mayo in a book called *A Son of Mother India Answers*. While it was well received in critical circles, it was not a commercial success. This, combined with personal difficulties, made him seek refuge in the Ramakrishna Mission, but he ended up taking his life in New York at the age of 46.

Dhan Gopal is one of the earliest cosmopolitan Indian modernists who travelled abroad and wrote from there. His stories, rooted in Indian myths and folklore, brought his native world view to a culture that was notoriously insular. He married an American and had friends from across the globe – Will and Ariel Durant, Romain Rolland, Witter Bynner, Jawaharlal Nehru. In his life and letters, Dhan Gopal is a sparkling example of an intellectual who combined tradition and modernity. As the world becomes more intent on closing borders, Dhan Gopal reminds us of that once cherished ideal of cosmopolitanism.

The writer, who taught English at the University of Hyderabad, is the author of *Cosmopolitan Modernity in Early 20th Century India*.

Mountain Echoes

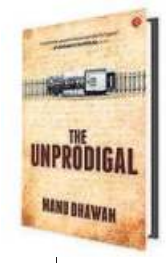
Mountain Echoes - Bhutan Festival of Art, Literature and Culture, now in its 10th year, will take place from August 23 to 25 in Thimphu. The theme for this edition of Mountain Echoes is 'Many lives: Many Stories'. It will have 80 speakers from countries across the globe.

New children's laureate

Cressida Cowell, author of *How To Train Your Dragon*, has been named the new Children's Laureate of the U.K. She will hold the title for two years. She plans to make reading interesting so that children are weaned off the telly and learn to exercise their imagination.

BROWSE FICTION

The Unprodigal
Manu Dhawan
Rupa
₹295



• Aryan, the genius and now-failed son of the country's richest man, finds himself trying to unearth the truth behind the death of the only person he loved — his grandfather. The conspiracy he sniffs out is bigger than what he had imagined. He will have to make the longest journey of his life — both mental and physical — to fight and find the truth.

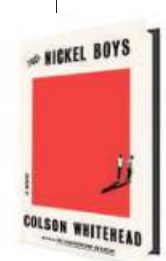
Target Alex Cross
James Patterson
Penguin Random House
₹399

• Alex Cross and his family join men and women on the streets of Washington, DC, to mourn the unexpected death of the president. Then a prominent senator is assassinated. The new president calls on Cross to lead an FBI investigation to capture America's most-wanted criminal. What follows plunges the country into chaos.

Nirvana in a Corporate Suit
Runjhun Noopur
TreeShade Books
₹350

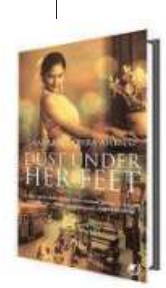
• On an average bad day, a troubled corporate guy finds himself sucked into a mystical world of talking mirrors, alternate dimensions, crazy set designs, terrifyingly apt background music, and one crazy Baba who loves Cobain and sarcasm. Will he survive this adventure to find the happiness he craves for?

The Nickel Boys
Colson Whitehead
Fleet
₹599



• In this follow-up to the Pulitzer-wining *The Underground Railroad*, this is the story of two boys sentenced to a stretch in a reform school in Jim-Crow-era Florida. The Nickel Academy is a chamber of horrors, where abuse is rife, and where any boy who resists is likely to disappear.

Dust Under Her Feet
Sharbari Zohra Ahmed
Tranquebar
₹499



• In 1940s' Calcutta, Yasmine Khan is the doyenne of the nightclub scene. The U.S. sets up an army base in the city and Yasmine falls for an American soldier, Lt. Edward Lafaver. Set in the last years of the British Raj and World War II, this novel is about love, betrayal, racism and social pressures.

Shadow play That most ancient of Western metaphors: Plato's cave. GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

ALLEGORY

A river runs through it

As a critique of authoritarianism, Ben Okri's latest book questioning the nature of reality is relevant but toothless

KEERTHIK SASIDHARAN

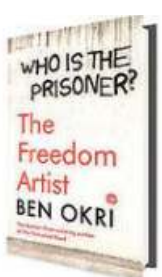
It is a truth universally acknowledged that a writer in possession of a singular idea must be in want of new ways to return to it. Like V.S. Naipaul and Salman Rushdie, who have wrestled with their favourite themes time and again – self-deception for Naipaul and exilic non-belonging for Rushdie – Ben Okri, in his latest novel, *The Freedom Artist*, returns to that most ancient and unanswerable of questions: what is reality?

Despite having lived in England for much of his life, Okri's imagination has remained entwined with the histories of Nigeria in particular, and Africa more generally. What this has meant is a persistent awareness of the tumults following decolonisation, the disfigurement of social life by violence and corruption, the claustrophobias of decades-long military rule and, finally now, the venality of democracy even as corporate powers disembowel its resources and the barbarisms of the Islamic militant mar the body politic. The silver lining of being part of such a complex historical and cultural landscape is that Okri's writings are imbued with two vast ambitions.

One, to salvage portions from the ocean-like vastness of African, and Nigerian, storytelling traditions. And second, to repurpose these findings for the world, not as a didactic bore or a moralising scold, but as an individual artist, a sculptor of worlds with porous boundaries between our all-too-real world and the many unseen ones human societies carry within.

Ancient metaphor

In *The Freedom Artist*, written as an assemblage of fictional vignettes – readers of Eduardo Galeano might find it familiar – Okri returns to meditate upon the white whale of his literary career: the nature of reality. But unlike his most famous novel, *The Famished Road*, where a child's life amidst humans and spirits becomes a narrative means to see an agrarian society, a thinly veiled post-colonial Nigeria, acquire the accoutrements of a modern state, *The Freedom Artist* is after something darker. *The Famished Road* is marked by a child's (and young author's) lightness while *The Freedom Artist* is a sombre allegory by an author in his 60s about a society quivering under the jackboot of authoritarianism.



The Freedom Artist
Ben Okri
Head of Zeus
₹1,292

The book situates itself in that most ancient of metaphors in Western philosophy: Plato's cave. Similar to the inhabitants in that thought experiment, the characters of Okri's novel are born into a prison – a cognitive and psychological confinement – that they mistake, or have been told to believe, is freedom. Humans deriving meaning from being attached to some authoritarian ectoplasm that is the arbiter of moral rights and wrongs.

Until one day, greenshoots of free thinking burst forth in unexpected ways. An autodidact reads in an ancient book: "Humans are born in prison, and everywhere think they are free." Then a young girl discovers through another book the hidden beauties – "a river of light" – about reality.

Enemy within

These epiphanies born from reading however become "anomalies". They threaten the calibrated falsehoods in that panopticon. Books are then proscribed, the inquisitive are declared enemies of the state, languages atrophy, and mass media becomes a facile organ of the state. Eventually, the state, run by a shadowy "Hierarchy", declares in a fit of utilitarian zeal that all who can't contribute to social happiness will be eaten by the jackals of the state. As in any authoritarian rule, these bureaucratic carnivores set out with great gusto to devour in the name of social order. Ultimately, the people recognise the much-dreaded Hierarchy as themselves.

All of this strikes one as force-fitted, far-fetched and even indulgent in its loopiness. Yet, as I write this, we learn of popular uprisings in places like Sudan where military grade weapons spray death onto protests led by young women who seek to break free from encrustations of official truths.

Because Okri's allegory is denuded of cultural specificity, it has a timelessness to it, no different from Kafka's parables or Borges' fiction

This, of course, should not be surprising, for great artistic sensibilities are far-seeing, unbound by the heaviness of facts. Yet, one can't escape feeling that Okri's allegory is neither subversive nor unknown. In fact, there is a certain harmlessness to it – it speaks the truth, but it speaks softly and without bite.

The book has a gentleness of a poetic sensibility that other contemporary works that have resorted to allegories in order to critique don't have. Be it the Algerian writer Boualem Sansal, who writes allusively but bitingly about Islam and Muhammad, or the dystopias of Michel Houellebecq, where hijab-wearing women and dreams of oral sex commingle as paranoias about Europe's demography.

Yet, unlike them, precisely because Okri's allegory is denuded of cultural specificity, it has a timelessness to it, no different from Kafka's parables or Borges' fiction.

As long as tyranny views the written word as potentially subversive, Okri's *The Freedom Artist* will have offered us a sketch of how individuals and societies sometimes break free to bathe once again in the "river of light".

The writer lives in New York City.

REIMAGINING

The mystic and the myth

The Kabir of the novel is the historical Kabir in name alone: our Prime Minister might well mark him down as part of the Khan Market gang

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

ADITYA SUDARSHAN

Kabir as you've never known him" is the promise *The Arsonist* holds out to the reader, and one that it fulfils, albeit dubiously. As far as I can judge, the most striking traits of the character Kiran Nagarkar has created here are not even imaginative glosses on historical reality, but simply the preferred features of the writer's own imagination. We know, for instance, that the historical Kabir criticised hypocrisy in religion, that is, showy religiosity, unaccompanied by personal virtue. We know that purity of heart was the thing he championed as the path to god. We also know that some concept of a personal god was real and absolutely dear to him though he did not concern himself with doctrine.

Contemporary Kabir

But Nagarkar's character emerges, from the first page to the last, as practically the opposite personality. Kabir in this book is fascinated by religious doctrine, which he loves to dissect and mock, for the edification of his disciples. He is highly sceptical of a personal god, whom he speaks with, he says, only "to play it safe". He does not preach any kind of purity, but is a lover of pleasure, particularly sexual pleasure. Moreover, for a large chunk of the book he is presented as a confidante of the ruling king of the region, who depends on him to solve various socio-political problems (these being the only occasions where Kabir is observed to perform "good deeds".)

In sum, 'the arsonist' Kabir is the mystic Kabir in name alone. What we really have here is an intellectual man of the world with a coterie of followers, basking in political favour and excelling in virtue-signalling. Unfortunately for him, our present Prime Minister might mark him down as a member of the Khan Market gang (a badge he would no doubt wear defiantly). But this is a significant observation, because it points to the *raison d'etre* of Nagarkar's book: that the present-day Indian liberal stands in dire need of a hero.

For this reason, I suspect the minds behind the publication of this book might regard the issue of historicity and accuracy as a non-issue. After all, their avowed goal is to turn "Kabir into our contemporary", to which end *The Arsonist* flaunts such blatant anachronisms as Kabir speaking of dark matter, the unified theory of the universe, and women's magazines. But the supreme nonchalance of the tack does not really legitimise it. Ironically, it calls to mind the most egregious kinds of right-wing myth-making. Now, the intentions involved may be laudable, and the storytelling quite enjoyable, as Nagarkar's storytelling naturally is, but the result of all such wilfulness is identical: the sought-after hero is reduced to a cipher, which is quickly filled by one's own self. Therefore, *The Arsonist* does not cast Kabir as our contemporary; it casts our contemporary as Kabir.

The Arsonist
Kiran Nagarkar
Juggernaut
₹599

Burning heaven

This is a double-disaster, whose pieces must be carefully picked up, because they block the way forward, substituting salvation with delusion. Nagarkar's instinct in writing this book is probably astute. Kabir is probably a most edifying figure for the Anglicised Indian to get to know (his name is an increasingly popular one for their children). An intensely secularised community, now at its most broken-hearted, would do well, via the mystic, to seriously consider god, who, we are told, is closer to the broken-hearted. But if pride is incorrigible, then such proximity becomes fatal. It hardens unbelief into hatred.

Then, snatching the cloak of the mystic, we use it to parade as angels of light, while indulging our nihilism all the more. "Now we'll burn heaven and hell and smoke and flush out God himself," exults the arsonist Kabir of Nagarkar's imagination, at the close of this book, by which point he is hard to distinguish from The Joker. It is difficult to say if he really considers this a helpful sentiment, just as it is difficult to know what our leading liberal politician has meant, in recent times, by claiming his politics to be "love".

Nevertheless, a better acquaintance with love in the public sphere and a better acquaintance with the historical Kabir are indeed to be recommended. Not so much the arsonist Kabir.

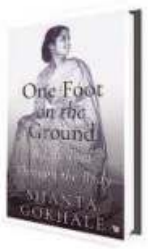
The writer is the author, most recently, of *The Outraged: Times of Strife* .

BROWSE NON-FICTION

Kashmir: Rage and Reason
Gowhar Geelani
Rupa
₹395

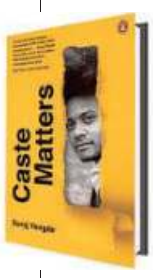
• "The new generation has only witnessed oppression and violence," writes Geelani in the preface, "Kashmir's generation born after the 1990s is fearless, conscious, educated and articulate." Blending analyses with anecdotes, he traces the Valley's tortured history and the many facets of Kashmiri 'nationalism' and the betrayals.

One Foot on the Ground: A Life Told Through the Body
Shanta Gokhale
Speaking Tiger
₹399



• In this autobiography, Gokhale, writer, translator, cultural commentator, traces the arc of her life over eight decades through the progress of her body, as it grows, matures and begins to wind down. It's a story of a life filled with happiness, heartbreak, wonder and acceptance.

Caste Matters
Suraj Yengde
Penguin Random House
₹599



• A first generation Dalit scholar reveals how caste crushes creativity and is disturbingly similar to other forms of oppression, such as race and class. Yengde argues that until Dalits lay claim to power and Brahmins join hands against Brahminism to effect real transformation, caste will continue to matter.

Tawaifnama
Saba Dewan
Context/Westland Books
₹899

• This is a multi-generational chronicle of a family of well-known tawaifs with roots in Banaras and Bhabua. Through their stories, Dewan explores the history of a community, which had once played a crucial role in the cultural life of northern India, but was eventually violently dismantled.

The Extraordinary Life and Death of Sunanda Pushkar
Sunanda Mehta
Pan Macmillan India
₹599

• A former schoolmate traces the life of Sunanda Pushkar, her early years in cantonment towns, the first two marriages, a stint in Canada, her rise as a businesswoman in Dubai, and finally the much-publicised years with politician Shashi Tharoor until her controversial death in 2014.

All for peace A little girl poses for a picture with an Indian flag at the India-China border in Bumla, Arunachal Pradesh. AP

POLITICS

The disputed frontier

J.J. Singh writes a comprehensive account of the India-China border row

STANLY JOHNY

At the turn of the 20th century, Tibet became a strategic chessboard in the Great Game between the Russian and British empires. Russia was seeking to expand its influence across Central Asia. The Manchu empire in China was on its last legs. Britain feared that the Russians would come to a weakened China and raise new threats to British India. In 1903, British troops under the leadership of Col. F.E. Younghusband invaded Tibet. The British plan was to create a buffer between China and India, secure the border between Tibet and India and get favourable trade deals with Tibet. The Younghusband "expedition" set off a chain of events in the eastern Himalayan region the effects of which are still felt in Indo-China relations.

Shifting goalposts

Understandably, J.J. Singh, former Army chief and Arunachal Pradesh Governor, goes straight into the Younghusband expedition, after explaining the geography of Tibet, in his exhaustively-researched book, *The McMahon Line: A Century of Discord*. In 441 pages – a substantial chunk is dedicated to notes and appendices with original documents – Singh offers one of the most comprehensive accounts of one of the most complex border disputes of the modern world.

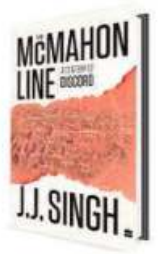
While Great Game is well-known, *The McMahon Line* narrates the less-talked about story, of its impact on East Asia. After the Younghusband mission, an alarmed China sent troops to Tibet to directly occupy the region. While Britain accepted the de facto Chinese control of Tibet, it wanted the Indo-Tibetan border demarcated and Tibet to remain a buffer. In 1914, Britain called for a conference in Simla between British, Tibetan and Chinese officials. Sir A.H. McMahon, a secretary in the Foreign Department of the British Indian government, represented India in the conference. After parleys that stretched across months, India and Tibet signed a convention that demarcated the Indo-Tibetan boundary but the Chinese side refused to sign it despite the convention's promise to respect China's suzerainty over Tibet (not sovereignty).

This boundary, the red line drawn by McMahon on the map, came to be known as the McMahon Line, which is also internationally accepted as the border between India and China in the eastern sector. But it also remains a bone of contention between the two countries. Singh writes that though China did not sign the Simla convention, it had not opposed the McMahon Line initially. Tibet also saw decades of independent rule after the Simla conference. But the Chinese, he writes, kept changing their goalposts.

Singh is extremely critical of the way Jawaharlal Nehru handled China's reoccupation (liberation, according to China) of Tibet in 1950. He calls Nehru an idealist, who failed to foresee China's strategy. "The British strategy of over half a century, of having an autonomous Tibet as a buffer, was put to rest as India looked on passively," Singh writes. "The Chinese takeover of Tibet by force... exposed the northern borders of India to potential Chinese threat for the first time, highlighting our vulnerability."

Tangled history

While it's doubtful whether India at that time could have done something effectively to prevent China from taking over Tibet – India had its own problems in Kashmir, the unification process was still under way and Tibet itself had signed an agreement with China after troops reached Lhasa – it could certainly have prepared itself better for possible Chinese aggression. There were repeated skirmishes along the border. Nehru, despite his emphasis on friendly relations with China, had told his ambassador to Peking in 1958 that he didn't trust "the Chinese one bit... They are an arrogant, untrustworthy, devious and hegemonic lot". But still, Nehru didn't think there would be a war. The Chinese assault in 1962 led to a humiliating defeat for India.



The McMahon Line: A Century of Discord
J.J. Singh
HarperCollins
₹799

Both India and China have come a long way since the 1962 war. Though the border issue remains unresolved, bilateral relations have markedly improved over the decades. India is a rising economic power which is now perhaps the only country that could challenge China in the developing world, Singh writes. "There is an equilibrium and strategic balance of sorts between India and China." But going forward, he emphasises on three points: India should expand its defensive, offensive and deterrence capabilities; the political leadership of both countries should resolve the border dispute, and work together for a stable and peaceful Asia. India should deepen its engagement with world powers including the U.S. and Russia. While stressing that "peaceful rise" should be India's motto, Singh repeats the geopolitical axiom: "The unilateral desire of a nation to live in peace cannot be a guarantee of its peaceful existence."

POLITICS

Saving the idea of India

A bevy of fighters is pitting themselves dauntlessly against a coercive and polarising Hindu right

SUPARNA BANERJEE

Once in a while a book comes along that makes one rethink the boundaries defining the world of publishing. *Battling for India* is a book of that genre-bending kind. It is not the usual research-led monograph; nor is it a mass market book meant to cater to the popular taste. In other words, it blurs the lines between the serious and the popular, the high-brow and the massy.

This is because the rather weighty theme – the rise of sectarianism and an exclusionary hyper-nationalism in India and the nationwide resistance to these – is treated in an altogether unconventional manner by the editors. Instead of prioritising rhetoric or intellectual discussion it adopts an illustrative, empirical methodology that emphasises lived experience over proselytism or debate. It is an approach that shows us both the corrosive effects of the reigning ultra-Rightist ideology upon the lives and liberty of the Indian people and the diverse ways in which citizens, nationwide, have been resisting the oppressive, divisive regime. The Introduction identifies this group of resisting men and women who are battling to save both themselves and an 'idea of India' that would guarantee equal citizenship to all Indians.

Justice delayed A protest in Bengaluru against the Gauri Lankesh murder. V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

This bevy of fighters that includes farmers, students, union members, journalists, teachers, and artists – many of them Dalits or Muslim – is 'Battling for India', pitting themselves dauntlessly against a coercive and polarising 'Battling India'. This contingent, whose tales of gritty resistance to sectarianism and oppression the book presents, speaks not the uniform language of fascist, militarist 'nationalism': its voices, its languages are many and diverse, and in this very diversity it upholds the Constitution-based pluralist idea of India, trying to save it from the jaws of the 'many-headed beast' that is the 'Battling India Parivar'. Subsequent chapters consist of articles laid out in six parts that delineate the fight against 'the thought police', against raw brutality and persecution, unreason and lies; relive notorious incidences of violence against minorities; discuss economic issues like demonetisation; and then deal, medley-fashion, with transgender rights, hate crimes, Section 377 and the like.

Among this eclectic mix of essays some are by stalwart writers or academics like Githa Hariharan and Prabhat Patnaik, while others come from anguished students or activists like Alash Vadakara and Teesta Setalvad. Yet others are by senior journalists pained by the 'toxic atmosphere' of the country.

Amidst all this righteous angst is also Pushpamala N's 'elegy' for Gauri Lankesh that lingers in the mind both for its personal warmth and the veneration it generates for the late Lankesh.

In all, *Battling for India* is a soul-stirring read. The sad irony of having to critique it now – after the 'Battling India Parivar' has won a second term – keeps it from being invigorating.

Battling for India: A Citizen's Reader
Edited by Githa Hariharan & Salim Yusufji
Speaking Tiger Books
₹399

ENVIRONMENT

Life in the mountains

Two ecologists outline what needs to be done to protect the Western Himalayas

INDRANI DUTTA

Think of the Himalayas, and the images that come to mind is that of lofty peaks, glaciers, gushing rivers, rows upon rows of greens and simple hills-people eking out a living. Writings on these high mountains have mostly been in the nature of travelogues or hikers and mountaineers' tales narrating their trials, tribulations and triumphs.

The partnership of Sanjeeva Pandey, an officer of the Indian Forest Service, who played a key role in the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area being listed as a World Heritage site, and Anthony Gaston, who has studied Indian wildlife and its birds since 1969, including a research for his Ph.D. at Oxford University, has brought forth this book.

It diligently surveys the wildlife of the Western Himalayas, and examines what remains of the fauna and how seriously it is endangered. Importantly, it also documents lives of the people – their cultures, religion, arts, craft, styles and superstitions, complete with pictures. The book is thus intended both as history and an ecological guidance of the region which won the Unesco tag in 2014 in recognition of its rich biological diversity.

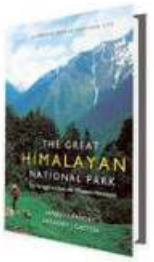
Close connect The attitude of local communities to the ecosystems is important. WIKI COMMONS

The book has been neatly divided into chapters on ecological setting, trekking, development of the GHNP, its people, its uniqueness, its birds and mammals. A fair amount of research has gone into it with the authors drawing from the 1886 *Civil and Military Gazette*, annual reports on forest administration and 1926 journals of the Bombay Natural History Society for citing a note on birds of Kulu.

"The key to future protection lies in the attitudes of local communities towards the natural ecosystems that surround them," the authors write in the chapter on people and GHNP. Their thoughts on the future of biodiversity in the western Himalayas must be taken note of.

The writers observe that the GHNP experiment shows that suddenly stopping people from using an area will result in conflicts and confrontation. "Hence the park's management is arranged in a particular order of prioritising working with the local communities (their livelihoods) to reduce their dependencies on the Park's natural resources and making interventions to manage, monitor and protect the natural habitats/species and resources which will happen only when local communities co-operate."

Listing the lessons learnt from the various experiments at the GHNP, the writers say facilitation by a (flexible) bureaucracy, scaling up community-based natural resource management, interactions between forest department staff and local organisations are some of the key enablers.



The Great Himalayan National Park
Sanjeeva Pandey & Anthony J. Gaston
Niyogi Books
₹1,500

DELHI THE HINDU Magazine
Sunday, July 21, 2019

NOSHTALGIA

The menu was so not the point

As IIT-Madras turns 60 this month, remembering its famous canteen named after a subatomic particle

Freedom at midnight Quark (above) was built by the students of IIT in the 80s; and (below) the sprawling green campus. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT & M. VEDHAN

VIJAYSREE VENKATRAMAN

Quark, a boardless eatery at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, was an insider destination. Deep inside the campus, flanked by hostels, the canteen would open late in the evening. As students, we went there for an after-dinner snack or a hot drink, so we could study or work on problem sets late into the night. At least, that was the intent.

The tech school in the urban forest campus turns 60 this year, but Quark hasn't been around that long. In the early 80s, students asked for a canteen that would stay open long after the hostel kitchens closed for the day. When they got the go-ahead, the students went on to design and build the canteen themselves, with guidance from professors in the structural engineering department.

At first, Quark sold tea, coffee and some snacks. The students organised cooks and supplies and kept the books. Sometimes, they even did the cooking

Small is beautiful

Prof. P.S. Rao, now retired, recalls how the students wanted something that looked different from the campus's flat beam and column structures. They made components of the umbrella-shaped roof in the lab and erected the structure on site with a make-shift crane. The crane, with its limited lifting capacity, decided the size of the canteen.

In 1984, the tiny canteen came into being with a name that honoured its size. Quark is a subatomic particle, smaller than a proton or neutron, and is a basic constituent of all matter in the universe. Physicist Murray Gell-Mann, who originally named quarks, was inspired by James Joyce's novel *Finnegan's Wake*. He considered Joyce's line 'Three quarks for Muster Mark' as a take on a pub owner's call of 'Three quarts for Mister Mark.'

No one ever ordered three quarts of anything at Quark, but the name stuck. It was so widely accepted that a name board was deemed unnecessary. "Students gravitated naturally towards Quark in the evenings and after dinner," says Prof. C.V.R. Murty, one of the student-architects.

At first, Quark sold tea, coffee and some snacks. The students organised cooks and supplies and kept the books. Sometimes, they even did the cooking. But Quark lost its student-run status after an embezzlement scandal came to light. The authorities turned Quark over to professional caterers. This was just as well because it meant that students from the 90s on, like me, got an extensive menu.

The fried rice at Quark – flecked with green beans, capsicum, and tiny cubes of carrots – was a memorable item. For an extra rupee, you could add bits of scrambled egg to the rice. Whether you were escaping from the hostel's uranium-yellow 'radioactive'

lemon rice or the idli-sambar dinner, you were grateful for this warm, flavourful dish. Kheema dosa, noodles and pao bhaji were other staples. Everything was reasonably priced.

But Quark's menu was beside the point really. If you lived in Sarayu, the only girl's hostel on campus back then, you went to the canteen because you could.

Riding a bicycle, enjoying the cool night breeze, and hanging out with friends was a treat. Anywhere else in the city, getting out so late for coffee or tea would be impossible for a spirited girl or even a whole gaggle of them. Quark gave some of us Sarayuites with strict curfews at home that first taste of freedom.

Questions and more

What else was Quark good for? Students sat on its steps or its cuboid concrete blocks, a stand-in for café furniture, to nurse their beverages and take big decisions. Which electives to pick? How to pass courses with tough instructors? Which American university's admission offer to accept? Quark was also our informal venue for skits, and a brain-storming base for the altruistic to plan relief work.

Prof. Murty recalls the devastating cyclone of 1985, when residents of Taramani and Velachery, then villages, took shelter on the campus, and students gathered at Quark to organise help for them.

Today, few old students will recognise Quark's replacement. In its new avatar, the canteen is a multi-cuisine restaurant. It now has a board that says Quark, but in a strange reversal students refer to it by the name of the restaurant chain that runs the place.

Not too long ago, I returned to Quark, with a former Sarayuite, who is now a professor at the institute. We ate rotis with bhindi masala and dal fry. It was broad daylight but, as before, everything tasted delicious.

The writer is a Boston-based science journalist and an IIT-Madras alumna.

PEACE IN A POD

No beginning or end

Why the mystery of the Isdal woman continues to draw an audience

USHA RAMAN

We like stories to begin at the beginning and give us a nice sense of an ending (thank you, Julian Barnes). But what if the only entry to a story was from its end? A tantalisingly brief window into a life, with nothing to outline a past and the way it got to this point? Then again, isn't that how most mysteries begin? The discovery of a body, the slow (or quick) unravelling of the knots that lead to possibilities in the past and some idea of roads to the end. We read into the patterns formed by those twisting back-and-forth strands and build a story.

This tale unburies its end with the remains of an unknown woman on a snow-covered Norwegian slope. "Objects had been laid out around the body, labels had been cut off from her clothes," narrates podcast host Marit Higraff, an investigative journalist from Norwegian public broadcaster NRK. "All traces of her identity had been deliberately removed," says her co-presenter Neil McCarthy, a radio documentary producer from the BBC. At the service in Bergen, in 1971, continues Higraff, "not even the funeral guests knew who she was."

Death in Ice Valley, a collaborative podcast from the BBC and NRK, follows the investigation into the mysterious death of this person who came to be known as 'the Isdal woman'. Running into 10 episodes and a special feature that was aired on June 24 this year, the podcast resembles the bleak Nordic murder mysteries we have all so grown to love. That the events are set in the conifer-and-snow covered hills near the port-town of Bergen (Isdal translates to Ice Valley), and the death at the height of the Cold War lends atmosphere and mystique to what is a fairly sparse basket of evidence to build a story upon.

Higraff had been investigating the story of the Isdal woman for two years before the idea of a podcast was born, and her tenacity and patience in pursuing leads to their minutest detail have yielded a compelling narrative. The listener is drawn in first by the hauntingly beautiful theme music and the strategic use of ambient sound. As they begin to tell the story, Hagriff and McCarthy are walking through the woods on a rainy day, their breath catching as they trek uphill, and you hear the crack and rustle of twigs and leaf underfoot. Accompanying them is the only police officer still alive from that day 47 years ago when the body was discovered by two young girls out for walk with their father. "It's almost like we're inside a cloud," says McCarthy, and Higraff tells him that this part of the valley is actually called 'Death Valley'.

The story of the Isdal woman captured the imagination of the Norwegian public when it was first reported, and nearly five decades later, Higraff and McCarthy build on that potential to captivate. They call on newer forensic techniques and the potential of information networks to fill in the yawning gaps in the story. The podcast's Facebook page has some 22,880 followers, many of whom have turned amateur detectives themselves, offering suggestions and attempting to follow through on the clues or decode the scraps of notes left behind by the Isdal woman.

A special episode, recorded live in Bergen, brought together some of these listener interventions and made clear that even though no significant advance has been made in either identifying the woman or figuring out what she was doing in Ice Valley, her story continues to draw an audience.

(A fortnightly series on podcasts.)

The Hyderabad-based writer and academic is a neatnik fighting a losing battle with the clutter in her head.

SUNDAY RECIPE

Veg fried rice

INGREDIENTS

2 cups cooked white rice
1 carrot finely chopped
3-4 garlic cloves thinly sliced
Small piece ginger, peeled and chopped
8-10 green beans thinly cut
1 medium green capsicum finely chopped
1 medium onion finely chopped
1 stalk spring onion thinly sliced
Oil to cook
Salt to taste
White pepper powder to taste

METHOD

1. Heat oil in a non-stick pan, add garlic and garlic and sauté for less than a minute. Make sure the garlic doesn't burn.
2. Add all the veggies except spring onion, and cook in high heat till they appear tender.
3. Add salt, pepper and mix well.
4. Add the rice after gently separating the grains with your fingers. You don't want rice to clump together.
5. Toss everything together well till the rice is finely coated with oil.
6. Turn off heat. Garnish rice with spring onion and serve.

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Sunday, July 21, 2019

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

CLOSE CALL

Let's talk about the C-word

That climate change affects us all is a reality middle-class India continues to dodge

OM ROUTRAY

Something dramatic was happening in India in the 80s. Old India was breaking down. Most of our experiments as a new democracy were failing but no new models were to be seen. In politics, a new generation was growing up after the Emergency but there was no leader of eminence that India could boast of. The economy was hollow but the worst was yet to come. Popular culture was constantly propping up heroes who were angry, disillusioned and fighting the "system".

At the peak of fighting and surviving against all odds came the era of liberalisation. Suddenly, as a nation and as an individual, one could be all that one wanted to be. Families became nuclear, firing the booster rocket and getting rid of deadweight, all in search of a prosperity that was now ready to be grabbed. Among the children from that era there was immense stress on the smartest kid to achieve wealth and pull the rest of the family up. Trickle-down theory was being practised in every Indian family. The smart child was the achiever and the saviour. If there was ever a set-up ripe for heady individualism, this was it.

Business leaders, used to relegating social issues to the CSR team, find themselves on the back foot when asked about climate change

Moral arrogance

Today, this is the generation that leads and populates our corporates and industries. Growing up as admired individuals that left the rest behind, this generation is marked by moral arrogance, righteous scoffing at society, and indifference towards the larger community. The feeling is that they rose despite the conditions around them and they could rise only by being apathetic and maintaining a distance from those conditions. They saw age-old practices of frugality as poverty, and consumption as an expression of power.

It is in this context that we are now trying to create dialogues around climate change, food security and environmental awareness. This generation is also the reason why these conversations have rarely found any resonance. Business leaders today, used to relegating social issues to the CSR team, find themselves on the back foot when asked about climate change. Thankfully, many younger leaders are talking about the climate these days and there is a change at the institutional level.

The problem, however, is that the ownership and intent of making a change has not percolated to the individual employee or citizen level. Departments across corporates are full of highly educated and globally travelled Indians who think of the environment as a topic from their children's textbooks or something the NGOs work on. Despite Delhi topping the list of most polluted cities in the world many times, talk of clean air is something that comes and goes with the winter. Last year, I heard people discussing brands of face mask as if they were buying a new fashion accessory.

Eight countries in the EU have proposed spending 25% of the EU budget on climate change. The African Development Bank has announced the tripling of its climate financing to reach nearly $5 billion annually by 2020; similar numbers for the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank are $6 billion and $16 billion a year, respectively.

Slow to wake up

While a rare few sectors and corporates have seen business value in climate change, most others have been slow to wake up. More than the leaders, we need the middle rung to be engaged in such conversations.

The challenge is how to sensitise people across strata and roles. Every time I tell people that we compost all of our kitchen waste, they wonder if the house stinks. The conversation usually ends there. Every time I suggest that parents should take their children to farmlands to play with plants and earth, I am told that nobody wants their children to become a farmer. Many people want to buy organic, but they think it is just

a fashion label, understanding little of what the process entails. Many talk about farmer distress and how they deserve a better life, but are neither aware nor interested in knowing how our lifestyle choices negatively impacts farmers.

Severed roots

The wealth and good life that today's middle-class enjoys has made them strangely selfish and righteous at the same time. The roots that were torn decades ago are completely severed now. Being the first generation to enjoy New India's wealth, middle-class India carries apathy and arrogance from drawing room to boardroom. The world to them is a binary – they are on the side of development and wealth, while NGOs and development folks are the 'others' who needlessly worry about soil, water, air and poverty.

But we need to persist. There is a small but growing number of people who are becoming aware, responsible and appropriately alarmed. We need to take these conversations to the spaces where no one wants them. We need to talk about traceability and slow food at posh dining tables, and about earth and water in corporate boardrooms. We need to talk about microbiomes when we discuss new toys for children and we need to talk about sacred groves when people ask about the business book we are now reading. At the next cocktail party, we need to talk about climate change.

Being the first generation to enjoy New India's wealth, middle India carries the same apathy and arrogance from their drawing room to the boardroom

The writer farms in the balcony, complains vocally about issues that bother him and eats his way across the world.

ALLEGEDLY

Life after spine

My spine may be a phantom. But my pain is real. How do I get rid of it?

Having struggled with back pain for three months, I finally, on the recommendation of my friend OTG, visited an orthopaedic who offers a special discount for journalists.

When he saw my X-ray, he nearly fell off his chair. "Get out of my chamber right now!" he shrieked.

"Excuse me," I said. "What do you mean 'chamber'? Are you Chief Justice or orthopaedic? If I don't get out, you'll hold me in contempt or what?"

"I already hold you in contempt!" he said. "You are not even a journalist. You're claiming to be one just to avail my discount!"

"You're mistaken," I said, and showed him my press card.

"Obviously Photoshopped."

I Googled myself and showed him the bylines that came up, with my name and picture. He still wouldn't believe me.

I finally got a letter from a cabinet minister, stating that I am indeed a top journalist of not just India, not just SAARC, but also the entire BIMSTEC. If you don't know what BIMSTEC stands for, please jump into the nearest cup of filter coffee.

Having a Union minister vouch for me seemed to have a calming effect. The ortho held my X-ray against the light. "Look," he said, pointing at what looked like the Milky Way but with several teeth. "What's this?"

"Spine?"

"Exactly!" he said. "It is well known that mammals such as the Great Indian Journalist shed their spines within six months of their first job. No way someone of your vintage still has a spine. You are no journalist." He threw me out.

More investigation

When OTG heard this, he was shocked. "The X-ray revealed a spine?! Are you sure it's not a spine-shaped tumour?"

"No," I said. He advised me to go see Peet Baba, a Unani-Siddha spine specialist, with a fresh X-ray and MRI. Peet Baba gathered all my test reports and dumped them in the dust bin. "All this X-ray and MRI are useless." He wrote down the address of a lab that had an Aura Chakra Machine (ACM).

The ACM images of my back were a colourful mishmash, like faded bathroom tiles. When Peet Baba saw them, he smiled. "The good news is that you don't really have a spine. See," he said, placing the ACM film over UV light. Sure enough, I could see a rib cage and pelvis but no spine.

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

"Baba-ji, if I don't have a spine, how come I have a backache?"

Peet Baba sighed. "Have you heard of what we call a phantom limb?"

"Of course. It's where an amputee feels sensation in a limb that's been amputated."

"Not just sensation. Amputees can also feel pain in their phantom limbs."

Having a Union minister vouch for me seemed to have a calming effect. The ortho held my X-ray against the light

"So?"

"You have a case of phantom spine," he said. "That's where the pain is coming from."

"So how does one treat an organ that doesn't even exist?"

"Hahaha," Peet Baba guffawed. "That's the limitation of modern Western medicine. Ancient India's *rishi-munis* have long known the answer to your problem. You see, they also spent long hours sitting, day after day. But unlike you journalists, they were meditating, not spending their days proactively retweeting influencers that you wish to suck up to."

"My spine may be a phantom," I said. "But my pain is real. How do I get rid of it?"

"Knowledge is power," Peet Baba said. "Now you know your spine is not real. Use that knowledge. Act like you don't have any kind of spine. Avoid sitting or standing."

"That's what my ortho also said. But how is that practical?"

"Who said it's not practical? Aren't you a journalist? You should have no problem spending all your time crawling. You will even get collateral benefits." He explained how, for instance, I could easily circumvent the latest media restrictions and gain access to the Finance Ministry and other government offices by crawling into them.

Secret mantra

He whispered in my ear a secret disyllabic mantra. "Chant it during your morning crawl for 30 days. Watch your professional colleagues on prime time and learn how it's done. I guarantee that your pain will vanish."

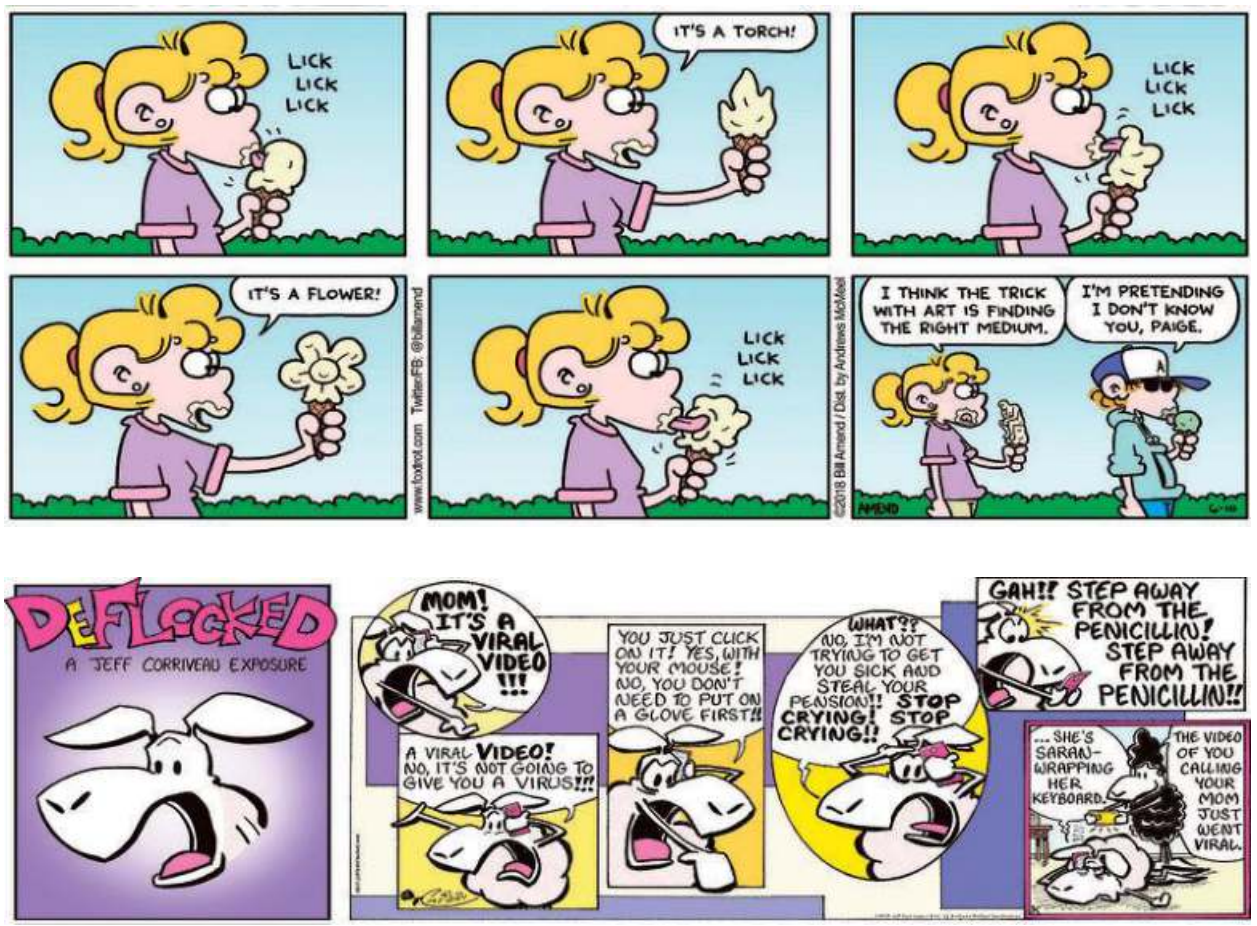
I've been following Peet Baba's advice for a week now, and I can tell you, 30 minutes of morning crawl is the best exercise to exorcise a phantom spine and related problems. The more time you spend crawling, the more genuinely spineless you become. Where there is no spine (phantom or otherwise) there is no question of back pain.

As more and more people from every crawl of life – not just journalists but also bureaucrats, judges, cops, tycoons, celebs – adopt the crawl as their default nationalist posture, India could soon become the world's largest democracy of authentically spineless and healthy individuals.

G. Sampath is Social Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*.

BROWN PAPERBAG BY SAILESH GOPALAN

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



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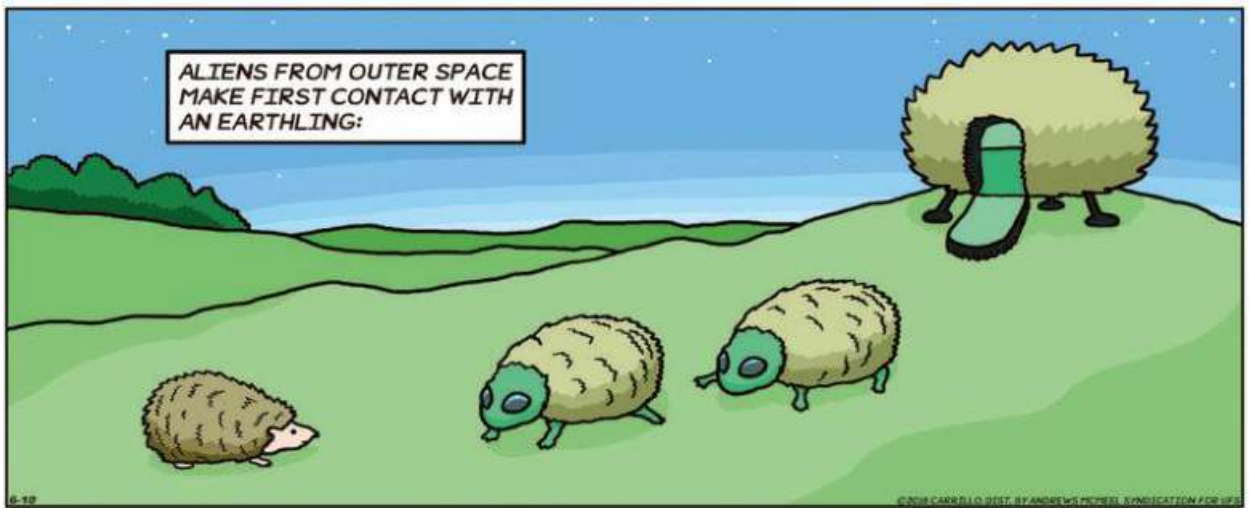


THE ROMANTICS BY VASINI VARADAN

GOREN BRIDGE

Vienna coup

East-West vulnerable, South deals

BOB JONES

Some plays in bridge have been given exotic names. One of these is the Vienna Coup. Legend has it that it comes from "the greatest whist player in Vienna." In reality, it is just a sexy name for a simple unblocking play.

South in today's deal was Ginny Swift, of Gulfstream, Florida. She was playing in the World Mixed Pairs in Orlando this last October. She treated her excellent 17-point hand with a five-card suit as worth 18 points. Most experts would agree, but it landed her in a difficult contract.

She ducked the first two hearts before winning the third with her ace, discarding a spade from dummy. The king of diamonds held the next trick, but East captured the queen of diamonds with his ace and led a heart to West's king, as dummy shed a club. West exited with the deceptive jack of clubs. Swift won with dummy's king and made the essential play of leading a spade to her ace – the Vienna Coup. She ran the diamonds and West couldn't defend the position. In the two-card ending, West couldn't keep the king of spades and two clubs, so he had to give Swift a ninth trick.

Note the importance of cashing the ace of spades. Had Swift not cashed the ace, West would have defended the position because he discards after South. Should South bare the ace of spades, West could safely bare the king. The ace would drop the king, but there would be no entry to dummy's queen. Nice play!

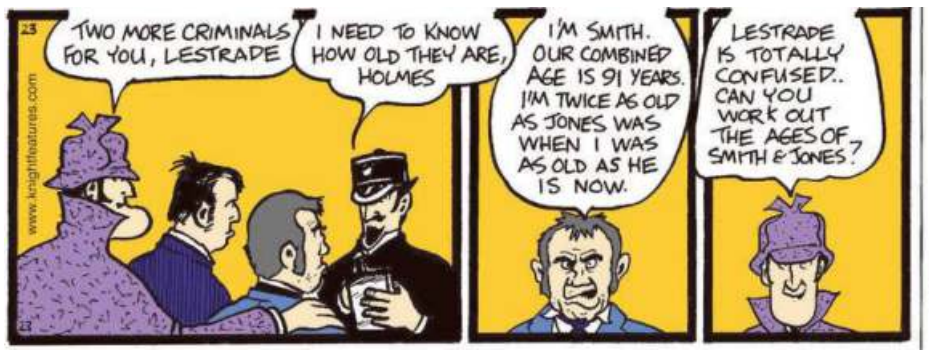
	NORTH ♠ Q 10 8 ♡ J 4 ◇ J 9 4 3 2 ♣ K 10 5	
WEST ♠ K 7 5 3 ♡ K 10 6 3 ◇ 8 7 ♣ Q J 7		EAST ♠ J 9 6 2 ♡ Q 9 8 7 ◇ A 10 6 ♣ 9 6
	SOUTH ♠ A 4 ♡ A 5 2 ◇ K Q 5 ♣ A 8 4 3 2	

The bidding:

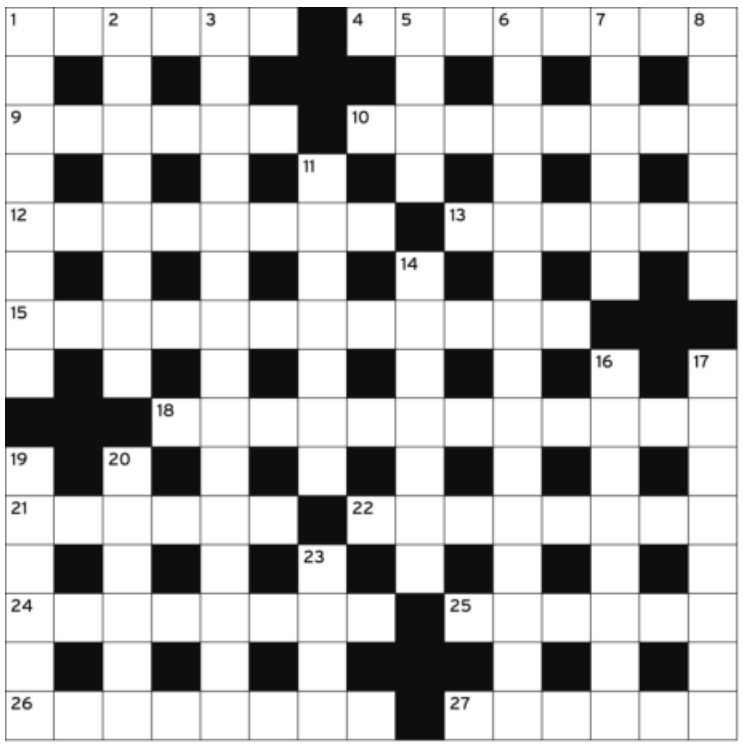
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	Pass	1◇	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

Opening lead: Three of ♡

BAKER STREET



THE SUNDAY CROSSWORD NO. 3057



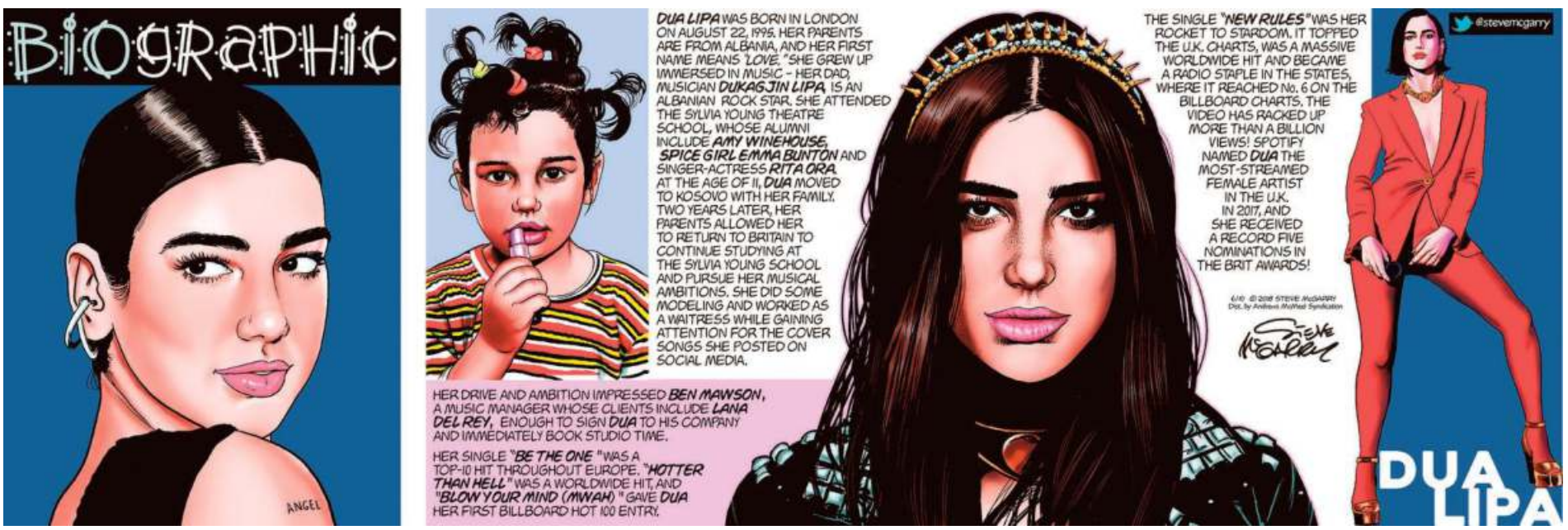
Across

1 Passage from tango and boléro's composer (6)
4 Rambling, untoward rambling (5-3)
9 Frightfully loud neckwear for a sentimental type (6)
10 Roaring missiles, second becoming first (8)
12 Group getting around the law in America? (3,1,4)
13 Tell the cops about lunatic fringe (6)
15 Philosopher with urges for fatty food (5,3,4)
18 Ludicrously citing Nando's as stereotypical middle-class fare? (3,3,6)
21 I tear around centre of Bonn in my dreams (2,4)
22 It was Byzantine, garbled, convoluted and ultimately intricate (8)
24 Shunned by society, stems endless desire to discuss work (4,4)
25 Stimulating dream I like very much (6)
26 Hallowed figure that is the source of many mysteries (8)
27 Village greens used to have these stores (6)

Down

1 Cricket match underground as part of an experiment (4,4)
2 Close? Far? Out – that is, not in the house (8)
3 Going over six state lines: it's Jean-Paul Sartre and friends! (15)
5 Oh no: celebrity's on the rise (4)
6 Working in restaurant, didn't remember to open up for party, leading to drama (7,3,5)
7 A dagger's drawn, oddly: it's tense (2,4)
8 Coaches turn to rust (6)
11 Tom Cruise film with daredevil navy airman (4,3)
14 What's ever-so briny? (4,3)
16 ITV with manic broadcast about dietary stipulation found in Brussels (7,1)
17 Tests idiot about uniform (2-6)
19 Manoeuvre's putting second section before first: sweet! (3,3)
20 Sportsman with something more substantial than a cap (6)
23 One marsh reverts to become a barren tract (4)

Solution No. 3056



QUIZ

Easy like Sunday morning

You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it: Robin Williams

BERTY ASHLEY

1 Born on July 21, 1951, Robin Williams became one of the most loved comedy actors of his generation. In 1992, a company wanted Williams for the voice of a character that they animated and lip-synced the character doing actual stand-up comedy. Williams was so impressed that he immediately signed on. During recording he improvised many of his lines that the movie's script was nominated for the Best Adapted Screenplay Academy Award. Which iconic character is this and the movie?

2 In 1993, this director was filming a dark and heavy film about a German businessman who saved refugees from the Holocaust. It was a traumatic experience for the crew. The director would put Robin Williams on speaker phone to cheer them up. Which multiple-award winning movie was this and who was the director who credited Williams with giving them the energy to finish the movie?

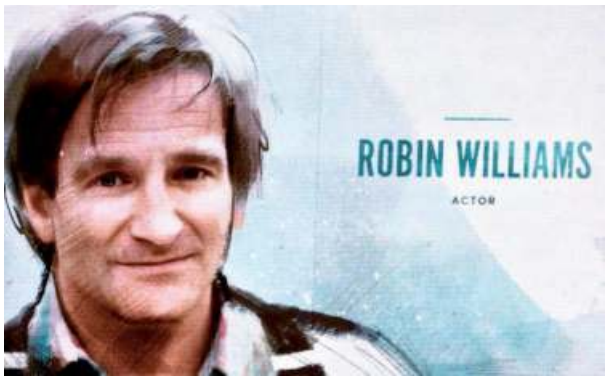
3 William's first major performance was this 1980 movie about a sailor searching for his missing father. He eventually finds his father who tells everyone about his dislike for a certain vegetable. In the climax, the villain force-feeds him the leafy vegetable, which revitalises the sailor who knocks him out. Who was this character that Williams played?

4 In 1981, American author Chris Van Allsburg wrote and illustrated a children's book, which is about a magical board game that features animals from the jungle coming to life in the real world. In 1995, it was made into a successful movie starring Robin Williams. What is the name of the game that means 'many effects' in Zulu?

5 Adrian Cronauer was a U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class who studied broadcasting and media operations. From 1965 to 1966 he was stationed in a certain country the U.S. was at war with at that time. He ran a programme called *Dawn Buster* which was well liked by the soldiers. He proposed a movie about his experiences which was titled after the phrase he used to start the show with. What is the name of this film, which won Robin Williams a Golden Globe and a nomination for the Best Actor at the Oscars?

6 In the movie *Dead Poets Society*, Williams plays the role of an English professor whose unusual methods of teaching inspires the students but annoys the authorities. In an iconic scene at the end he returns to pick up his things after being fired. His students jump on the table and quote from a famous poem by Walt Whitman written about the death of Abraham Lincoln. What poem is quoted by his students?

7 In 1991, Spielberg directed a movie, which was a sequel to the popular children's novel *Peter Pan*. It features Williams in the role of an adult Peter Pan who is now a workaholic lawyer. This movie is rare in that it is titled after the villain and not the hero as



movies usually tend to be. The name of the movie refers to the artificial body part the villain has. Which is the movie?

8 Anne Fine wrote a novel for young adult readers in 1987 about a family in which the parents divorce and the father decides to disguise himself as a nanny to meet his children. In 1993, it was made into a movie starring Williams who was so good at his role that once when he went shopping no one recognised him. The movie inspired both Tamil and Hindi remakes starring Kamal Haasan. What is the name of the nanny and consequently the title of the book and movie?

9 This 1997 movie is named after an invention by William's character Professor Brainard who invents a sentient green goo with enormous amounts of elasticity and kinetic energy that increases in speed as it bounces. The title of the movie refers to the name given to the goo by the professor's assistant. It gets its name because it is a flying rubber. What is the name of the movie?

10 One of the last movies Williams acted in was a series about things in a museum coming to life at night. He plays the role of the 26th President of the U.S. who is a mentor to Larry, the security guard. What character did he play that has this memorable line 'Anything's possible Lawrence. If it can be dreamed, it can be done'?

Answers
1. The Genie from Aladdin
2. Schindler's List , Steven Spielberg
3. Popeye
4. Jumanji
5. Good Morning, Vietnam!
6. Oh captain, my captain!
7. Hook
8. Mrs. Doubtfire
9. Flubber
10. Theodore Roosevelt

A molecular biologist from Madurai, our quizmaster enjoys trivia and music, and is working on a rock ballad called Coffee is a Drink, Kaapi is an Emotion. @bertyashley

LETTER FROM A CONCERNED READER

Ask me anything

Respected Madam/ Sir,

What is the capital of Madagascar?

I don't know.

How is the president of Canada?

I don't know.

Who is the inventor of Beethoven?

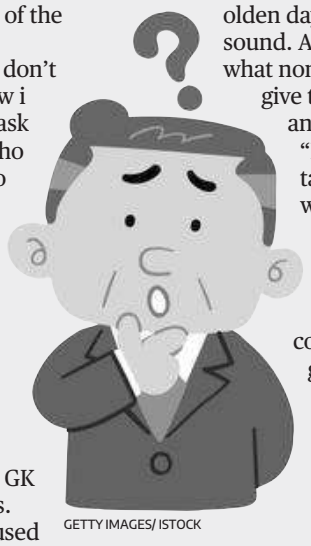
I don't know.

Where is the formula for Potassium permanganate?

I don't know.

What is the capital of the aalumadoluma of the mandashiromani of the Bulgaria?

I don't know i don't know i don't know i don't care if you ask one more time who is the person who has committed murder in anna nagar and breakdanced on dead body then correct answer j. Mathrubootham.



GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

Madam/ Sir, since childhood itself I have 100% total hatred of all GK quiz programmes. First of all there used to be quiz on All India Radio. My father used to listen and tell, "Hello, Mathrubootham, whether you know any information or your head is pure jackfruit." Immediately I used to say, "Appa, at least jackfruit you can eat, what you will do with information about first man on moon, first elephant on Uranus, first adai-avial on Neptune." Then I would jump out of room and run quickly before arrival of father's footwear.

When I was in school same thing. During PT class if monsoon is falling and falling, PT master Captain Nair will say, "Ok children, let us do some exercise for brain with GK questions. Master Mathrubootham whether you can tell name of one country that is having equator line going through it?"

Bloody fool Nair just because ex-military with moustache means you are the managing director of Equator? I would immediately say, "Bulgaria."

Madam/ Sir, you ask any quiz question I will say Bulgaria. No tension. If you give stupid answer then people will stop asking stupid question. This is excellent life philosophy for myself, please share if possible with youths in your office.

So what should Mrs. M do when housing complex people are organising quiz contest for senior citizens? She should say many thanks for opportunity but unfortunately we are unable. Mr. Mathrubootham is wanting to keep all his GK for private use only.

Instead what is she doing? She said, "Quiz oho! Immediately we will participate, please take entry fee for couple team of Mr and Mrs. M." Then she is coming home and asking what name to give our team? I said, "How about Public Humiliation of Husband Corporation of India Ltd?"

She laughed and laughed like olden days internet connecting sound. And then said, "Old man, what nonsense. Just enjoy quiz, give two-three correct answers." I said, "Kamalam, you please take part on your own, why in retired age quiz and all."

She said, "Fine, no problem, I will ask Dr. Shankaramenon to come. He is true gentleman with guts. Also have you seen he has reduced weight last two-three months?"

Madam/ Sir, this is the situation in the house these days. Own wife blackmailing husband. I said, "Ok ok ok ok have some shame, I will go to Easwari Lending Library and read some GK books."

Finally, what happened yesterday? Kamalam is answering question after question immediately like enquiry counter at railway station. Then we reached final round against Mr. and Mrs. F.N. D'Costa.

Quiz master Mrs. Nalini said, this is tie-breaker question, it is difficult question, world famous Danube River is flowing through many countries, whether you can name any one?

Mr. F.N. D'Costa said, "Is it Italy?"

Wrong, wrong thousand times wrong.

Then Mrs. M looked at me. She said, "Old man, say something, my head is *kaali*." I said, "Kamalam, I told you from the beginning, avoid avoid avoid. Did you listen? Now you are asking me about river and country."

She said, "Old man, say something otherwise people will laugh and laugh."

I said, "Fine. Bulgaria."

And now we are quiz champions of housing complex. One small trophy and gift voucher for online shopping.

Yours in too much intelligence,
J. Mathrubootham