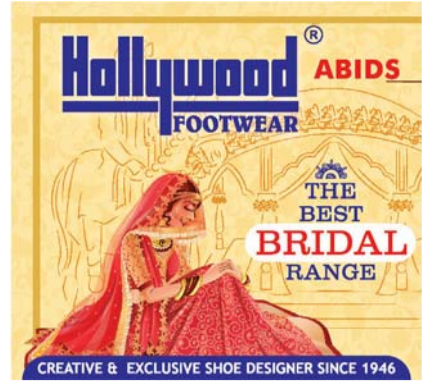


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 22 JULY 2019



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**WEATHER**

Max: 31.6°C  
Min: 24.4°C  
RH: 61%  
R'fall: Traces

Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Rain, thundershowers likely. Max/Min 31/25°C

**ASTROGUIDE**

Vikari: Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Ashada Bahula Panchami till 2.02 pm  
Star: Purvabhadra till 10.23 am  
Varjyam: 9.06 pm to 10.53 pm  
Durmuhurtam: 12.48 pm to 1.40 pm; 3.23 pm to 4.14 pm  
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am

**HJRI CALENDAR**  
Ziqaad 18,1440 AH

**PRAYERS**  
Fajar: 4.44 am  
Zohar: 12.32 pm  
Asar: 4.55 pm  
Maghrib: 6.59 pm  
Isha: 8.13 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.52 PM  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.53 AM  
MOONRISE TOMORROW 10.29 PM  
MOONSET TODAY 8.32 AM

**COUNTER POINT**

Round the clock party membership drive, sir... here is the application form!

**Heavy rain till July 25: IMD**

Hyderabad: The India Meteorological Department has extended the heavy rain warning till July 25. The first warning was to have ended on Tuesday. On Sunday Adilabad, Nirmal, Jagtial and Warangal recorded over 10 cm rainfall at some places. Heavy rain is expected in the city after July 23. The city remained mostly cloudy and some areas experienced drizzles on Sunday.

**Toddler dies in house collapse**

Hyderabad: A 14-month-old toddler died when the roof of his house collapsed on him and his mother while they were sleeping on Sunday morning in Sitaphalmadi. R. Geetansh died before he reached the hospital. His mother Swathi had a head injury. Police said the building collapsed due to the rain in the last couple of days.

**INSIDE**

**CITY... PAGE 3**  
Streets erupt in Bonalu festival fervour

**POLITICS... PAGE 5**  
KCR sends TRS leaders on inauguration spree

## HIGHER | STUDIES ■ Chance for students to pursue second course UGC for multiple degrees at one go

New Delhi, July 21: Students might soon be able to pursue multiple degrees simultaneously from different universities or the same university, with the University Grants Commission studying the feasibility of the idea.

The UGC has set up a panel headed by its Vice-Chairman Bhushan Patwardhan to examine the issue of pursuing two degree programmes simultaneously either through

distance mode, online mode or part time mode.

However, this is not the first time the commission is examining the issue. The UGC had set up a committee in 2012 as well and consultations were held on the



same but ultimately the idea was junked.

"The panel set up last month met once. Now, consultations are being held with different stakeholders to explore the feasibility of the idea," an official said.

The 2012 committee headed by then UoH V-C Furqan Qamar had recommended that a student enrolled in a degree programme under regular mode may be allowed to pursue a maximum of one additional degree programme simultaneously under open or distance mode from the same or a different university.

■ Page 7: Demand for double degrees, says UGC

## Mamata claims threat from Central agencies

■ 'Want Trinamul leaders to join the BJP'

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JULY 21

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday complained that the BJP government in New Delhi was misusing Central investigative agencies to threaten her MPs, MLAs and other party leaders.

"A while back Shatabdi (Trinamul MP) told me that the Enforcement Directorate had summoned her again. She is not alone, however. Prosenjit and Rituparna (actors) have been called also along with others. Many more are there. Calling them, they are told to contact some BJP leaders. They are threatened with arrest if they do not follow (what they



are told). I know of a person, who is under arrest now, who has been asked to take the name of an influential politician to implicate him," the Trinamul supremo said at the 26th anniversary of the mega Shaheed Divas

(martyrs' day) rally organised by her party in remembrance of the killing of 13 Youth Congress workers in the police firing on July 21, 1993 during Left rule when she was still in the Congress.

This was the first major political rally she has addressed since the Lok Sabha results were declared.

Rubbishing the prospect of an end to her rule in the next Assembly elections in the state in 2021, Ms Banerjee on Sunday challenged the BJP to fight like she had done against the CPM regime for 34 years before dreaming of coming to power in the state.

■ Page 7: BJP LS win a mystery, says Mamata

## For HDK, it's the final countdown

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, JULY 21

With the 15 rebel Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) legislators now camping in Mumbai asserting that they had no plans of returning to Bengaluru to take part in the voting on the crucial confidence motion moved by Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy in the Legislative Assembly, the prospects of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government winning the trust vote on Monday look pretty bleak.

The coalition has, however, still not given up hope with reports doing the rounds that a Congress CM replacing Mr Kumaraswamy (maybe Congress legislature party leader Siddaramaiah) is the latest idea under consideration to win over the rebels. There are also reports that the government may try to prolong the discussion on the confi-

■ In a late-night development former CM and Congress leader Siddaramaiah is learnt to have said no to the CM post which the JD(S) reportedly offered him in an attempt to placate the rebels.

dence motion, hoping to get some relief from the Supreme Court giving them more time to win back the unrelenting rebel lawmakers.

Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar had on Friday adjourned the trust vote proceedings to Monday after the coalition ignored two deadlines set by Governor Vajubhai Vala to complete the proceedings on Friday itself.

■ Page 7: Sidda name floated to fool us: Rebels

## ISRO SET FOR 2.43 PM MOON LAUNCH TODAY

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC NELLORE, JULY 21

The countdown commenced at 6.43 pm on Sunday for the launch of the Chandrayaan-2 mission from the spaceport at Sriharikota, Nellore. The mission is scheduled to take off on a GSLV-Mk III rocket at 2.43 pm on Monday from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

Sources said a launch rehearsal had been taken up on Saturday and was successful. The Launch Authorisation Board gave the green signal for the launch at a meeting held at the Sriharikota range (Shar) on Sunday.

■ Report on Page 2

## PROBE WILL DEPEND ON CREW: IRAN

Tehran, July 21: Iran said on Sunday that the speed of its investigation into a British-flagged tanker depends on the cooperation of its crew, after ignoring calls to hand back the vessel.

The tanker was impounded at Bandar Abbas after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps seized it on Friday. Its crew is made up of 18 Indians, including the captain, three Russians, a Latvian and a Filipino.

■ Report on Page 10

## 2 minors abducted, 1 raped

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Alert local residents helped police arrest two persons who kidnapped two girls of 11 years and eight years old to an old building at Saidabad and raped the elder child on Saturday evening. The people caught one of the men coming out of the building along with the

girl who was crying and handed him over to the police. This led to the arrest of the other rapist.

The girl was allegedly raped by both men. Saidabad police arrested both men and sent them to judicial remand on Sunday.

According to Saidabad police, Dasru, 25, and Mothilala, 28, abducted two girls aged 11 years

and 8 years, who were playing in front of their relatives' house in Singareni Colony under Saidabad police station limits on Saturday.

Saidabad inspector K.V.L. Narasimha Rao said, "They lured the girls on the pretext of showing them a movie."

■ Page 4: Alert guards, locals saw girl crying



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## Old order

Uttam Kumar Reddy says Congress is against cancellation of village revenue officers system by the government



Only the BJP has the power to stop the monarchy of KCR

— D.K. Aruna  
BJP leader

## SPEAK OUT

### POOR ROADS

Months have passed by but Nizampet roads remain unattended. For a 10-minute route, it takes at least 40 minutes to travel due to the bad condition of the road, making commuters' life hell.

— Srinivas Bellam,  
Hyderabad

### ADS EVERYWHERE

One morning when I was taking a walk near the Tank Bund, I was shocked to see banners advertising an event put up at the railings in front of the Buddha statue. We Hyderabadis are proud of this statue and like to draw a comparison between this statue and the Statue of Liberty in New York. Will New Yorkers ever tolerate banners of any kind being affixed to the precincts of the statue?

— S.N. Krishna,  
Hyderabad

### NO MANNERS

Visit Nampally Public Garden, every weekend. People passing urine on walls, on benches and stairs is a very common view. I try my best and request them not to pass urine in public. It does not only make them uncomfortable, it also causes inconvenience to others. I would like to request everyone through this newspaper to have basic etiquette in public.

— Syed Sadiq Jafar Hussain,  
New Malleshpally

### GROWING TRAFFIC

I would like to draw the attention of the roads and buildings department, SCB, GHMC and Indian Railways towards the Road Under Bridge connecting Doveton Bazaar, Bolaram (opposite to Janapriya Bungalows) and Alwal. The road has become very busy in recent times owing to many schools and colleges that are located in Suchitra and Alwal. The Road Under Bridge is unable to handle the growing traffic with changing times. Lorries to buses and tractors, all end up queuing and have to wait for traffic at each end to clear or make way alternatively and periodically. Absence of any traffic controller on this road adds to the woes. It is also evident that no traffic controller would be able to handle the ever-growing traffic seeing the present scenario. It's high time that the underpass is widened immediately and help in smooth passage of vehicles. A few days of hardship to commute will be fruitful for long run. I hope that departments mentioned above can avert the worst to come in future. They must widen the underpasses for easy and free flow of the traffic.

— Krishna Moorthy,  
Hyderabad

## FIRE OF APATHY



Tired of the negligence of the GHMC, residents set dried branches on fire. The GHMC failed to clear the branches which had fallen following heavy rain at various places in Malakpet, hindering the traffic flow and putting public to inconvenience. — DC

## TARGET TRANSPARENCY

# Digi house numbering work is back on track

GHMC calls for fresh tenders for third time in 3 years

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

The GHMC has once again decided to implement its digital house numbering project in order to bring transparency.

After keeping the project in cold storage for three years, officials have now decided to invite fresh tenders and complete it within six months.

Officials claimed that the GHMC project will not only bring transparency in property tax collection but will also enhance the accountability of bill collectors.

The digital house numbers will be integrated with the database of all city departments for accuracy.

The project, when proposed three years ago, did not materialise as a dispute between bidders led to a court case. When the GHMC invited tenders a second time, it did not have any takers.

The corporation once again floated tenders in 2017 and took up a pilot project in Moosapet under the Unique Smart Addressing Solution for Urban Dwellings.

In 2018, it decided to link the Aadhaar card with digital house numbers and named the project Aadhaar-Digital Door

THE GHMC project will not only bring transparency in property tax collection but will also enhance accountability of bill collectors.

OFFICIALS SAID that the project is a one-stop solution where electricity and water bills can be collected accurately.

Numbering project. A geo-tagging based seven digit code was finalised. This project was also shelved.

The GHMC has made several unsuccessful attempts to increase its property tax collection. In 2016, it embarked on a "tsunami survey" for the re-verification of 1 lakh non-residential properties paying less than ₹1,200 in property tax. It did not produce significant results as bill collectors were found to be working with property owners to indulge in irregularities. Besides, lack of co-ordination from other line departments and political interference forced the GHMC to put the project in cold storage. Officials said that the project is a one-stop solution where electricity and water bills can be collected accurately. The properties would be integrated with the revenue department.

This apart, property tax collection will be increased by at least ₹600 crore during the first financial year after execution. Bogus voters will also be identified and deleted.

A senior GHMC official said the corporation now hopes to successfully revive the project. He said that it had identified that property taxes were being paid by only 14 lakh out of the estimated 20 lakh households in the city due to inaccurate house-numbering.

He said that the corporation hopes to earn an additional ₹600 crore this financial year through the implementation of the digital house-numbering system, from about 6 lakh residential and non-residential properties that are evading property taxes.

The official said that the process involves taking high-resolution satellite images, processing them to identify individual properties followed by field verification by teams comprising GIS personnel and tax inspectors.

## DEPARTMENTS TO BE LINKED WITH PROJECT AFTER '20

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

The digital house numbering project announced by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao in the Assembly covers the 128 municipalities and 12 corporations other than the GHMC and would be slightly different from what is being implemented in the city.

The project will not be linked to other departments for at least two financial years due to the ongoing upgradation of panchayats and nagar panchayats. Besides, the revenue and other departmental records in rural parts are more complicated and data purification has to be taken up.

In the urban local bodies, the project would provide a digital-friendly and future-proof address system for faster and better access to services from the government and private sectors. Once the project is completed, every household in areas under all urban local bodies will have a unique DDNs with QR code.

## WORK IN PROGRESS



The work of the under-construction Road Under Bridge connecting Nagarjunasagar Ring Road with Secunderabad which is at a brisk pace is expected to provide a big relief to the motorists. — P. SURENDRA

## MUSLIMS ROPED IN TO TAKE UP SOCIAL WORK

J.S. IFTIKHAR | DC  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

A concerted effort is on by some Muslims in the city to address in a systematic way the socio-economic issues facing the community.

Educated, well-to-do Muslims are being roped in to take up the cause of the less fortunate as part of their religious obligation.

In at least three Muslim populated areas of Hakimpet, Rasoolpura and Bazaar Ghat, a household survey is being carried out to find out the living conditions, educational and health status of Muslims.

The idea is to empower and emancipate the poor and underprivileged members of the community through education.

The Bengaluru-based National Centre for Research and Development (NCRD), which is successfully carrying out similar work in different parts of Karnataka, has come forward to guide and train the Hyderabad Muslims in addressing issues in a professional manner.

Mr U. Nisar Ahmed, retired inspector general of police, Karnataka, and chairman, NCRD, recently addressed a group of masjid committee members and volunteers at Red Hills to motivate them to join community service.

## Grains like millet, maize less sensitive to climate change

ANURAG | DC  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

A new study states that coarse grains such as millet and maize can help the food supply chain adapt to climate change.

In a study published in Environmental Research Letters, alternative grains such as millet, maize, pearl millet and sorghum were not only found to be less sensitive to change in climate but also more sustainable given the rising unpredictability of monsoons.

Research at the Indian Institute of Millet Research in the city has shown

that crops are adapted to a wide range of temperatures, moisture-regimes and input conditions, supplying food and feeding millions of dryland farmers, particularly in the developing nations like India.

Dr J. Lakshmi, professor at the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University said, "The demand for millets has steadily increased in the last three years. In order to introduce these ancient grains back into the mainstream, millets need to be made available in fun, tasty, and easy to cook products that are convenient to use for modern consumers to partially supplement or replace their daily needs with millet-based healthy alternatives."

The available forms of millets are minor millets such as foxtail millet, little millet, kodo millet, proso millet and barnyard millet.

The major millets are sorghum (great millet), bajra (pearl millet) and ragi (finger millet).

Researchers working in the field of millets say that consumption of millets can help the modern world fight several ailments and lifestyle diseases.

# Due to mental pressure, 2,470 Indians died in Gulf

## Smallest state gets many complaints

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

A total of 2,470 Indians emigrants died in the Gulf countries this year, as per official records. Experts blamed mental pressure on the workers, deplorable living conditions and extreme temperatures for the deaths.

According to official data Saudi Arabia registered the highest number of deaths at 1,076 followed by the UAE (736), Kuwait (282), Oman (195), Bahrain (93) and Qatar (88) till May 30.

P. Basanth Reddy, president of the Telangana Gulf Migrants Welfare Association, said, "Every day we find people committing suicide in the Gulf. They were taking this extreme step mainly due to mental pressure. This issue had to be addressed at the grass-root level," he said.

If the government had provided skills training to the men in rural areas, they wouldn't have gone to the Gulf.

He said oftentimes 15 migrants were crammed in one room. They were forced to live in unhealthy conditions which affected their self-esteem.

Mr G. Muralidhar Reddy, social welfare activist from Kuwait, said, "They have to stay in camps provided by the companies. The hospital facility is rare. Many of those who died couldn't reach the hospital in time."

Many people died in vehicle accidents as they were not familiar with the traffic rules in the Gulf.

SAUDI ARABIA registered the highest number of deaths at 1,076 followed by the UAE (736) and Kuwait (282).

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

The most number of complaints from overseas Indian workers emanates from Kuwait. Some 2,377 complaints were received from Indians working till May. From Saudi Arabia, there were 2,244 complaints as per government records.

Activists working for emigrants' welfare say the reason for the large number of complaints is the many active organisations in Kuwait which help Indians lodge complaints and fight on their behalf.

Kuwait also has the most number of workers who registered for repatriation in embassies/consulates. A total of 2,330 requests for repatriation were filed in Kuwait followed by 1,138 in Qatar, 1,104 in Saudi Arabia, 665 in Oman, and 285 in Bahrain.

Most of the complaints received from Indian workers are regarding non-payment of salary, denial of legitimate labour rights and benefits, non-issuance/ renewal of residence permits, non-payment/ grant of overtime allowance, weekly holidays, longer working hours, refusal to grant exit/ re-entry permits for visit to India, refusal to allow the worker on final exit visa after completion of their contracts, non-provision of medical and insurance facilities, and not being paid compensation upon death.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle Mr G. Muralidhar Reddy, social welfare

activist from Kuwait, who has helped many Indians return home, said, "In Kuwait, many Indians come for work on a work visa. If they have differences with the company's owners they will face a lot of problems. If he leaves the firm on his own without being paid a number of cases will be booked against him like theft, debt case."

Mr Reddy added that like the Police Clearance Certificate issued to Indian passport applicants and passport holders by a government agency or the police department, to certify that the applicant has no criminal record, the cops or a central agency should be established to check and verify whether the migrants going to work at a particular company have any criminal history in the past and whether it is fake or not.

President of the Emigrants' Welfare Forum, M.M. Bheem Reddy, said, "Kuwait is a very small country. However, there are many Indian associations there helping to bring out these issues and lodge complaints."

According to official documents, there are 42 Indian officers and 202 Indian staff deployed in 11 missions and posts in the Gulf countries, assisted by 354 local employees. The ministry of external affairs regularly reviews the requirement of manpower at various levels in missions and posts abroad as well as at the headquarters, and takes appropriate action as per the requirement, added an official.

### CASE STUDY 1

Ms D. Tejaswaini's husband Prasad got stuck in Kuwait following a difference between him and the owner of the company he worked for. Prasad left the job and wants to return to India and is running around to get the required clearances. Ms Tejaswaini told Deccan Chronicle over the phone that she has two small children and her husband left for Kuwait a year and a half ago. "When my husband met with an accident and had some health issues, the company owner never gave him leave and on top of that he insisted my husband come to work. Following which he left the job." Since then he has been trying to return to India. She is doing odd jobs for a living. "We have a lot of debts. He wanted to work for a year and come back and clear all his debts. I don't have enough money to feed my children. I request the concerned officials to help my husband to come back," she said. Mr Prasad said, "I came to Kuwait in May last year and got stuck here. The company owner used to torture me. When I met with an accident on the company premises, he didn't pay my hospital charges." He said the employer had denied him a month's salary. "I was not even given helpers for doing the work. I left the job two months ago along with two other helpers. Since then I have been roaming around the offices to get clearances to come back home," Mr Prasad said, adding that he had been denied the akama (working permit)."

### CASE STUDY 2

Ms N. Swarupa Rani lost her husband in the Gulf two years ago and is single-handedly raising her children, a son in Class 10 and a daughter who is suffering with heart problems and has undergone two surgeries. Her husband Satyam Reddy died on February 23, 2017, at the age of 42. Ms Swarupa Rani told Deccan Chronicle: "I have a lot of doubts about his death. While he was leaving India he didn't have health problems. The day before he died he spoke to me and said he would be returning in two days." She said her husband told her that he was facing problems at work. She said her daughter had undergone two heart surgeries and the son also had health issues. Kuwait-based social welfare activist G. Muralidhar Reddy said the government should provide such families medical aid, education and rehabilitation, help to set up small businesses or provide employment.

## MISSION MOON ■ Despite delay in launch, Chandrayaan-2 to land on Sept. 7, as per first plan

# Chandrayaan-2 launch rehearsal successful

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, JULY 21

The countdown commenced at 6.43 pm on Sunday for the launch of the Chandrayaan-2 mission from the spaceport at Sriharikota, Nellore district. The mission is scheduled to take off on a GSLV-Mk III rocket at 2.43 pm on Monday from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

Sources said a launch rehearsal had been taken up on Saturday and was successful.

The Launch Authorisation Board gave the green signal for the launch at a meeting held at the



Countdown for the prestigious Mission commenced at 6.43 pm on Sunday and the launch will take place after 20 hours at 2.43 pm on Monday.

The lander-Vikram will finally land near South Pole of the Moon on Sep 7, 2019.

Sriharikota range (Shar) on Sunday. Isro chairman Dr K. Sivan reached Sriharikota and is closely monitoring the launch preparations.

The first attempt to launch the mission on

July 15 was called off due to a helium leak.

Chandrayaan-2, which includes an orbiter, the lander Vikram and the rover Pragyan, is scheduled to be injected into a highly elliptical 'parking'

orbit that is 170 km above Earth at its closest and 39,120 km at its farthest.

A series of manoeuvres will then be carried out to raise its orbit and put Chandrayaan-2 on a Lunar Transfer Orbit to travel the 3.54 lakh km distance to the moon.

On entering the moon's sphere of influence, on-board thrusters will slow down the spacecraft. The Chandrayaan-2 will enter into a circular orbit around the moon at a height of 100 km above the lunar surface. The day of landing, September 7, is expected to stay unchanged despite the delay.

## AP EDUCATION MINISTER WANTS ALL STUDENTS TO SEE LAUNCH

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, JULY 21

Minister for education Adimulapu Suresh ordered the Andhra Pradesh education officials to make arrangements for all the students to watch the Chandrayaan-2 launch on Monday at 2.43 pm in all the schools in the state.

He further ordered all the headmasters and principals of the schools to set up digital classes, virtual classes, TVs and other

All schools are told to set up digital classes, virtual classes, TVs and other media platforms to see the launch.

media platforms to watch the launch by the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), explaining the importance of the historic mission by India.

He also suggested to use <https://www.isro.gov.in/chandrayaan2-home-link>.



### New beginning

## Harish Rao inaugurates PG College building in Siddipet, which comes under purview of Osmania University



### Doctors should visit a school every week, counsel kids on unhealthy diet

— M. Venkaiah Naidu  
Vice-President

### IN BRIEF

## COPS TURN A BLIND EYE AS HAWKERS ENCROACH ROAD

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD JULY 21

Even though the stretch of the road from Andhra Bank to Kacheguda crossroads, through Badi Bazaar, is a non-vending zone or red zone, hawkers happily do business here.

Residents say the encroachment makes it difficult for them to commute. They had asked the traffic police to clear the illegal encroachment and free the road, but no action has been taken.

Mr Y. Dayakar from Inderbagh said traders and residents were among those who have complained to the traffic police. He said hawkers and push-cart vendors block the road to the extent that commuters are unable to use it.

He added that though there were no restrictions on two-wheelers and four wheelers, they were scared to enter the road fearing the traffic jam caused by the hawkers. The width of the road was increased from 28 feet to 68 feet after the Metro Rail pillars were erected.

Mr Ramakrishna, another resident of Inderbagh, said, "The hawkers are occupying the road and making it difficult for commuters. When the traffic police arrives, somehow they get the information about it and clear the roads. After the policemen leave, they are back to blocking the roads. We have been complaining about this to the authorities concerned, but in vain."

Mr Sashi Bushan, general secretary of the Sultan Bazaar Association, said, "Earlier, there used to be only 60 hawkers but recently the number has increased to approximately 600. We have been time and again complaining to the officials about the menace of hawkers but in vain. After the construction of the Metro pillars began, the number of hawkers has increased."

Mr K.G. Kandlikar, general secretary of the Bhagyanagar Hawkers' Association, believes that the issue is being hyped and denies that it is a no-hawking zone. "It is not a red zone, it is a free zone. Hawkers are not encroaching on the road. As the Metro construction is ongoing, residents in the area are feeling uncomfortable. Once the construction is done, everything will come back to normal," he said.

Inspector N. Neraja of Sultan Bazaar traffic police station said, "We have been conducting drives and booking cases on the hawkers and push-cart vendors who were encroaching the roads. Last month alone, 145 cases have been booked under Section 39(B) for illegally occupying the roads."

Residents say that the encroachment makes it difficult for them to commute. They had asked the traffic police to clear the illegal encroachment and free the road, but no action has been taken.



Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy (above) carries bonam to the Ujjaini Mahankali temple in Secunderabad on Sunday. (Right) Animal husbandry and cinematography minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav and Congress MP Revanth Reddy greet each other during the procession.



# Streets erupt in fervour as Bonalu festivities begin

## Security tightened as CM, ministers join devotees

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Lakhs of devotees went to Mahankali temples across the state to celebrate Bonalu. The state festival was ushered in at the Ujjaini Mahankali temple at Secunderabad on Sunday.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy presented pattu vastras and offered prayers to the goddess along with his family. He was welcomed by temple officials and minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav into the sanctum sanctorum.

Thousands of women devotees stood for long hours in queues to offer bonam (cooked rice with jaggery in a pot). Devotees turned up from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka as well. Over 2,500 police personnel including bomb-detection squads were deployed and 2,000 CCTV cameras placed for security.

Endowments minister Allola Indrakaran Reddy said, "Bonalu is a very special festival for the people of Telangana and this is the reason why the state has recognised this festival as the state festival. With the blessings of the goddess, we were able to finish the Kaleshwaram project and have prayed to the goddess that there should be good rains in the state."

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy and his wife Kavya, several ministers, MPs, MLAs and other officers had darshan of the goddess on the occasion. Government allotted about ₹15 crore for the festival, and many civic departments were roped in to make arrangements for the devotees.

Despite a traffic advisory put out well in advance, there were traffic jams on Mahatma Gandhi Road near the Paradise crossroads.



Devotees take out a procession carrying bonam (Above) to the Ujjaini Mahankali temple in Secunderabad on Sunday. (Below) Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy accompanies his wife Kavya.



## Kavitha makes first public appearance after poll loss

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Telangana Rashtra Samiti's former MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha, who is also daughter of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy, was the centre of attraction at the Bonalu festivities on Sunday.

Ms Kavitha was making a rare public appearance after her defeat in the Lok Sabha election from Nizamabad in May. She took part in the *shobha yatra* along with thousands of women devotees.

The procession started at Aadaiahnagar and wound its way to the Ujjaini Mahankali temple.



Former TRS MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha joins the Bonalu procession from Audaiahnagar to Ujjaini Mahankali temple on Sunday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

## MAN GIVEN ₹8L FOR BOTCHED PILES SURGERY

Hyderabad, July 21: A 31-year-old yoga instructor, who suffered "severe" health complications following an alleged botched piles surgery at a private hospital in Secunderabad, was on Sunday handed over a cheque of ₹8 lakh, awarded as compensation by the state consumer forum.

The victim had moved the consumer forum on June 29, alleging medical negligence by a doctor at the clinic.

In its verdict, the forum had ordered the compensation to the victim through the clinic within a month, an official release said. Commissioner for Civil Supplies Akun Sabharwal handed over the cheque to the victim.

The man, who hails from a poor background and is the sole bread winner of his family had developed piles problem and approached the clinic in 2018.

He was asked to undergo a surgery, which cost ₹25,000. But, soon after being discharged, he suffered severe bleeding and went back to the same hospital for treatment. The doctors referred him to another hospital for treatment.

He spent ₹18 lakh towards medical expenses for which he had to sell his small piece of land and also borrowed money from others, the release said. — PTI

The victim moved the consumer forum alleging medical negligence by the doctor.

### ANIMAL | RESCUE

## Local residents feed bovine till help arrived

# Cow stuck in ditch for 3 days



ANURAG | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Residents of Nagole and volunteers from a city-based animal welfare group rescued a cow which fell into a 12-foot ditch three days ago.

Residents said that they were feeding the cow grass, chapatis and water. Because it was large in size, they could not take it out without heavy equipment.

Mr Dattatreya Joshi of the People for Animals (PFA), said, "We received a call saying that a cow was stuck in

Local residents said that they were feeding the cow grass, chapatis and water.

Because it was large in size, they could not take it out without heavy equipment.

a hole from the last three days. We reached the spot with our volunteers Taqvi, Mirza, Gopal reddy and Abhinav. The cow

looked scared and anxious."

The volunteers dug around the ditch on Saturday and made an opening for the cow to walk out.

"Our volunteers started digging at about 5 in the evening and we were able to take out the cow at about 11 pm. We didn't use any crane or mechanical instrument because it would have scared the cow and caused it more injuries. It has been shifted to an emergency rescue home Begum Bazaar, Mr Joshi said.

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## Rape victim coming out crying alerted guards

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Alert local residents helped police arrest two persons who kidnapped two girls of 11 years and eight years old to an old building at Saidabad, police said. There, Mothilal and Dasru raped the 11-year-old girl. Dasru later left the old building premises with the eight-year-old girl on Saturday evening. Saidabad inspector K.V.L. Narasimha Rao said, "They lured the girls on the pretext of showing them a movie and kidnapped them on Saturday at about 6 pm. They took them to

the Shiva-Ganga theatre in Saidabad. Later, the duo took the girls into an old building opposite the theatre. Mothilal and Dasru raped the 11-year-old girl."

Dasru later left the old building premises with the eight-year-old girl on Saturday evening. Saidabad inspector K.V.L. Narasimha Rao said, "They lured the girls on the pretext of showing them a movie and kidnapped them on Saturday at about 6 pm. They took them to

ing. They stopped and questioned Mothilal, but he did not respond. The girl then narrated her ordeal. People thrashed Mothilal and handed him over to police.

Mothilal then confessed that Dasru was waiting behind the building with the eight-year-old girl. Police rushed there, nabbed the man and took custody of the girl. She was unharmed and the police handed her over to her parents.

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Hyderabad - Bhopal	08:25	10:05
Hyderabad - Bhopal	20:10	22:00
Hyderabad - Vijayawada	19:25	20:30
Hyderabad - Belagavi	16:10	17:35

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**ఆంధ్రభూమి**

సచిత్ర వారపత్రిక

విభిన్నమైన ఇతివృత్తాలతో సీరియల్స్

అల్పాక్షరాలతో అనంతార్థాలా భగవత్ సాక్షాత్కారం

కరిగించే 'అయ దర్శనం'

ఉత్సాహం కరిగించే కథలు

నియర్ స్ట్రీట్ హాట్ వాపిక్స్

వారం వారం మీ రాసుల స్థితిగతులు తెలిసే 'గ్రహవాణి'

ఇవేకాక ఆలోచింపజేసే మరెన్నో వ్యాసాలు

ఇలా ఎన్నో ఎన్నెన్నో మీ అందరికీ ఇప్పుడైన నవరస సమాహారం

15 రూపాయల

సపరివార సమేతంగా చదవదగిన వారపత్రిక



## Hard campaign

Additional commissioner Shika Goel says SHE Teams conducted awareness campaigns on child sex abuse in colleges

# 14-month-old dies after roof collapses on him

■ Mother, two others in the house, escape with injuries

**DURGA PRASAD SUNKU** | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 21

A 14-month-old toddler died when the roof of his house collapsed on him and his mother while they were sleeping on Sunday morning in Sitaphalmadi. The toddler, R. Geetansh, died before he reached the hospital. His mother had a head injury.

Geetansh was the only son of R. Raju Yadav and Swathi who are dairy farmers.

According to the police, continuous rain in the past couple of days led to the collapse of the roof of old house. A preliminary investigation found that water had accumulated on the roof exactly above the bedroom and the roof collapsed under the weight. The house was constructed with mud approximately 60 years ago.

Chilkaiguda sub-inspector A. Varun Kanth Reddy said, "At around 6.10 am, Raju Yadav went to milk the buffalo around 50 metres from the house. After some time the roof suddenly collapsed on the mother and son who were still asleep in the bedroom." Neighbours rushed to the rescue. They got Swathi out first and later Geetansh. They were rushed to a nearby private hospital but Geetansh was dead on arrival. Swathi had to have ten stitches for the head injury at Gandhi Hospital and was discharged later in the evening.

Family members allege that the mishap was due to the reluctance of the house owner to repair the roof. The Chilkaiguda police have registered a case under section 174 CrPC and further investigation is underway.



A police officer inspects the collapsed portion of the roof of a house in Sitaphalmadi on Sunday. (Inset) Geetansh who died in the incident.



## We can't protect every life, say civic officials

**MADDY DEEKSHITH** | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Field staff has largely ignored the directive of GHMC commissioner M. Dana Kishore to identify dilapidated structures and the list includes Malakpet (40), Hayatnagar (26), Saroornagar (6), Santoshnagar (5) Uppal and LB Nagar (4 each) and Kapra (2).

Immediately after the building collapses in Mumbai and Pune, Mr Kishore held a review meeting and alerted field staff to either demolish the dilapidated structures or ask the owners to repair them. This was starkly highlighted by the death of a child when the roof of his house collapsed on him in Sitaphalmadi on Sunday.

Asked about the incident, corporation staff washed their hands off. They said that the GHMC could save every life and be blamed for every incident in the city.

GHMC field staff identified 786 dilapidated structures this year. According to the official report, 51 of these struc-

tures pose a grave threat to residents. Goshamahahal leads in the list with 152 structures followed by Begumpet with 116. Karwan has 45 dilapidated structures, and the list includes Malakpet (40), Hayatnagar (26), Saroornagar (6), Santoshnagar (5) Uppal and LB Nagar (4 each) and Kapra (2).

Immediately after the building collapses in Mumbai and Pune, Mr Kishore held a review meeting and alerted field staff to either demolish the dilapidated structures or ask the owners to repair them.

Secunderabad zonal commissioner C.N. Raghu Prasad, speaking about Sunday's collapse, said that the corporation could not identify the structure because it was constructed behind a

building in Veeraiah Galli. He said that the collapsed portion had been constructed with lime mortar. He said that the front portion abutting the road had an RCC slab and the second room was constructed with a jack arch (Madras terrace roof). He said that the front portion was 12 years old but it was difficult to calculate the age of the collapsed portion. The residents were tenants staying there for the past eight years.

"An unnecessary hype has been created over the incident as life loss is common in any roof collapse. Just because the property tax was paid by the owner on house number 12-10-340 in Veeraiah Galli the GHMC cannot be blamed and will not take responsibility," he said.

## AP youth swindles ₹62 cr from public

**JAYENDRA T. CHAITANYA** | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 21

A man from Andhra Pradesh is suspected to have siphoned off over ₹62 crore from traders under the pretext of investing the money in government-approved projects in the two Telugu states.

According to sources, T. Raghav of Guntur, who is doing his Chartered Accountancy, wanted to start a firm. He forged a certificate and showed it to his friends to pretend that he had cleared the CA examinations.

Police said Raghav floated four companies, one of them with branches in several places in Telangana state and AP, including one at Madhapur in Hyderabad. He allegedly forged an order issued by the AP government to show that he had received a project from AP State FiberNet Limited.

Raghav invited investors and promised to pay them 20 per cent of the profits after finishing the project. He collected about ₹9 crore, said sources.

Raghav is also facing allegations of depositing money in several DMAT accounts and losing the money in stock trading. He

Police said Raghav floated four companies, one of them with branches in several places in Telangana state and AP, including one at Madhapur in Hyderabad.

also took personal loans in the names of his "employees and partners" and used the money to clear the debts taken from others. "He borrowed from several banks and individuals and invested the money into various businesses including trading, and lost heavily. To pay back the money, he borrowed loans and rotated the money," sources said.

"The total money he collected amounted to over ₹62 crore. He could not repay his investors," said the sources. The case came to light when a complaint was lodged at Madhapur police station in Cyberabad police commissionerate and investigations were started.

A Cyberabad police officer said, "A complaint has been lodged against Raghav and investigation is on."

## TWO TS RESIDENTS DIE IN MISHAP IN SAUDI ARABIA

DC CORRESPONDENT MANCHERIAL, JULY 21

Two persons identified as Uppu Srinu of Rotigudem of Dandepalli mandal and Nampalli Raju of Gudirevu of Dandepalli mandal of Mancherial district died in a road accident that took place in Saudi Arabia on Sunday afternoon.

It is learnt that they had gone to Saudi Arabia on a visit visa in search of a job and were staying there illegally. It is said that bringing their bodies to the native village in Mancherial was difficult as their visas had expired.

It is said that their families have approached the government for help to bring the bodies back.

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**Late. Smt. AMRUTHAMMA**  
DOB: 13-11-1931 DOD: 22-07-2018  
"May your soul rest in peace."  
C. BHASKAR REDDY  
EXCEL SECURITY SERVICES  
IV Floor, Chakkilam House,  
Somajiguda, Hyd-82.  
PH: 9848032223

**17th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**Dr. JASWANTH SINGH**  
S/o Late T.R.P. Singh  
"A beautiful soul is never forgotten"  
Inserted by: Mother - NARMADA DEVI,  
Brother - PRATAP SINGH,  
Sisters - UMA RANI & ANU RADHA,  
Sister-in-law - REKHA  
AKASH SINGH & ABHISHEK SINGH

**SAD DEMISE**

**Shri. PREM DAS**  
DOB: 18-07-2019  
"A good heart has stopped beating,  
A good soul ascended to heaven."  
We part with our beloved in pain"  
Deeply mourned by:  
Ratna - Wife; Prathap - Son;  
Preethi - Daughter;  
Snigdha - Daughter-in-law  
Pradeep - Son-in-law  
Niharika & Akshay - Grand Children  
Ph. 9849079990

**11th Day Ceremony**

**MOTUPALLI SHOBHA RANI**  
DOB: 20-5-1949 DOD: 12-7-2019  
Ceremony will be held on 22nd July 2019,  
12.00 Noon at Residency at Yousufguda,  
Venue to Pay Respects at Sagi Ramakrishna  
Raju Community Hall, Madhuram Nagar, Hyd-38  
Daughter: Saritha Boindala (Bittu) Ph: 9701101972  
Nephew: Vijaya Kumar Motupalli (Chinni) Ph: 9849169295

**REMEMBERING SAM**

**SAMUEL BALASUNDARAM**  
Sam, Thambi, Chinnona, Father, SamPa,  
Mentor, Colleague, Friend, Visionary, Hero  
On the first year of his passing  
6 MARCH 1953 - 22 JULY 2018  
"What you leave behind is not  
what is engraved in stone, but what is  
woven into the lives of others"

**HE LIVES ON!**  
Within our hearts and minds, continuing  
to inspire, guide and rekindle us in every  
walk of life like a candle in the dark.

**MUJTABA HUSSAIN**  
07-11-1943 - 22-07-2016  
Family, Friends and Well-wishers  
INTRAC TYRES PRIVATE LIMITED

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**S. HARBANS SINGH (BABAJI)**  
DOB: 1-7-1959 Expired on: 22-7-2018  
(S/o. Late Sant Bahadar Singhji)  
KIRTAN & ARDAS Today, between 11:30 &  
1:00 p.m. followed by GURU KA LANGAR at  
G.S. Kalghidhar Nivas, Goshamahahal, Hyderabad.  
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE OF OUR PARENTS**

**Late. Dr. A. JOHN JOSHUA**  
(DOB: 22-7-1930) &  
**Late. A. SUMATHI JOHN**  
(DOB: 22-7-1934)  
We thank GOD for you both,  
for being a blessing in our lives.  
We miss you  
Children & Grand Children

**IN FOND MEMORY**

**Late. Smt. AMRUTHAMMA**  
DOB: 13-11-1931 DOD: 22-07-2018  
"You are always in our Hearts for ever."  
C. BHASKAR REDDY  
EXCEL EQUIPMENT  
IV Floor, Chakkilam House,  
Somajiguda, Hyd-82.  
PH: 9848032223

**5th Death Anniversary**  
I Shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever  
in Fond Remembrance of (Ps 23:6)

**N.E.M. Shubhakar**  
DOB: 18.11.1947 | DOD: 22.07.2014  
Inserted by:  
MRS. R.M. Sulochana(Wife), Sandeep, Jaideep (Sons)  
Jyothsna (Daughter-in-law)  
N. Emmanuel Preetham (Grandson)  
Ph: 9550539867  
(S/1920/D00574)

**1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**S. HARBANS SINGH JI (BABAJI)**  
DOB: 1-7-1959 Expired on: 22-07-2018  
(S/o. Late Sant Bahadar Singh ji)  
Today Marks the anniversary of  
the day I lost piece of my heart.  
But you will always be in my  
heart brother, no matter what  
I miss you.  
Inserted by: Rajender Singh Liddar (Gogi)  
and Family Cell: 702123744  
Begum Bazar, Hyderabad.

## MAN HELD FOR TRYING TO STEAL CCTV CAMERAS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 21

A function hall employee was arrested by the Malkajgiri police for allegedly stealing CCTV cameras at his place of work.

Malkajgiri detective inspector Jagadeeshwar Rao said a complaint was received on July 16 from one Nomula Anil Kumar stating that three CCTV cameras installed at Nomula Function Hall in East Anandbagh were stolen.

The police examined footage from the CCTV cameras only to find that function hall employee S. Santhosh, 27, was stealing them. The Medak native was traced and arrested on Sunday in the city. The theft was recorded by the cameras when Santosh was trying to steal them, the inspector said.

He said the accused did not have a criminal record. He wanted to sell the cameras at low prices to make some money.

## MAN ARRESTED FOR DAMAGING BJP BANNERS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 21

A man who was undergoing treatment under a psychiatrist was on Sunday taken into custody after he destroyed the flex boards of BJP leaders, including that of Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy, which were installed in Habeebnagar on the occasion of Bonalu festival.

According to police, Md Nadeem, 22, was a resident of Moimabad and was undergoing treatment in Bidar.

Habeebnagar inspector Mr P. Shiva Chandra said, "On Saturday morning, he came to Malleshpally Crossroads under the influence of alcohol and destroyed the flexes containing photos of Mr Kishan Reddy and a few other BJP leaders installed by party workers. Infuriated BJP workers assaulted him."

Police patrolling the area, who were present nearby, rescued him from the mob and took him into custody.

The police has filed a case under and investigation is on.

## Cops grill father in girl's murder

**JAYENDRA CHAITANYA T.** | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 21

A day after recovering a girl's body from a garbage dump at Medchal, the police established the identity of the victim and are questioning her father on suspicion that he could have committed the murder.

On Saturday, the body of a young girl packed in

a gunny bag was found in the garbage dump at Kindibasthi in Medchal. The police along with the dog squad and Clues Team rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

During the inspection of the crime scene, the police found that the skin on the face of the deceased was peeled off and her eyes were removed. The body was sent to Gandhi Hospital

mortuary immediately for post-mortem examination and a murder case was registered.

The special teams constituted to crack the case have identified the deceased as a resident of the same area. On the suspicion raised due to the inconsistent answers provided by her father, he was detained for questioning.

Meanwhile, reports emerged on Sunday that

the suspect has confessed to committing the crime, but, the police did not confirm it and said that they were still in the process of investigation.

A senior police official from Cyberabad said, "The identity of the girl has been established. The girl's father is currently being questioned on the suspicion of killing her, but the motive is yet to be ascertained."

**NOTICE OF PETITION**  
BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, AT NEW DELHI  
COMPANY PETITION NO.(CAA)-90(PB)/2019  
CONNECTED WITH  
COMPANY APPLICATION NO.CA(CAA)-06(PB)/2019  
AND  
COMPANY APPLICATION NO.CA(CAA)-36/230(HDB)/2019  
AND  
COMPANY APPLICATION NO. CA-153(PB)/2019  
(under Sections 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013)  
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF THE SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION OF  
REAN CLOUD INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED WITH HITACHI  
VANTARA INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED AND THEIR RESPECTIVE  
SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
Rean Cloud India Private Limited, a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, having its registered office at 3rd Floor, Melange Towers, Unit No. 3B, Madhapur Village, Serilingampally Mandal, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500081  
...Petitioner Company 1 / Transferor Company  
AND  
Hitachi Vantara India Private Limited, a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, having its registered office at Unit No. 6A and Unit No. 7, 12th Floor, Eros Corporate Towers, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019  
...Petitioner Company 2 / Transferee Company  
**NOTICE OF PETITION**  
A joint petition under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013, for obtaining the sanction to the scheme of amalgamation between the abovementioned petitioner companies and their respective shareholders and creditors was presented by the abovementioned petitioner companies on the 13th day of June, 2019, and the said joint petition is fixed for hearing before the Principal Bench of National Company Law Tribunal at New Delhi on the 27th day of August, 2019.  
Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said joint petition should send to the petitioners' advocate, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, so as to reach the petitioners' advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the joint petition. Where he seeks to oppose the joint petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the joint petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.  
Dated this 22nd day of July, 2019  
Sd/-  
AZB & Partners, Advocates for the Petitioner Companies,  
Address: Mr. Varun Lamba, AZB & Partners,  
Plot No. A-8, Sector 4, Noida - 201301, Uttar Pradesh  
Tel: +91 120 417 9999  
Fax: +91 120 417 9900

## Contractor, kin attacked by landowner over dispute

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 21

A dispute over the completion of pending works of a building led to the landowners attempting to murder the contractor and his nephew at Chandanagar on Sunday. The condition of the victims is stated to be stable now, and a search is on to apprehend the assailants, said the police.

The Chandanagar police on Sunday received a complaint from one P. Naveen Reddy, 29, a technician working at a private diagnostic centre in Nallakunta, that he and his uncle were attacked by three persons when they went to discuss the pending works of the building.

According to Chandanagar police, Chandrasekar Reddy, a contractor, had constructed a building on 175 square yards of land belong to three siblings Shankar, Gopal, and Prabhakar at Gouthaminagar. The contract was made about three years ago to complete the building, but there were some works in the basement area were yet to be completed.

### THUGS' RULE

■ The Chandanagar police on Sunday received a complaint from one P. Naveen Reddy, a lab technician, that he and his uncle were attacked by three persons when they went to discuss the pending works of a building.

On Sunday noon, Chandrasekar Reddy along with his nephew Naveen Reddy went to the building to discuss the remaining work. When the discussions were on, Shankar suddenly became aggressive and attacked the duo. Shankar's brothers Prabhakar and Gopal also joined him in assaulting the contractor and his nephew. Gopal went inside the house, picked up a kitchen knife and stabbed Naveen Reddy and his uncle said the police. When a mason, identified as Balu, tried to rescue

them, he was also attacked, Naveen Reddy said in his complaint to the police. Chandanagar inspector B. Ravinder said that the victims — Chandrasekar Reddy, Naveen Reddy and the mason Balu — received minor injuries and were admitted to a hospital.

Based on Naveen Reddy's complaint, police registered a case of attempt to murder and began investigations. A search is on for the accused, the inspector said.

## PLAINT AGAINST 'MISLEADING' MEDIA POSTS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 21

The Progressive Youth League filed a complaint with the Hyderabad cyber crime police against the social media groups which are uploading and sharing the objectionable content posted by their users.

Mr K.S. Pradeep, who filed complaint, said, "Some social media groups like Andhra Porilu Adhurs and Anasuya Bharadhwaja Anchor Fans Group are allowing their users to upload obscene content and even posting of some contents like 'Call me if you want' which are misleading young people." Mr Pradeep said that such posts lead the youth to anti-social and criminal activities. "We have requested the cyber crime police to take action against the administrators of the social media groups which are promoting such posts," said Mr Pradeep.



### Track record

Minister V. Srinivas Goud says people are happy with the welfare measures and projects taken up in five years



Family, politics are different. My brother might be leaning to BJP but I am not

— Komatireddy Venkata Reddy  
Congress leader

## FROM AP WORLD BANK HINTS IT WILL MOLLIFY AP

S.N.V. SUDHIR I DC  
VIJAYAWADA, JULY 21

The World Bank has given enough indications that it will help the state in other sectors for dropping the \$300 million loan for the capital city construction. There is every possibility of an increase in the quantum of aid.

The World Bank had earlier dropped the proposal of funding the Amaravati Sustainable Infrastructure and Institutional Development Project, citing non-compliance with its policies, especially those related to settlements with affected parties besides flaws by the previous government in its approach and dealing with 'subjects'.

A top official of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that the Washington-based Bank was not averse to extending a loan to the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government should it mention its priorities.

The chance of increasing the quantum of loan was ruled out by the Bank. "The priorities of the AP government have been well-defined, drafted and are in the public domain with categorical and explicit details of the Navaratnas which will benefit all sections of the society besides improve the quality of life of the citizens," he said.

"The main reasons behind the World Bank backing out of the Amaravati Capital City project were considered to be rampant corruption besides flouting of various socio-economic norms," said the CMO's to official.

The TD government invited tenders for infrastructure development even before the World Bank loan details were finalised. The World Bank team (independent accountability mechanism), that toured the proposed city area region from September 13 to 17, 2017, found many irregularities in the tender process which were heavily loaded in favour of contractors, the official said. The CRDA was asked to give an explanation by the World Bank Team which visited the place and conducted field-level investigations.

The team found numerous irregularities in land pooling, utilisation of verdant agricultural land for other purposes, agricultural workers losing livelihood, serious environmental violations, the plan of the new proposed capital affecting the course of Krishna river and other issues. The Centre expressed dismay over the World Bank team inspections even before the loan sanction was finalised.

"The team submitted its report on September 27 and amended it on November 27, 2017. The report underwent one more revision on June 26, 2018 and the final Report was filed on March 29, 2019. The Team had to take up investigations following a spate of complaints from social organisations and voluntary organisations," he said.

# KCR sends TRS leaders on inauguration spree

## ■ CM wants showpieces in place ahead of urban polls

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

State ministers and TRS legislators are rushing about launching and inaugurating various development programmes, especially in urban areas, following a directive from Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu.

Mr Rao has told them to complete holding the functions and laying foundation stones for new projects and inaugurate those projects that have been completed before the code of conduct for the municipal elections comes into force.

Sources said that Mr Rao is keen on going ahead with the elections next month. The State Election Commission is expected to issue the notification for municipal polls at any date in the coming two weeks.

Sources pointed out that Mr Rao told the leaders that launching pending schemes and inaugurating completed projects would give confidence to people and would help the TRS candidates seek votes by showing the work that the party had done in their areas. With this order from the party boss, the ministers and MLAs went to their native districts after the two-day special session of the Assembly and on Saturday distributed enhanced pensions under the Asara scheme.

On Sunday they were busy inaugurating completed buildings of government schools, colleges, gram panchayats and laying foundations for the construction of cement concrete roads, drainages and installation of central lighting systems.

### GETTING INTO FIGHT MODE

■ **CHIEF MINISTER** K. Chandrababu Naidu has told party leaders to lay foundation stones quickly for projects that have been announced in urban areas.

■ **CM WANTS** all projects where work has been completed to be inaugurated in the districts before the schedule for the municipal elections is announced.

■ **CM FEELS** the activity will ensure that the people are confident ahead of the elections that the TRS will deliver on its election-time promises of development programmes.



S.K. Joshi

## MUNICIPAL POLL QUOTAS MAY BE GIVEN THIS WEEK

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

The state government is expected to issue notification specifying reservations of wards and listing out the offices of mayor and municipal chairpersons of municipalities and corporations in a couple of days. This exercise is being undertaken ahead of the municipal elections expected to be held next month.

Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi is said to have indicated this to officials during a review meeting with officers of the municipal administration and urban development and law departments on Sunday.

Mr Joshi met MA&UD principal secretary Arvind Kumar and law secretary Niranjan Rao and other officers with regard cases in the High Court against the municipal elections. These petitions are expected to come up before the High Court on Monday.

## CM village set to get sops during visit today

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu will visit his native village Chintamadaka on Monday, to keep his election promise that he would visit his old neighbours and spend a day with them and have lunch. Keeping in view the visit of the Chief Minister, the district administration has taken up several development works including improvement of roads and drainage lines and conducted a household survey.

Houses have been decorated to welcome the most

famous son of the village.

Former minister and Siddipet MLA T. Harish Rao has been overseeing the arrangements for Mr Rao's visit. He held a review with district officials who informed him that Chintamadaka has 874 families. Officials said that the Chief Minister wants that each family to get benefits from the government as per their eligibility. The agriculture department has identified the details of the landless families in the village.

The state government has sanctioned ₹10 crore for the development of Chintamadaka.

Education minister G. Jagadish Reddy laid the foundation in Kodad for a central lighting system to be installed at a cost of ₹19 crore. TRS MLA T. Harish Rao inaugurated build-

ings of the government degree college in Siddipet. Ministers Koppula Eshwar, Etala Rajendar and others have been on a spree launching various development activities.

## BCs, Muslims get half Cong. tickets

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Telangana Congress leaders who held their preparatory meeting for the municipal elections at Sangareddy on Sunday decided to give half the tickets to Backward Classes and Muslim candidates.

Addressing the meeting, state Congress president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy strongly condemned the TRS government for slashing the reservation percentage for BCs and described it as an attempt to politically disempower the community. He said the Congress would not allow Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu to suppress the BCs by denying them their due share of tickets in the municipal elections.

He asked all Congress workers to hold dharnas at all district headquarters on July 23 in protest against the injustices being done to the BCs by the TRS government.

Senior leaders including CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, TPCC working presidents Kusum Kumar and Ponnam Prabhakar, AICC secretaries Bose Raju, Saleem Ahmed, Vamsichand Reddy and

A. Sampath Kumar, former PCC president Ponnala Lakshmaiah, former ministers Mohammed Ali Shabbir, Dr J. Geetha Reddy, TPCC office bearers, DCC presidents and municipal presidents met in the presence of AICC incharge R.C. Khuntia.

The Congress leaders questioned the claims being made by the BJP about its strength. They said there was no space for the BJP in the state.

They said that the vote share of Congress has increased in the elections compared to 2014 while the TRS vote share had declined.

They criticised the government for discrepancies in fixing the boundaries for the municipal wards and the errors in reserving seats.

They gave a call to the party workers to organise party flag hoisting programme on a massive scale in urban areas from July 27 to 30. The programme should be organised with the slogan 'Inti Intiki Congress, Vaada Vadala Congress Jhanda'.

The leaders expressed confidence that the Congress would win a majority in all 140 municipalities going to the polls.

## KISHAN SAYS SAVE CITY'S GEOHERITAGE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Ministers of state for home G. Kishan Reddy launched the 'Save Our Geoheritage' walk on Sunday.

Some 500 geoscientists, including professors, research scholars and students, participated. The agenda was to bring awareness of the importance of geoheritage to protect nature.

Geoheritage refers to geological features that hold importance for scientific, cultural or educational reasons.

Mr Kishan Reddy said, "Everyone should love nature and protect it. If we love nature it will bless us back. Development is not only making ring roads and skyways but is also development to protect the earth and its heritage. All should make their efforts in this regard; the central government will extend all the possible ways to protect geoheritage sites in the country."

People of all ages participated in the walk and some were excited to meet the minister. Children held placards saying "Save our geoheritage" and "Respect our mother earth".

# Protest begins against mining in Nallamala

AVINASH PUJARI I DC  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21



Locals are agitating against a proposed move to mine uranium near Achampet in the Nallamala forests. Officials of the atomic minerals directorate for exploration and research (AMD) are digging wells for uranium mining, and tribals who live in the forests have started agitations.

Along with environmentalists, tribals are questioning the Centre for giving preliminary clearance for uranium mining near Achampet and a few other areas in Telangana state.

A panel under the Union ministry of forests has recommended giving "in-principle" permission for exploration of uranium in the Amrabad tiger reserve. The ministry's forest advisory committee made the recommendation at its meeting on May 22.

The AMD had sought permission to carry out survey and drilling of boreholes around Amrabad-Udimalla-Narayanpur. At that time, TS principal chief conservator of forests P.K. Jha said the committee had given only "in-principle" permission to the AMD while "full and necessary permissions" are required for the department to allow exploration in the tiger reserve.

The Centre says that no permission has been granted for mining but the AMD was given the mandate in 2014 to identify and evaluate uranium mineral resources and send requisitions.

With AMD staff contin-

■ **THE CENTRE** has given in-principle permission for uranium exploration, alarming environmentalists and human rights activists.

doing a study of the Eastern Ghats has opposed the clearance for uranium mining. According to them, the Eastern Ghats will become history soon if mining is not stopped.

Environmentalist Prof. K. Purushotham Reddy said, "We object to uranium mining by the Centre because the region has the finest herbs and medicinal plants, and Chenchu tribals who are already on the edge of extinction. The largest tiger reserve will also be affected."

He said that uranium mining would not only bring a misbalance in the ecological system but will pollute the Nagarjunasagar and Srisailem reservoirs.

The proposed area is adjacent to the Krishna river. If mining is allowed, Nagarjunasagar, which is the primary source of drinking water for Hyderabad will get contaminated and lakhs of lives will be in danger, he added.

He said they will explore options including legal recourse and moving the National Green Tribunal and the National Human Rights Commission besides building up public opinion with the help of political parties.

using their activities, environmentalists, Left parties and locals have formed a joint action committee against uranium mining in the thickly wooded Nallamala forests, which houses Chenchu tribal families and India's largest Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem tiger reserve.

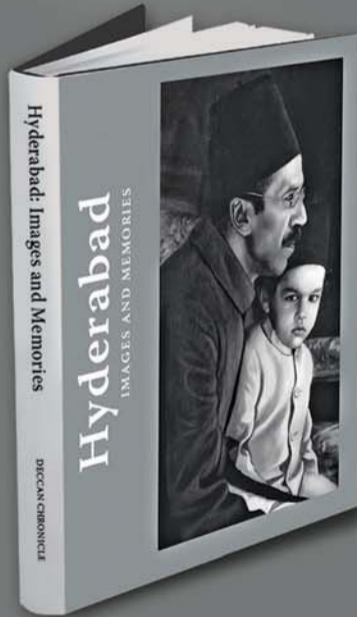
Local resident Madhusudhan said, "Eighteen wells have been dug in Thirumalapur BK village of Amrabad mandal where villagers have been taking out rallies and agitating for more than two weeks but there is no one to hear them."

Nagarkurnool MP Ramulu Pothuganti raised the issue in Parliament and said that the Centre's move to mine uranium is a matter of concern for the Eastern Ghats and will be hazardous to wildlife and the tribals.

The Council for Green Revolution which is



# Hyderabad IMAGES AND MEMORIES



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

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

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## HEALTH ALERT ■ Venkaiah flags lifestyle illness among students

# V-P bats for lifestyle clinics

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 21

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday clinics should be set up to treat non-communicable diseases (NCD). The country was witnessing a troubling epidemiological transition from communicable diseases to NCDs or lifestyle diseases, he said.

Mr Naidu, health summit organised by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) here, said a national movement should be launched against the growing inci-

■ **VICE-PRESIDENT** M. Venkaiah Naidu underscores need to open more medical colleges to meet the shortage of doctors.

dence of non-communicable diseases.

The Vice-President, quoting from the ICMR's state-level disease burden study said the estimated proportion of all deaths due to NCDs had increased from 37.09 per cent in 1990 to 61.8 per cent in 2016.

"I feel that there is a need to establish NCD clinics both in urban and rural areas and the private sector must play a prominent role in setting up such clinics," Mr Naidu said.

He asked organisations like AAPI to collaborate with the government and the private sector to conduct screening programmes and take up awareness campaigns against NCDs.

"It is not only the responsibility of doctors, as a society everyone has the responsibility to take part in spreading awareness about healthy lifestyle."

He said that the Indian Medical Association must take the lead to promote awareness among people, particularly students, on the health hazards caused by sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy dietary habits, he said.

The Vice-President said, "We face a huge shortage in the number of qualified medical practitioners, especially specialists. It is crucial that we address this huge gap by opening more medical colleges and increasing the number of seats at both graduate and post-graduate levels."



### Solemn oath

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said he would do his best to ensure that no harm comes to the pride and honour of the soldiers.



India has changed under Modi govt, which has brought "good days".

— J.P. Nadda, BJP working president

### IN BRIEF

#### Sidhu vacates official bungalow

Chandigarh: Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu on Sunday vacated the official bungalow allotted to him by the Punjab government, a day after his resignation from the state cabinet was accepted by chief minister Amarinder Singh. Mr Sidhu, who has been avoiding the media for more than a month now, once again dodged questions posed by reporters as he vacated the premises. "Have vacated the ministerial bungalow, handed it over to the Punjab government," Mr Sidhu said in a tweet. On Saturday, Amarinder Singh had accepted Mr Sidhu's "one-line" resignation and forwarded it to Punjab Governor V.P. Singh Badnore. —PTI

#### 24-yr-old arrested over beef picture

Thanjavur (TN): A 24-year-old man, who was allegedly attacked by a group of people for posting a picture of himself consuming beef soup, was arrested on Sunday on charge of disturbing peace, soon after he was discharged from a hospital, according to police. Earlier four people were arrested for allegedly attacking him. The people had gone to Mohammed Faisan's house in Poravacheri village on July 11 and objected to the post, police had said, adding after a quarrel, they attacked him. Faisan was injured and admitted to a government hospital. A case had been registered against him. —PTI

#### Infant dead, five injured in landslide

Shimla: An eight-month-old girl was killed whereas five others sustained multiple injuries in a landslide in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district, the police said on Sunday. The tourists were hit by rocks sliding from the hill when they were going on foot from Bhagsu Nag temple towards Bhagsu Nag waterfall, located about 11 kms from Dharamshala on Saturday. The deceased infant has been identified as Lovdeep of Haroli in Una district. The injured include Jagpal (30), Achar Singh (30), Sunita (23), Preet (8) and Arnab (2). All are residents of Haroli. The injured were taken to the Dharamshala Civil Hospital.

#### 3 MORE FIRS FILED AGAINST AZAM KHAN

Rampur (Uttar Pradesh): Three more FIRs have been registered against Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Azam Khan in connection with land encroachment cases in Rampur district of Uttar Pradesh. The total number of FIRs, as per the police, against Khan, now stands at 26 in cases relating to land grab. The police said the complaints against him were verified and found to be genuine. According to the complaints, the farmers' lands were illegally occupied through unscrupulous means with the help of a former Circle Officer. The Uttar Pradesh government put the parliamentarian's name on the government's anti-land mafia portal earlier this week. "It means the cases will be directly monitored by the government and legal action will be taken," Rampur district magistrate Anujay Kumar had said. A government has formed a three-member committee to investigate the case. Rampur SP earlier this week said that the police will make arrests in the case. Alleging that Khan was unnecessarily being harassed, Samajwadi Party has formed a high-level delegation of its legislative party members to look into the matter on July 17. Khan, a former state minister, has alleged that he was being harassed as he defeated BJP candidate in the Lok Sabha elections. —ANI

## J&K Gov asks militants to spare policemen, kill corrupt politicians

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JULY 21

Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik on Sunday stirred up another controversy by asking militants to spare policemen and ordinary people but kill those politicians and bureaucrats who are corrupt and have looted the state.

"The boys who have picked up guns are unnecessarily killing their own people...they are killing PSOs (personal security officers)... they are killing SPOs (special police officers)... Why are you killing them... kill those who have looted your country... those who have looted the whole wealth of Kashmir. Have you, so far, killed any of them?" he said while speaking at the inauguration of Kargil-Ladakh Tourism Festival-2019 at Khree Sultan Cho Sports Stadium in Kargil.

The governor was, however, quick to advise the militants to shun violence and seek resolution of issues through dialogue.

He said, "They (militants) are getting themselves killed gratuitously.



Satya Pal Malik

Nothing is achieved through the gun. No one in India can make a government to surrender by using gun."

He added, "The LTTE of Sri Lanka was the biggest terrorist organisation of the world. But that too has been finished. The government of India will never go down before a gun."

The LTTE of Sri Lanka was the biggest terrorist organisation of the world. But that too has been finished. The Indian govt will never go down before a gun. — SATYA PAL MALIK, J&K governor

Mr Malik reiterated that some of J&K's politicians and bureaucrats have amassed huge wealth through corrupt and dubious means and now own bungalows and other properties not only in the state but also in Delhi, Dubai and London.

"The major disease J&K is suffering from is corruption. I'm not going to spare anyone who indulges in corrupt practices. But people too should build pressure against it. I was at Amarnath recently and met ponywallas many of whom do not even possess sweaters. But in Srinagar you have palatial houses having fifteen to twenty rooms and furnished with carpets worth crores of rupees," he said.

## Lucknow to host DefExpo India 2020

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 21

The next edition of India's mega defence exhibition - the DefExpo - will be held for the first time in Lucknow in 2020 with participation of major global and domestic military firms, the defence ministry said on Sunday.

The main theme of the DefExpo India 2020 will be 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub' and it will focus on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'.

The DefExpo will provide a unique platform for Defence Industry OEMs, exhibitors and private industry to display their latest innovations and capabilities.

It will facilitate Business-to-Business interaction and also Government-to-Government meetings. The exhibition will also highlight emergence of Uttar Pradesh as an attractive destination for investment in the defence sector.

The DefExpo will provide an opportunity to the major foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to collaborate with the Indian defence industry and help promote 'Make in India' initiative. The previous edition of DefExpo took place in Thiruvananthapuram in 2018.

## CBI to quiz Akhilesh-era officials in UP mining scam

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 21

Fresh trouble seems to be in store for Samajwadi Party (SP) leader and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh Akhilesh Yadav as Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is preparing to examine two former senior bureaucrats of Uttar Pradesh government as part of its investigation into the illegal mining scam in the state.

There are allegations that Mr Yadav had allegedly cleared 14 leases pertaining to mining in the state, of which 13 were cleared on February 17, 2013, in violation of the e-tendering process.

Mr Yadav, who was the chief minister of the state between 2012 and 2017,



Akhilesh Yadav

held the mining portfolio during 2012-13 apparently bringing his role under scanner.

"It is also alleged that these two former bureaucrats played crucial role in clearing 13 leases. The agency wants to seek certain from these two bureaucrats," sources said.

Sources further claimed

that on February 17, 2013 the leases were granted by the district magistrate of Hamirpur after getting approval from then chief minister's office in violation of its 2012 e-tender policy, which was ratified by the Allahabad high court on January 29, 2013.

The illegal mining took place between 2012 to 2016. He was succeeded by Gayatri Prajapati, who took charge as mining minister in 2013. However, Mr Yadav had already denied the allegations and said that BJP was using the CBI as a tool for arm-twisting the opposition party leaders.

It may be recalled that CBI recently conducted searches at 20 places in connection with its probe pertaining to the mining scam in UP.

## Terror cases dip in N-E: Report

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, JULY 21

North East witnessed lowest terror incidents and related civilian deaths last year in more than two decades, since 1997, said Defence ministry's annual report 2018-19.

"The year 2018 witnessed the lowest number of insurgency incidents and civilian deaths since 1997," said the report. It said that the overall security situation in the North Eastern (NE) states improved

substantially since 2013. The report said that compared to 2017, insurgency incidents have registered a decline of 18 per cent in the year 2018.

"Similarly, there was 25 per cent reduction in number of civilians and security forces personnel deaths in 2018. In the first three months of 2019, security situation has further improved in the region with the decline in insurgency incidents, civilian casualties, security forces casualties and kidnapping/abduction cases," said the report.

Compared to 2017, insurgency incidents registered a decline of 18% in 2018.

There was 25% reduction in number of deaths of civilians in the region.

The report said that inputs reveal that insurgent groups are facing acute administration and financial crunch due to relentless operations by security forces and have been forced to form umbrella organisation to maintain their capability for orchestrating violent activities.

"Concurrently, the tribal and ethnic divide, fuelled by the issues of illegal immigrants, has gained momentum and is likely to have a pan North East impact," said the annual report.

The report said that while there is almost no insurgency left in Tripura and Mizoram, there has been a marked improvement in security situation in other states of region.

## Floods recede in Assam, toll is 65

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JULY 21

Amidst fear of outbreak of water-borne diseases, the water level has started receding in flood-hit Assam but situation continued to remain precarious as the toll on Saturday climbed to 65.

According to Assam State Disaster Management Authority, about 44,08,142 people in 3,024 villages under 77 revenue circles of 24 districts are still facing the wrath of flood.

The Brahmaputra river was flowing above danger level at three places only. Its tributaries Dhansiri and Kopili are also flowing above danger mark at one place each.

The waters of the floods, which caused large scale devastations across the state, receded from Baksa, Hojai and Majuli districts but continued to submerge 1.51 lakh hectare of cropland and a large part of Kaziranga National Park, where 10 rhinos have died, officials said.



Defence minister Rajnath Singh and Major General Gagan Deep Bakshi (retd) chant patriotic slogans at a function to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas in New Delhi on Sunday. — PTI

## Govt will team up with Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Centre set to celebrate 50th version of IFFI

NITIN MAHAJAN | DC NEW DELHI, JULY 21

The Central government is set to celebrate cinema, the 50th version of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in an unprecedented way as it teams up with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The festival scheduled has been scheduled from November 20 to 28 in Goa. The president of the Academy John Bailey is likely to attend this year's edition and

experts from the Oscars holding master classes at the event.

The golden jubilee year of this prestigious film event is expected to be one of the biggest ever celebration of films in India with the Academy and various foreign nation's help also being sought to procure the best of cinema from across the world for display during the festival.

Information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar has already announced that this year the prestigious International Jury at IFFI will be headed by John Bailey, which is likely to add further prestige to the event.

The information and broadcasting ministry has decided to launch a "Caravan" of roadshows that will travel across the nation's movie hub cities.

The film festival will also celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.

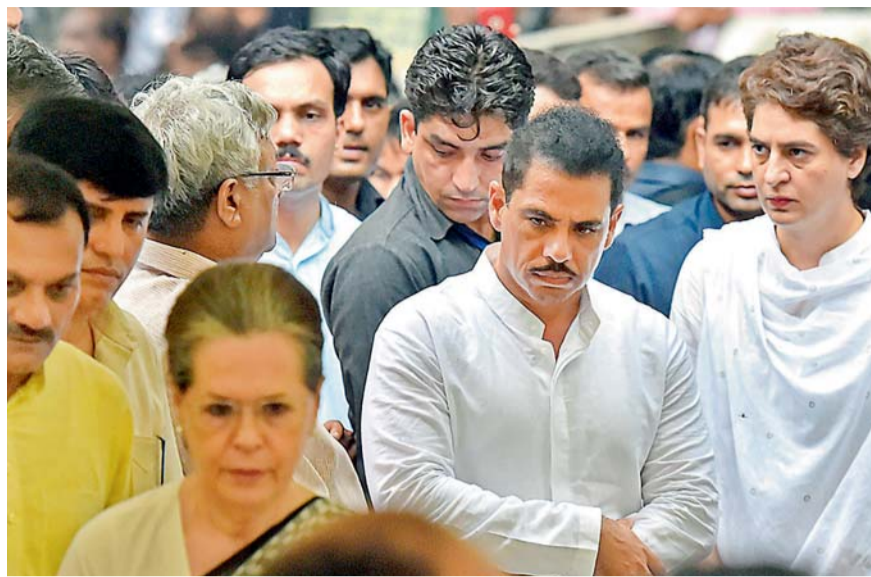
Preparations for the IFFI has already been kick started well in advance as the Mr Javadekar has conducted on site inspection of the various venues just days ago, sources said.

Ahead of the festival, the information and broadcasting ministry has decided to launch a "Caravan" of roadshows that will travel across the nation's movie hub cities of Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram.

This aims to establish a buzz and generate awareness for the annual event, sources added.

The film festival will also celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary and a business exhibition to showcase "latest film technologies" and an exhibit on Gandhi. Started way back in 1952, the first-ever IFFI was organised by the Films Division.

The festival was initiated at providing a common platform to the cinema across the world to project the excellence of



Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and her husband Robert Vadra attend the funeral of former chief minister Shiela Dikshit, at Nigambodh Ghat, in New Delhi on Sunday. — PTI

## Thousands bid adieu to former Delhi CM

SUNIL THAPLIYAL | DC NEW DELHI, JULY 21

The mortal remains of former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit were consigned to flames on Sunday, with colleagues, Congress workers and admirers braving heavy rains and gusty winds to bid her final farewell.

The gathering included those she worked alongside, those she fought and those she fought for. As the hearse carrying the casket moved slowly from her house to the party headquarters towards the funeral, cries rang through the air, "Sheila Dikshit amar rahe."

The 81-year-old Congress veteran, who died on Saturday due to cardiac arrest, was cremated with full state honours at the Nigambodh Ghat.

As desired, she was consigned to flames in the CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) crematorium. Dikshit herself had

## Paswan's brother dies of heart attack

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 21

Ramchandra Paswan, LJP MP from Samastipur in Bihar and Union minister Ramvilas Paswan's brother, passed away on Sunday following a brief illness. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah were among those who condoled his death. Mr Paswan, 57, was admitted to the capital's Ram Manohar Lohia hospital last week after suffering a heart attack. His body will be kept at his

residence in New Delhi and on Monday, at the LJP office in Patna for paying last respects.

The Samastipur MP is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter and will be cremated in the Bihar capital on Monday. Mr Paswan was a four-time MP and was first elected in 1999. He was re-elected to the Lok Sabha in 2004 and then again for the third time in 2014. In May 2019, he was again elected to the Lok Sabha from Samastipur for the fourth time.

initiated green reforms in public transport sector successfully to accomplish the shift from polluting vehicles to a CNG based fleet. Top leaders

from the Congress, including UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra, were in attendance at the funeral.

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(Through eProcurement Portal GOK Only)  
The Karnataka Milk Federation, invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for supply of following Raw Materials as stipulated below.

Sl. No.	Raw Materials	Cattle Feed	Plantwise	Requirement in MTS		
		Rajanukunte	Gubbi	Dharwad	Hassan	
1	DORB (De-Oiled Rice Bran)	3000	2250	2000	10000	4500
2	Rice Polish	700	500	1000	1800	1000
3	Coconut DOC	1000	850	600	1500	1000
4	Rapeseed DOC	0	500	600	0	800
5	Cottonseed DOC	600	500	1200	0	0
6	Coffee Husk	300	250	150	300	300
7	Shea DOC	0	0	100	300	200
8	Sunflower DOC	400	300	300	900	500
9	Maize Bran	400	300	300	900	500
10	Di-Calcium Phosphate (DCP)	0	50	200	300	0
11	Maize Gluten Feed	250	200	200	700	300
12	Common Salt	150	100	50	250	180
13	Calcite Powder	200	200	100	400	140
14	Jowar	400	300	300	900	500
15	Barley	400	300	300	900	500
16	Wheat	500	500	500	1000	500
17	Ragi	400	300	300	900	500
18	Broken Rice	400	300	300	900	500
19	Bajra	400	300	300	900	500
20	Gram Chuni	400	300	300	900	500
21	Wheat Bran Flakes	400	300	300	900	500
22	Tur Chuni	400	300	300	900	500
23	Wheat Bran	400	300	300	900	500

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> Interested tenderers participate in the tender by logging on the website [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) Also may contact Help line No: 080-23010900/23010901, e-mail [hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com](mailto:hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com) The KMF will not be held responsible for the website problems like, last date of submission, non-receipt of the same & if any.

Tenders must be accompanied by security of the amount specified in the tender document, drawn in favour of e-procurement Government of Karnataka. Earnest money deposit will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the Tender document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the tender.

Date of Commencement of Tender: 22-07-2019  
Last date for submission of Tender: 23-09-2019 upto 12.00 Hours  
Date of opening Tender: 25-09-2019 at 12.05 Hours

Further details may be obtained from KMF website: [www.kmfandini.coop](http://www.kmfandini.coop)

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Director (Purchase)



Kashmir is weary of leaders elected with 'mere 10% vote' who then make it to the Lok Sabha or state Assembly with vested interest, said Jitendra Singh



I don't think apart from Gandhi family, anyone should be the party president — Natwar Singh, Former external affairs minister

BRIEF

8-yr-old girl battles for life after rape

Bhubaneswar: An eight-year-old girl is now battling for life after a miscreant allegedly raped her in Odisha's Angul in the early hours on Sunday. As per reports, the girl was rescued in an unconscious condition from a garbage dump near Aahar centre in the town. The survivor, who hails from Maharashtra, was sleeping with her family members on the verandah of a shop near Angul bus stand when a bike-borne miscreant abducted her. Later, the accused raped the girl and threw her near garbage dump. It is suspected that the accused also tried to kill the girl after committing the crime.

Girl commits suicide over assault

Barmer: A teenaged girl disturbed with her molestation by a man allegedly committed suicide Sunday by jumping into a pond in Barmer district, said police. The 19-year-old-girl was allegedly molested and threatened by her neighbour Narpal Singh some time ago, they said. The police had already registered a case against accused Singh on July 17, they added. Following the suicide by girl, the police added relevant section for the offence of abetment of suicide in the case and arrested the accused. — PTI

Molestation victim commits suicide

Barmer: A teenaged girl disturbed with her molestation by a man allegedly committed suicide Sunday by jumping into a pond in Barmer district, said the police. The 19-year-old girl was allegedly molested and threatened by her neighbour Narpal Singh some time ago, they said. The police had already registered a case against accused Singh on July 17, they added. Following the suicide by girl, the police added relevant section for the offence of abetment of suicide in the case and arrested the accused. — PTI

CENTRE PITCHES METROLITE FOR SMALL CITIES

New Delhi: The Centre has proposed light urban rail transit system — 'Metrolite' — in small cities and towns having lower projection of ridership, with each train having three coaches and a restricted speed of 25 kmph. The Union housing and urban affairs ministry has issued standard specifications of the 'Metrolite' system which will be developed on surface and elevated stretches. According to the ministry, the 'Metrolite', which can be developed at a lower cost in comparison with existing metro system, will also act as feeder system to high capacity Metro. The three-coach train will have capacity of carrying 300 passengers. Sources said the government would provide financial assistance to states to implement the light urban rail transit system. The 'Metrolite' system will have a dedicated path separating the road traffic with it. For segregation with road traffic, fencing can be provided on either side of network. The ministry stated that metro rail system being developed at present is of high capacity which is required for bigger cities with very high ridership. Seeing the success of existing metro system, several small cities and towns want rail-based mass rapid transit system, which could be fulfilled by light urban rail transit system. The 'Metrolite' system will have shelter platforms. Metrolite platforms will not have AFC gates, platform screen doors, X-ray and baggage scanner. — PTI

Yogi meets families of Sonbhadra victims

Orders enhanced compensation of ₹18.5 lakh

Sonbhadra, July 21: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday met the families of Gond tribals killed in a clash here over a land dispute four days ago and announced several steps including enhanced compensation and time-bound completion of inquiry.

Targeting Opposition parties, Mr Adityanath alleged the agricultural land on which tribals used to practice traditional agriculture was registered "in the name of a Congress leader in a wrong way in 1955".

He also claimed that the village head and his brother involved in the incident were associated with the Samajwadi Party.

"In 1989, the land which belonged to a public trust was registered in the name of people linked with the trust.

In 2017, the land was sold to some local people," he said, adding an inquiry report into all the wrongdoings since 1952 has been sought within 10 days.

The chief minister announced an enhanced compensation of ₹18.5 lakh each to the families of those killed and ₹2.5 lakh to the injured.

He added that "wherever any anomaly was prima facie detected, action has been taken be it the tehsil level or in the police department".

He also said that in a police outpost will be opened at the spot of the crime and a fire station will be established in Ghorawal area.

The UP chief minister went to the district hospital to meet the people who



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath meets the members of the aggrieved families of the recent clashes in Sonbhadra on Sunday. — PTI

Priyanka takes dig at Yogi, says acknowledging one's duty good

Lucknow, July 21: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Sunday took a dig at Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath after he visited Sonbhadra where 10 Gond tribals were shot dead over a land dispute four days ago, saying "acknowledging one's duty is good".

She said the UP government has acted only after the Congress came out in strong support of the tribals.

The Congress general secretary met relatives of the victims at a guesthouse in Chunar town of Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur district Saturday, a day after she was detained and prevented from going to Sonbhadra.

were injured in the clash. Ten persons were killed and 18 people were injured in the clash on

Wednesday after a village headman and his supporters opened fire on tribals over land dispute. — PTI

with the affected people is the duty of the government. Acknowledging one's duty is good."

"Umbha has been awaiting justice since a very long time. Hope the affected people of Umbha will get justice and their five demands will be fulfilled," she added. She said the tribals should get ownership of land and the people of the village should get security

— PTI

Netanyahu to visit India to meet PM on Sept. 9

Jerusalem, July 21: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will travel to India on a day-long visit on September 9 to meet his counterpart Narendra Modi, just eight days before an unprecedented repeat polls in the Jewish state.

Mr Netanyahu, who created history on July 20 by becoming the longest serving Israeli Prime Minister is facing a tough political challenge as opinion polls show flagging fortunes for his ruling Likud party.

"The (Israeli) Prime Minister will be in India only for a few hours on September 9 during which he will be meeting Mr Modi. No other significant meeting is yet on the cards but something may be worked out during the coming days, possibly a business meeting," informed sources said.

Israeli lawmakers in May voted 74-45 in favour of dissolving the 21st Knesset and hold a repeat elections on September 17. Some analysts believe the meeting with Mr Modi is meant to prop up his campaign right before the polls.

Sources said that the Indian PMO had indeed suggested the week of August 25 for the visit but the Israeli side pushed for an early September visit which has finally been confirmed for September 9. — PTI

Announces 'Return Black Money' movement

BJP's LS poll win a mystery I failed to unearth: Mamata

DC CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA, JULY 21

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday complained that the BJP government in New Delhi was misusing Central investigative agencies to threaten her MPs, MLAs and other party leaders.

She, however, described the BJP's second consecutive Lok Sabha poll victory as "a mystery, not a history", which she admitted she had so far failed to unearth.

"Why did we come to power in 2011? Because we had fought for 34 years. So the BJP go and fight for 34 years first. Then you may dream of coming to power in Bengal," she said.

Belittling the BJP's win in 18 seats against her party's tally of 22 in the Lok Sabha polls in the

state, she made it clear that the Trinamul would not cease to exist despite the saffron surge, while accusing the BJP of luring her party's MLAs with money and property for defection by each. "The Trinamul is not a party to go away. It keeps coming. Recently, an MLA of our party from North Bengal met me. I asked him whether he had joined the BJP," Ms Banerjee added.

She told the rally: "He confessed to me of getting an offer from the BJP of Rs 2 crores and a petrol pump. I wanted to know if he was still waiting for a better bargain. Do not go leave the party if someone offers you Rs 2 crore and a petrol pump. If you accept the offer, you will lose because the money is illegotten. Down with horse-trading."

Launching her battle for

political survival in the state, Ms Banerjee also instructed the Trinamul rank and file to reach out to their CPM and Congress counterparts to thwart the rise of the BJP.

Plagued by the BJP's pressure on her government by using her "Return Cut-Money" order to all Trinamul leaders, the West Bengal Chief Minister announced she would kickstart a counter-movement "Return Black Money" against the saffron party at the Centre on July 26-27. She reiterated her demand for the replacement of EVMS with ballot papers in the next election.

"I still believe that the 2019 election is a mystery. I do not know how it happened. It is not a history. It is a mystery," the Trinamul president stressed.

UGC may consider dual degree from different varsities simultaneously

New Delhi, July 21: Students might soon be able to pursue multiple degrees simultaneously from different universities or the same university, with the University Grants Commission studying the feasibility of the idea. The 2012 panel report had said,

"However, two degree programmes under regular mode may not be allowed simultaneously as it may create logistic, administrative and academic problems. A student pursuing a degree programme under regular mode may be allowed to pursue a maximum of

one certificate, diploma, advanced diploma, PG diploma programme simultaneously either in regular or open and distance mode in the same university or from other institutions," the panel report had said.

As per UGC officials, "The commission had then sought comments of the statutory councils on the committee's report and the responses received did not endorse the idea of allowing students to pursue multiple degree programmes simultaneously. Hence the plan did not take off."

— PTI

One dead off Kerala, 2 missing in the sea

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 21

The body of a fisherman who was missing from Neendakara, Kollam, on Friday was found at Anjuthengu in Thiruvananthapuram district on Sunday.

The Coast Guard and Navy men found the body of Sahaya Raju of Kanyakumari during the search operations at a coastal strip at Anjuthengu. However, there is no trace of his fellow fishermen Raju and John Bosco.

The three fishermen from Neerody in Kanyakumari went missing off Neendakara coast when the boat carrying five fishermen capsized in the rough sea. Two of them, Nicholas and Stalin, swam back to safety by 1 pm.

The fibre boat belonged to Stanley of Neerody village in Kanyakumari district.

Meanwhile, in a rain-related mishap, one person died after a wall collapsed at Vachakkal near Edavanakkad in the district on Sunday. Police identified the deceased as Thankavelu, 32, a native of Dindigul in Tamil Nadu.

The meteorological department has warned the fishermen against venturing into the sea in view of the bad weather.

14 people rescued from four-storey Churchill Chamber 1 dies, 2 hurt in fire near Taj Hotel

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, JULY 21

One person was killed and two others, including a fireman, were injured after a major fire broke out on the third floor of a four-storey residential building near the iconic Taj Mahal Hotel in Colaba on Sunday. In all, 14 people were rescued.

The Mumbai fire brigade received a call about the blaze at Churchill Chamber, a heritage structure on Merryweather Road, at 12.17 pm, and a major fire call was made at 12.25 am as smoke had accumulated in the building.

Four fire engines, four jumbo water tankers and two turntable ladders were



Police personnel rescue people from the Churchill Chamber building fire, near Taj Mahal Hotel, in Mumbai on Sunday. — DEBASISH DEY

rushed to the spot. The blaze was eventually extinguished at 4 pm but owing to the building's vintage design, most of its windows lacked grills and sliding glasses, which help fire-

men enter quickly. Six people were stuck on the floor where the fire had broken out and one of them, Yusuf Punawala (50), who experienced 'critical suffocation', was admitted to the ICU of

Bombay Hospital. He was later said to be out of danger.

Later, on being informed by residents said a resident was missing, firemen entered the worst-hit area and found Shyam Aiyar, who was later declared dead by GT Hospital. "The deceased had entered the third floor's most-affected area with the intention to douse the blaze. However, got trapped. We managed to rescue people despite the building being an old structure. Normally, heritage buildings have wooden staircases and extensive use of wood altogether with narrow escape ways which makes fire fighting challenging," said MFB's chief fire officer, P.S. Rahangdale.

Bangla minister to meet Shah on Aug. 7 India visit

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JULY 21

Bangladesh home minister Asaduzzaman Khan will visit India on August 7 during which he will hold bilateral talks with home minister Amit Shah, who is expected to flag issues like illegal immigration and anti-terror cooperation.

According to sources this will be the first interaction that Mr Shah will have with a foreign leader after assuming charge as the country's home minister two months ago. Mr Khan will have bilateral talks with the home minister on August 7 when issues concerning both the countries will be discussed.

India shares a 4,096-km-long border with Bangladesh. "Anti-terror cooperation, movement of illegal immigrants, and smuggling of cattle, arms and ammunition and a few other issues are expected to be discussed in Mr Shah's dialogue with Mr Khan," sources said.

Ms Taslima's residence permit has been further extended for one more year till July 2020. The 56-year-old writer was last week given a three-month residence permit following which she took to Twitter requesting home minister Amit Shah for extending it for one year.

"Hon'ble @amitshahji, I sincerely thank you for extending my residence permit. But I'm surprised it's only for 3M. I apply for 5yrs but I've been getting 1yr extension. Hon'ble Rajnathji assured me I would get an extension for 50yrs. India is my only home. I'm sure you'll come to my rescue (sic). Everytime I apply for the extension of my Indian residence permit for 5 years, I get extension for 1year. This time I applied for the extension for 5years, I get for 3 months

Taslima secures India stay permit

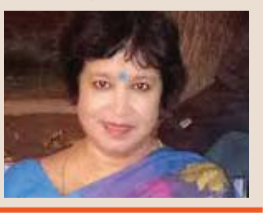
DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 21

The Union home ministry on Sunday extended the residence permit of controversial Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen for one year. Ms Taslima, a citizen of Sweden, has been getting residence permit on a continuous basis since 2004.

Ms Taslima's residence permit has been further extended for one more year till July 2020. The 56-year-old writer was last week given a three-month residence permit following which she took to Twitter requesting home minister Amit Shah for extending it for one year.

"Hon'ble @amitshahji, I sincerely thank you for extending my residence permit. But I'm surprised it's only for 3M. I apply for 5yrs but I've been getting 1yr extension. Hon'ble Rajnathji assured me I would get an extension for 50yrs. India is my only home. I'm sure you'll come to my rescue (sic). Everytime I apply for the extension of my Indian residence permit for 5 years, I get extension for 1year. This time I applied for the extension for 5years, I get for 3 months

She was, last week, given a three-month residence permit following which she took to Twitter requesting home minister Amit Shah for extending it for one year



only. Hope Honourable Home Minister @HMOIndia will reconsider to extend my residence permit for at least 1year(sic)," she tweeted on July 17. Following the extension of the residence permit for one year, Ms Taslima again took to Twitter: "Twitter is so powerful! On July 16 I tweeted my residence permit wasn't extended. On July 17 it was extended, but only for 3 months. So many Twitter friends requested MHA to extend it for longer period. It's extended for 1yr today. Thanks MHA to change decision. Love my Twitter friends," she said.

METRO CHOICE

Chennai frontrunner, world largest plane had landed in Hyderabad Runway length to decide Xi venue

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, JULY 21

A runway big enough for the aircraft carrying Chinese President Xi Jinping and his large high-powered delegation to land directly from Beijing is believed to be one of the key parameters when the Indian and Chinese sides jointly decide the venue for the second informal summit in India between President Xi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that is expected to take

place in October this year. Metropolitan cities, including those in southern India such as Chennai, are therefore also learnt to be under consideration, along with a few possible venues in other parts of the country. While there had earlier been speculation about Varanasi — Mr Modi's Lok Sabha constituency — being one of the contenders, assessments will probably be made on whether the Varanasi airport runway fits the bill in this regard or not.

The Hyderabad airport has accommodated the A380 and the supermassive Antonov-225, the largest aircraft in the world.

The two sides are expected to discuss possible venues and things could probably be firming up when external affairs minister S. Jaishankar visits Beijing in August, in what will be a final preparatory visit ahead of the meet. As consultations are already underway ahead of the summit, that will take place in less than three months from now, newly-appointed Chinese ambassador Sun Weidong

arrived in New Delhi on Sunday to assume his responsibilities. "Just arrived at Delhi with my wife Bao Jiqing. Sincere greetings to the #Indian people. Look forward to working with #Indian government and friends from all sectors for building better #China-India relations," the new Chinese envoy tweeted.

Sources told this newspaper that the venue for the informal summit was yet to be finalised, at least till last week. In all probability, the venue will be one where the Indian govern-

ment is able to showcase the rich culture of the country to the visiting high-level Chinese delegation.

President Xi has visited New Delhi and Ahmedabad in September 2014 as well as Goa for the Brics summit in October 2016. Speculation was rife that other possible venues like Varanasi or perhaps even a couple of cities in tourism-friendly Rajasthan could be in the reckoning. But factors such as the runway length seem to be now weighing in prominently.

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If you take no risks, you will suffer no defeats. But if you take no risks, you win no victories. A man's got to take a lot of punishment to write a really funny book

# DECCAN Chronicle

22 JULY 2019

## Iran crisis grows, India needs to promote peace

The Indian government has reached out to Iran for securing the release and repatriation of 18 Indian sailors who were among the 23-member crew on board the British-flagged oil tanker *Stena Impero*. India will have to do much more than that to defuse the rising tensions in West Asia where Iran has been responding to events after the further tightening of sanctions by the United States. The immediate cause of the latest conflagration was the impounding of an Iranian oil tanker near Gibraltar, in which British troops were involved, around two weeks ago. The action was premised on the oil constituting illegal supply to Syria. Considering the close ties India has with Iran, in a fine balancing act of its relations with Saudi Arabia as well as the United Arab Emirates, where millions of its citizens live, the country should be playing a more active peacemaking role to cool down the escalating heat in the Strait of Hormuz.

The shooting of drones and the ordering of airstrikes, which were then called off at the last minute by US President Donald Trump, were not measures that really helped to keep the peace. The United States had been putting the heat on Iran after unilaterally withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal signed during the Barack Obama presidency, and further tightening sanctions from May this year.

**Good relations between India and Iran are extremely important and the geopolitical significance of the Chabahar Port cannot be lost sight of. The Asian waters are tense enough...**

As its history suggests, Iran may not take things lying down. It should, however, be aware of the fact that the UK and other European countries have been trying to get the US to back the old nuclear deal, while being keen to avoid a confrontation with Iran. It is in this context that the seizure of a UK-flagged oil tanker has to be viewed as a grave provocation, but then Britain had dallied in the Iran oil tanker issue to invite this counteraction at a time when Britain is vulnerable with a lame duck Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street.

Good relations between India and Iran are extremely important and the geopolitical significance of the Chabahar Port cannot be lost sight of. The Asian waters are tense enough with an international effort named Operation Sentinel trying to police the key shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz, which sees a third of the world's shipped oil being moved. India is currently buying oil from other Arab suppliers as well as the United States to make up for the ban on Iranian imports. It's still an important time for diplomacy, rather than brinkmanship, which President Trump is known to favour. Iran should also respond to reasonable peace efforts. The Iran nuclear question is not going to be solved in a hurry, but peace must be pursued regardless.

## A 'doer' who changed Delhi

The manner of her stewardship of Delhi as Chief Minister for 15 long years (1998-2013) had made Sheila Dikshit, who passed away suddenly in New Delhi on Saturday at the age of 81, a household name in the country.

When Ms Dikshit became CM, she was a middle-rung Congress politician who had been a minister of state in the government of the late Rajiv Gandhi. By the time she left office after a stunning defeat, she had become a prominent national figure for imparting modernity to the nation's capital. It was to this that Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred when he visited her residence to pay tribute after her death.

Ms Dikshit built the Delhi Metro, which became a virtual blueprint for underground suburban rail transport in other major cities in India. She built dozens of flyovers and new schools and hospitals. It was in her time in office that the "Bhagidari" system came about, letting residential welfare associations play a part in determining civic amenities. Some greening of Delhi also occurred during her tenure when CNG replaced diesel in the city's bus service.

The highly successful Commonwealth Games — holding which let Delhi acquire huge infrastructural assets — were held when Ms Dikshit was CM, although the Games were wracked by corruption scandals.

While the Chief Minister herself was never personally seen as corrupt, sports bureaucrats and unscrupulous contractors allegedly had a field day since, in India, preparations for even major events get pushed to the last minute, permitting a sense of emergency to build up which is exploited by shady elements.

In a rapidly urbanising India, "doer" politicians who are efficient, adept and charming — as Ms Dikshit was — are badly needed.

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

A.T. JAVANTI  
Editor

T. VENKATESWARLU  
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-2780390-4; Fax: 040-27805256  
**Vijayawada:** No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-255284/255287; Telefax: 0866-255234

**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-252333/252334; Fax: 0891-2755285  
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**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/4230525

**Bengaluru:** 5th Floor, BMT Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552

**Coimbatore:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255

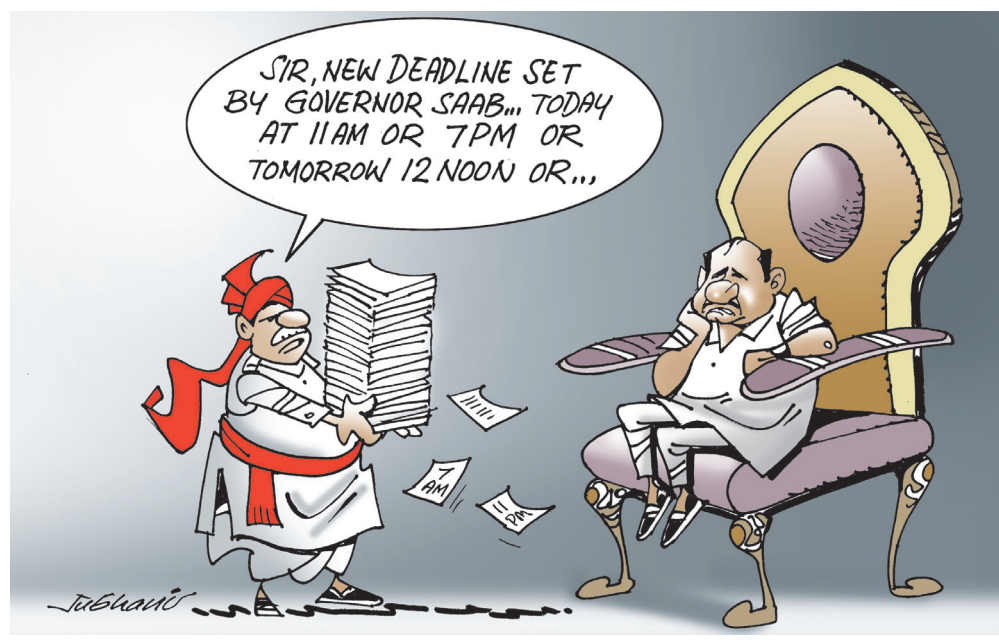
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**Thiruvananthapuram:** St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycad (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014

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

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Subhani



# India needs to rework its tactics on Pak, J&K



K.C. Singh

Before heading to Washington to meet US President Donald Trump on July 22, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan opened up his country's airspace to international flights, after months of closure, and rearrested Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind behind terror group Lashkar-e-Taayyaba. President Trump promptly tweeted his happiness over the latter as that group has American blood on its hands, having undertaken the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai over a decade ago. Pakistan had earlier linked its airspace reopening to India removing its Air Force fighters from forward deployment. New Delhi had rejected that demand. Pakistan's volte face may have been prompted by a desire to show the US its reasonableness in dealing with India. The same may be behind Pakistan's accommodative approach to the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as it dropped from its delegation controversial pro-Khalistan leader Gopal Singh Chawla. Indian sensitivity on this issue was manifest when an expatriate organisation, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), pushing the Referendum 2020 over Khalistan, was banned.

If all this heralded a thawing of India-Pakistan relations, an old issue resurfaced to negate it. On July 18, Pakistan had its knuckles rapped by the International Court of Justice at The Hague in the Indian case filed over denial of consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav, a former Indian naval officer, who was detained, tried and sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court for alleged espionage and terrorist activities. Rejecting the Pakistani arguments about lack of jurisdiction, the court held Pakistan in breach of its commitments under the Vienna Consular Convention of 1963. While Pakistan claimed victory as the court did not ask for the release and repatriation of Jadhav, the court sought a review of the judgment, immediate consular access for India and Jadhav being informed of his rights accordingly.

Pakistan agreed to grant the access, but many other issues linger. First, will Indian high commission officials be in physical proximity of the detainee and relatively free to converse without close monitoring? It is unlikely that the Pakistan Army will allow this, and may in fact repeat the theatre enacted when Jadhav's mother and wife sat across a glass partition and conversed over the intercom and under intrusive oversight of security officials. Second, Pakistan has agreed to review the judgment as per their own prescribed procedures, which may entail its submission to the Chief of Army Staff or the President. Pakistan is unlikely to concede that due to the serious procedural flaw of denying the accused access to his country's diplomatic mission and thus provision of proper legal assistance, the entire trial was vitiated. The military court had apparently relied on a "confession" obtained by coercive means and dubious circumstantial evidence.

Pakistan's next steps in the Jadhav affair would thus condition the course of India-Pakistan relations. On the other hand, Pakistan will also expect that India should respond to positive steps taken by it, instead of sticking to the standard Indian line that Pakistani action against jihadi groups is tactical and reversible. Imran Khan's US visit assumes importance in this regard as Pakistan would attempt to rebalance relations with Washington, which have

during the Trump presidency slipped into open distrust. India has counted on this dissonance to pillory and pressure Pakistan. The White House statement on the eve of visit reads that the bilateral meeting is to "discuss a range of issues, including counter-terrorism, defence, energy, trade, with the goal of creating the conditions for a peaceful South Asia and an enduring partnership". Clearly, the Afghan endgame, in which Pakistan has now been co-opted by China, Russia and the US to help, has altered US perceptions on Pakistan considerably. India on the other hand has been left on the sidelines of the Afghan game as President Trump wants to withdraw US troops after a face-saving peace pact with the American presidential election approaching in 2020. Meanwhile, India and the US are wrestling with trade issues that have episodically riled President Trump enough to fire angry tweets.

Thus, a bull-headed Pakistani policy may be losing its value as the world has other distractions and likely diminishing empathy for Indian complaints over Pakistani duplicity and sponsorship of terror. The seizure by Iran of a British oil tanker, in retaliation for an Iranian oil tanker carrying oil to Syria being seized by the British near Gibraltar, ups the ante in the Gulf. Britain has already warned its tankers from transiting the Straits of Hormuz. Operation Sentinel to create a multinational escort force is still not off and running. Iran has dropped hints it may renegotiate the nuclear deal, but it would not discuss any rollback of its influence or even presence in West Asia. On July 24, British prime

**A purely security-oriented approach to the Jammu and Kashmir problem will backfire eventually, much as normality may appear possible today as Pakistan has shut off the infiltration**

minister Theresa May will resign, and the process begin to install her successor — most likely to be Boris Johnson. On the same day Robert Mueller, the former FBI head who investigated the Russian collusion charges against the Trump electoral machine, will depose before the US Congress. Mr Mueller has said he would stick to explaining his report and not launch a witch-hunt against the incumbent US President, but it would distract an already election-oriented Mr Trump. Thus, a visible bonhomie between Mr Trump and Mr Khan can result in a more confident Pakistan willing to test the post-Balakot retaliatory doctrine of India.

Therefore, India would have to tailor its Pakistan policy accordingly. During Track II interactions with Pakistanis, some uncertainty is visible over the new Indian doctrine of pre-emptive or retaliatory military action if India is attacked by Pakistan-based terror groups known to be sponsored by the Pakistani military. But Pakistan is emerging from its isolation and economic mess. If the US opens the military assistance tap and restarts financial aid under the garb of compensation for counter-terrorism operations, then Pakistan may draw the wrong conclusion. It will continue to seek strategic depth in Afghanistan by helping instal a Taliban dispensation in Kabul and await Pakistan getting off the "grey list" of the Financial Action Task Force, which its ally China now chairs. After that, it will stoke as the "Khalistan" issue and the ire in the Kashmir Valley. A purely security-oriented approach to the Jammu and Kashmir problem will backfire eventually, much as normality may appear possible today as Pakistan has shut off the infiltration. The lesson for India is that the geo-strategic environment is not static. Nor can be one's tactics to deal with it.

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh

### LETTERS

#### CRIMINAL WASTAGE

It is a welcome move by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board to impose fine for water wastage (*Hefty fine for water wastage, July 21*). However, this step is not enough because many illegal buildings are coming up which will be using the water supply. The Board must form committees in very locality or colony to monitor water use.

Marium Khan  
Hyderabad

I appreciate the Water Board's decision to impose fines on those who waste water. However, the authorities must not forget that it is their duty to plug the leakages. It has been reported that water was spilling constantly on to the road in Kaladera and Malakpet for several days but it wasn't fixed. The authorities and civilians must work together in solving this crisis.

Vilas Penurkar  
Hyderabad

#### RELIGIOUSLY SECULAR

It is heart-warming to read that the Shahi Masjid authorities are providing free legal assistance to citizens (*Lawyers give free legal aid at Shahi Masjid, July 21*). This secular act by a religious institution is commendable because it will help the economically backward get justice at their doorstep.

Baglekar Akash Kumar  
Hyderabad

#### FIXING RESPONSIBILITY

The new Municipal Act has given more powers to district collectors over public representatives to run the administration. The Act says, "Public representatives who fail to deliver their duties will be disqualified or dismissed and will not be paid any remuneration." Similar to this, MLAs should be monitored by the Centre, which in turn, should be overseen by the President.

Vaddeti Venunath  
Hyderabad

#### U.S.-IRAN STANDOFF

The duel between the US and Iran is escalating by day (*Iran says UK's tanker ignored a distress call, July 21*). In short, the US is looking for a regime change. Since Iran enjoys full support of Russia, it is only the UN Security Council which can prevent another war.

Mansoor Dashti  
Secunderabad

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹300. Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com, or fax them to 27805256. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003. The letter 'Distractions' (July 16) by Rakshitha Gindam, Hyderabad, wins the prize.



Munir Akram

### View from Pakistan

## Pak aided US, Taliban talks; but didn't get any reward

Despite the Indian media's assumptions of a US strategic volte-face, Islamabad would do well to acknowledge that the Trump administration still views its relations with Pakistan largely through the prism of Afghanistan. President Donald Trump's desire for an early end to America's longest war is the principal reason for his invitation to Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Pakistan has played a key role in facilitating the Afghan peace process and the US-Taliban talks. These have reportedly made encouraging progress over the past few months. An agreement on the withdrawal of US-Nato troops has evidently been reached between the US and the Afghan Taliban, although no timetable for the withdrawal has been finalised. The Taliban, for their part, have agreed to prevent terrorism against the US and third countries from Afghan territory post a settlement. It is unclear if the US will ask, as it did earlier, to leave behind

a "small" counterterrorism force in Afghanistan. Two weeks ago, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in Kabul that "the time for peace has come". He hoped for a political settlement by September 1.

While the troop withdrawal and counterterrorism agreements are ready, the US special envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, has so far insisted on resolving two other issues simultaneously: an intra-Afghan dialogue between the Taliban and Kabul government and a general ceasefire, tweeting that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed". US withdrawal from Afghanistan could be delayed if the US insists on the conclusion of intra-Afghan negotiations before troop withdrawals commence.

The Taliban have rejected direct talks with the Ashraf Ghani government (which they consider a US puppet), but are willing to engage with all Afghans, including members of the government in their personal capacity. An informal dialogue process was attempted in several

locales and finally took place last month in Doha coterminously with the separate US-Taliban talks.

This two-day intra-Afghan session issued a positive declaration expressing the desire of all Afghan parties and groups to reduce civilian casualties "to zero" and preserve Afghanistan's unity and sovereignty and Islamic principles.

An Afghan political settlement will not be durable unless it is supported by regional powers and Afghanistan's immediate neighbours Pakistan and Iran. The US special envoy adroitly commenced a trilateral US-Russia-China dialogue to build regional consensus. Indeed, Afghanistan is one place where the three major powers, despite their global rivalry, may have a convergent interest in fighting terrorism and promoting stability.

At their last meeting in Beijing, Pakistan was invited to join the three great powers to expand regional support for an Afghan peace settlement. Iran was reportedly also invited to

the Beijing consultations but refused to participate. Iran has close traditional relations with the Tajiks, Hazaras and Shias, and new relations with some hard-line Taliban commanders. If US-Iran tensions escalate, Tehran could severely disrupt the Afghan peace process.

Despite its bold and continuing facilitation of the US-Taliban talks, until now, Pakistan has not secured any tangible reciprocity from the US (apart from the designation of the BLA as a terrorist entity). On the contrary, until recently, Washington maintained economic pressure on Pakistan via the IMF and FATF, and demanded action against the leaders of the proscribed pro-Kashmiri organisations (LeT and JeM) which Pakistan has taken.

In the Washington talks, the US is likely to ask Pakistan to "do more" to persuade the Taliban to negotiate with Kabul and accept a ceasefire. It may also go beyond Afghanistan to seek assurances regarding the Kashmir insurgency, nuclear and

missile issues and relations with Iran.

Pakistan would do well to avoid assuming additional obligations on the western or eastern front. Over-promising and under-delivering could reopen the mistrust and acrimony that has dogged Pakistan-US ties since at least 2005.

Instead, Pakistan should expect that its strong support to the desired peace process will finally yield some gestures of US support. The US could take action against the TTP and BLA; help in monitoring and fencing the Pakistan-Afghanistan border; pre-emptively block CSF monies; and promote Afghan refugee repatriation. Washington could adopt more even-handed policies towards Pakistan and India. Further, the US administration could encourage its corporations and private equity firms to actively consider investment in Pakistan to revive growth and unleash its vast economic potential.

By arrangement with Daun



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DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 22 JULY 2019 | HYDERABAD

# Oped

## Resurgence in US-Pak ties may be on the cards



Syed Ata Hasnain

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is now in the United States to meet President Donald Trump on July 22, and perhaps cash in on the visible resurgence in US-Pakistan relations after the serious American efforts to withdraw from Afghanistan began a year ago. A review of the hot and cold US-Pakistan relationship would reveal the direction this effort is likely to flow in — north or south. Over five decades ago, during the Cold War, Pakistan had consciously entered into strategic alliances like Seato and Cento with the US, to enhance its relations with a superpower and draw its support towards the overall security needs that it perceived. Its high value as a US ally really emerged in 1969 when US President Richard M. Nixon decided to engage with China to tilt the international balance against its arch-foe, the Soviet

Union. Pakistan's strongly emerging relationship with China, designed on the back of its failing relationship with India, gave it the fillip to progressively maintain close relations with both, the US and China. The events at the end of 1979, the Iranian revolution and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, both gave Pakistan the opportunity to cozy up with the US and Saudi Arabia in a commonality of strategic interests. Pakistan became the frontline state receiving military wherewithal from the US and finances from the Saudis to keep the Soviets at bay and hem Shia Iran from the east respectively. As the Cold War ended, Pakistan's importance dwindled to an extent, although the handling of Afghanistan in the post-conflict period should have been an even more important phase. However, by then Pakistan had entered the game of radical extremism. Consciously, Pakistan promoted a radical brand of Islam to serve its

strategic purpose to allow the pan-Islamic configuration from the conflict in Afghanistan to travel to Jammu and Kashmir, and also assist it securing flag-ship status in the Islamic world. It wasn't in convergence with US interests any longer, which was inclined towards neutralising the rising tide of Islamism, as seen in the war in Bosnia and the turbulence in the South Asia region, generated by Pakistan. The clash of US interests with those of Pakistan also arose from the latter's nuclearisation and emerging potential of being a state which could melt down with its military nuclear assets falling into the hands of radicals; the proverbial worst-case scenario imagined by the US. Pakistan had to be treated gingerly thereafter. Then 9/11 brought Pakistan back into the reckoning as a frontline state. The US needed it like never before; a war in Afghanistan could not be fought from air heads in Tajikistan or Turkmenistan; the logistics could only travel via Karachi since Iran was a pariah. Since then, Pakistan's strategic importance for the US has remained a grudging phenomenon. That has given Pakistan a certain leeway to play its cards and continue building its capability in the conduct of irregular wars which it has used as a weapon of its self-empowerment. This is

**President Trump's desire to withdraw all US forces from Afghanistan could not have been expressed at a more appropriate juncture for Pakistan. It is the natural frontline state to mastermind the post-US withdrawal situation.**

particularly after the blowback which hit it after 2007, and which it claims it has fully rolled back after Operation Zarb-e-Azb in 2017. Pakistan's strategic orientation and delusory self-interests have brought it to the brink of economic disaster. It had to recently enter into an IMF bailout process for the 13th time since the 1980s. The \$6 billion loan has come with conditionalities, but is a landmark, which once crossed, allows the flow of funds from other nations due to the reposed IMF confidence grudgingly supported by the US. It is also under investigation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for insufficient action against terror financing networks; the final report is due in October 2019. There was a while when Pakistan started to consider its relationship with China as a full alternative to

its relationship with the US, and not an adjunct. However, as the economic situation worsened, the realisation dawned that without the US there was little scope for any bailouts, and China's capability in financial support and willingness to part with money was highly suspect. President Trump's desire to withdraw all US forces from Afghanistan could not have been expressed at a more appropriate juncture as far as Pakistan is concerned. It is the natural frontline state to mastermind the post-US withdrawal situation and facilitate the arrival at a desired situation through assistance for talks between the US and the Taliban. Prime Minister Imran Khan has arrived at Washington with this background. He certainly knows that Pakistan holds a couple of cards related to US interests in Afghanistan. However, the situation for Pakistan is much larger than just Afghanistan. It needs US investment for its starving economy and assurance of continued support in that direction. To do the convincing, Pakistan Army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa is accompanying the Prime Minister. His presence is apparently to convince US officials that the powerful Pakistan Army will play ball on US interests. Last year, Mr Trump cut off much

security assistance to Pakistan, accusing it of offering nothing but "lies and deceit" while giving safe haven to terrorists, a charge angrily rejected by Islamabad. Perhaps Mr Trump was briefed later about Pakistan's strategic importance for the US to achieve various security ends. He has been more conciliatory since then. Imran Khan has prepared for this visit; attempted some indicators to the US that Pakistan is serious about improving the security environment of South Asia. The situation in Kashmir has been possibly calibrated to a low. The airspace over Pakistan has been opened for commercial airlines flying to and from India. Hafiz Saeed, the Pakistani terrorist leader with a \$10 million US bounty on his head, has been arrested for the umpteenth time and incarcerated in jail. Mr Trump and his advisers need to look at the larger picture. The potential of Pakistan being a menace for the international community, with its extremely weak social parameters, must be realised. Mixed with the after-effects of a potential full US pullout from Afghanistan, the Af-Pak region could deteriorate to conditions of such instability and violence that the jihad factories would all re-emerge and create havoc not just locally, but also internationally. The US secretary of

state was in New Delhi recently, possibly for consultations on exactly these issues. However, the US has somehow always had greater faith in the Pakistan Army than in any civilian dispensation. It is doubtful it will bat for greater dilution of control of the Pakistan Army on the various institutions; at least definitely not for now. Mr Trump wants some symbolic visibility immediately to communicate the seriousness of getting troops out of Afghanistan well before the election campaign next year. All the above indicates that the US, while comprehending the threats, may not go for long-term stabilisation but rather for short-term electoral gains for the Trump administration. The opportunity it is getting of putting Pakistan on the mat and extracting from it enough to pull it back from the wayward ways it has followed is likely to be given a go-by. For the nth time the US-Pakistan strategic relationship may see a revival, the effects of which will not be in the interests of India and the rest of the world.

*The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former commander of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps. He is also associated with the Vivekananda International Foundation and the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies.*

## Wimbledon, World Cup & Boris: It's an exciting time in the UK



Kishwar Desai

London Diary

As the country awaits a new Prime Minister, the period of uncertainty has meant that it is open season for Londoners to engage in conspiracy theories. One of them revolves around the question of who actually revealed the diplomatic cables sent by the former ambassador to the US, Sir Kim Darroch, about Donald Trump. Now a remarkably young journalist, 19-year-old Steve Edginton, has claimed he had dug them out from a civil service source. Mr Edginton says, in a newspaper article, that he had been working on a story where he "decided to aim big and investigate how the civil service has been preparing for Brexit, including what senior government officials really think about our impending departure from the European Union."

He came across the letter written by Sir Kim during the course of his investigation — though this was unrelated to Brexit. The publication of the cables in turn led to a row in which Mr Trump called Sir Kim "wacky" and the diplomat had to go. Now, Mr Edginton apparently fears arrest but says he will not reveal his source. He is unlikely to be arrested (freedom of the press is dear to all) but the prospect was raised by the assistant police commissioner, Neil Basu, who spoke about stern action against leaks of this nature. The excitement is natural as there is no one really in charge right now. The civil service seems to be the one safe harbour in these uncertain times, and to mix metaphors, is it turning into a leaky ship?

**Boris Johnson's arrival as a new Prime Minister without having won a general election is another trend. Since the end of World War II, he will be the eighth such Prime Minister. Five of them have been Conservative.**

been the son-in-law of Punjab. However, rumours are that Rishi Sunak, who has been a junior minister, is up for promotion and Priti Patel will be back as well. Boris is great at making up fake news all by himself and has been doing it for many years. Just two days ago, he held up a kipper in a plastic bag and said it was the European Union regulations which had forced all fish to be wrapped in plastic bags with ice cushions. Thus was yet another anti-EU story but it turned out to be totally fake: it is a UK regulation, not EU. Typical Boris. Boris Johnson's arrival as a new Prime Minister without having won a general election is another trend. Since the end of World War II, he will be the eighth such Prime Minister. Five of them have been Conservative: Eden, Macmillan, Home, Major and Brown. Two — Callaghan and Brown — were Labour.

The best of all possible and most nail biting occasion of course was the World Cup cricket victory for England for the first time in 40-plus years. Once the double-tied match ended with England's victory, Lords cricket ground exploded. The audience had as many people from the diaspora of the sub-continent as the natives. Champagne bottles exploded. Without anyone noticing, Moeen Ali and Rashid quietly disappeared so as not to be drenched in alcohol — perhaps because it is considered *haram*. With the Barbados-born Jofra Archer as the English player who bowled the super over, the English team is multi-racial. But then, as someone said, English men at last did what women did long ago. Rachel Hayhoe Flint had captained the English women's side to a World Cup victory 40 years ago.

undergarments be cleaned after each day's use. Others are telling us how washing in cold water is better and more energy saving than hot water. But of course, until people don't return to the good old bucket bath, and give up showers and bath tubs — consumption of water will remain very high.

If you really want to have high tea, there is now a place near Victoria where you can spend a fortune on a pot of tea. Rubens Hotel serves a rare brand of Sri Lankan tea which has to be sipped slowly on its own. The tea leaves are carefully weighed and measured. Water at exactly the required temperature is poured over it by the tea sommelier. Three helpings are possible. The price? Just £500.

*The writer is an award-winning author. Her new book, Jallianwala Bagh, 1919: The Real Story, has just been published.*



'Of course, you're too young to remember the boring game.'

## The hypocrisy of UK leaders' support for press freedom

Trevor Kavanagh

Cynical old hacks like me have been amused by the chorus of establishment applause for the *Mail on Sunday's* great Kim Darroch scoop. Our elected masters were outraged, rightly, by threats from the Met's assistant commissioner Neil Basu to criminalise editors who publish leaked memos. Politicians left, right and centre condemned an assault on press freedom. Alan Rusbridger, saintly ex-editor of the *Guardian*, demanded, know what they taught budding bobbies in police college these days. "I would like to suggest a new and compulsory course," he said. "Let's call it 'The Basics Of Free Speech'. Lesson number one. The police do not tell newspaper editors what to write."

Others piled in: Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt both defended newspapers' right to publish. So did Labour's John McDonnell and Emily Thornberry, claiming to be disgusted even though they support a second Leveson inquiry more draconian than the first. Everyone, it seems, is saying that the press must be free to publish information so long as it does not breach existing laws.

So where were our newfound champions the last time we went around this fetid mulberry bush? Seven years ago, dozens of innocent journalists had their lives put on hold — or careers destroyed — when they were not just threatened by police, but prosecuted on trumped-up charges. Anti-terror cops launched dawn raids, ripping up floorboards from their homes and tearing their cars' innards apart. One senior journalist was forced to stand by as police rummaged through the underwear drawer of his tearful 14-year-old daughter. Wedding photos, love letters and even Magic Roundabout DVDs were seized along with laptops and mobile phones.

There was precious little outrage from MPs then. Far from trumpeting about the "basics of free speech", Mr Rusbridger and his newspaper seemed to enjoy watching the victims — including 21 of my colleagues from the *Sun* — being treated like criminals and bracing themselves for jail. Interestingly, I did not hear the voice of Sir Keir Starmer, ex-director of public prosecutions, among those clamouring for press freedom this week. It was Sir Keir, a close ally of then Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who launched the witch-hunt. It is one reason why some of his fellow Labour MPs will never vote for him to be leader of their party. It was Sir Keir's team who put Fleet Street legend John

Kay in the dock for breaking major stories, including the scandal over soldiers sent into battle against Taliban gunfire and roadside bombs protected only by canvas-topped Land Rovers.

Thanks to Sir Keir, our Whitehall editor Clodagh Hartley spent two years awaiting trial for revealing a snippet from Alistair Darling's Budget. The stress led to her leaving journalism. Nobody then spoke up about the casual abuse of police bail, which put the lives of innocent citizens on hold while callous cops toyed with their liberty. I want to stress here that I am not talking about phone-hacking, a clearly defined crime for which some *News of the World* journalists went to prison. This was about journalists doing their job, working in exactly the same way as *Guardian* staff, revealing to the public major news stories that the government preferred to conceal.

Nor am I alone in believing those criminal charges were trumped up. At an appeal court hearing, Lord Thomas, Lord Chief Justice, asked prosecutors why they had kept changing the charges against the journalists. The CPS could not answer. This was the moment the infamous Elveden Persecution, the longest and costliest police operation in Scotland Yard's history, began to disintegrate. In the end, all 21 *Sun* journalists were exonerated. The Lord Chief Justice ruled no crime may have been committed.

Lord Thomas' words resonate today: "What concerns me is the freedom of the press and the desire of officials to contain information. We must ensure the press is protected. We can't use criminal sanctions to undermine their position." He went on to declare that, while it might be an offence for a public official to sell information, it was not an offence for a newspaper to pay for it. This was a landmark ruling, one that every police officer (and government minister) should be aware of. Yet Neil Basu's threat to criminalise news-gathering suggests the police have learned nothing from Operation Elveden.

As for the politicians' welcome support for the *Mail on Sunday*, would there have been such a furore if the e-mails had been rude about President Obama, not Trump? Press freedom is under attack on many fronts, from super-injunctions to the sour intolerance of the "You can't say that" snowflake generation. We cannot rely on MPs' synthetic outrage to guarantee its survival.

*By arrangement with the Spectator*

## Schools should also teach compassion



Swami Chaitanya Keerti

Student stabs teacher over holiday homework" — Recently, this strange headline in a newspaper was most disturbing and shocking, and made me worried. I started thinking about the problem: What made the 16-year-old boy do this? This student in a private school stabbed his teacher in some village near Sonepat when she asked him for his homework. The teacher told the police that the student had not done his homework and when she asked him for it, he took out a kitchen knife from his bag and

attacked her. She was stabbed at least three times in her stomach. This is not the only case of violence between a student and a teacher. Such cases are happening in many schools and colleges where the students come to learn to transform themselves into educated and evolved human beings — that is naturally the main purpose of these institutes. But we need to understand that the atmosphere in most of these institutions is not very loving. A certain atmosphere of sacredness is required, and that is miss-

ing. What is encouraged in the name of education is competitiveness and ambitiousness, something very unhealthy for the human heart, though good for the mind and ego. Because of too much emphasis on competitiveness and ambitiousness, the whole world has become very violent and unliveable. Educational institutions are mainly responsible for this sad state of affairs. A young student is not being taught the necessary ways of love and compassion. He or she feels inferior to other students who are brighter. And the brighter students become the chosen few and many other students live with a heavy feeling of not being worthy. The feeling of unworthiness creates hatred

towards oneself, jealousy and anger towards others. This important aspect of education is missing in all schools, colleges and various institutions of learning. The solution to this problem is simple: Let teachers learn something that creates a sacred atmosphere in which the teachers are loving and compassionate and the students have reverence for their teachers. It could happen if both the teachers and students learn the art of meditation — meditating together should become a priority. If in ancient gurukuls, meditation did create this sacred atmosphere, it can create it today as well.

*Swami Chaitanya Keerti is editor of Osho World*





### Exit plans

British finance minister Philip Hammond says he would resign before Boris Johnson becomes prime minister as he could never agree to a no-deal Brexit.



I hope the 50th anniversary of the first moon walk inspires efforts to help the Earth

— Pope Francis

### IN BRIEF

#### Japan to vote Abe to Upper House

Tokyo: Japanese were voting on Sunday in an election for the upper house of parliament, where Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling bloc is expected to keep the majority. Up for grabs are 124 seats in the less powerful of Japan's two chambers that doesn't choose the PM. There are 245 seats in the upper house, about half of which are elected every three years. Media polls have indicated Abe's ruling bloc is expected to keep the majority as most voters consider it as a safer choice over an opposition with uncertain track records.

#### BA, Lufthansa halt flights to Cairo

London: British Airways and Lufthansa both said on Saturday they were suspending flights to Cairo for unspecified reasons related to safety and security. The British carrier said it was canceling flights to the Egyptian capital for a week. The German airline said normal operations will resume on Sunday. Both carriers delivered two-sentence statements via email. British Airways attributed its cancellations to what it called its constant review of security arrangements at all airports, calling them "a precaution to allow for further assessment." Lufthansa said it was suspending its flights as a precaution, mentioning "safety" but not "security" as its concern. Company spokespeople would not elaborate on what motivated the suspensions.

#### Syrian government bombing kills 11

Beirut: Syrian first responders and activists say government bombing of the last rebel stronghold in the country has killed at least 11 civilians, as the nearly four-month offensive shows no sign of abating. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says six people were killed, including a child, in the government bombing of the village of Urum al-Joz in Idlib province. The opposition-operated Shaam news agency says those killed had been displaced from the southern tip of the rebel stronghold. Rescue workers, White Helmets, say three children and a woman were killed in Kfaruma, south of Urum al-Joz.

#### MINISTER SAYS ISRAEL KILLING IRANIANS

Jerusalem: An Israeli minister boasted on Sunday that his country was the only one that "has been killing Iranians", after tensions between Britain and Iran rose in the Gulf. Regional cooperation minister Tzachi Hanegbi's comments to public radio were a reference to Israeli strikes in Syria against Iranian and Hezbollah military targets. However, they came after Iran seized a British-flagged tanker on Friday, adding to tensions between US and Tehran linked to a 2015 nuclear deal. Hanegbi accused Iran, Israel's main enemy, of seeking to create "chaos" and "harm freedom of navigation." Asked if he feared that Israel would not receive the backing of the US in the case of a conflict with Iran, Hanegbi suggested that Tehran would avoid such a scenario. "Israel is the only country in the world that has been killing Iranians for two years," he said. "We strike the Iranians hundreds of times in Syria. Sometimes we acknowledge it and sometimes foreign reports reveal it."

### TANKER GAMES

## Iran warns UK against escalating tensions

UK looking at options to respond after tanker seized

Dubai, July 21: Iran's ambassador to Britain warned against escalating tensions on Sunday as a UK official failed to rule out sanctions in response to Tehran's seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker.

UK called Iran's capture of the *Stena Impero* in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday a "hostile act". Britain needs to contain "those domestic political forces who want to escalate tension between Iran and the UK well beyond the issue of ships," Iran's envoy Hamid Baedinejad tweeted. "This is quite dangerous and unwise at a sensitive time in the region," he said, adding that Iran "is firm and ready for different scenarios."

Britain's junior defence minister Tobias Ellwood did not rule out the possibility of targeting Iran with sanctions. "Our first and most important responsibility is to make sure that we get a solution to the issue to do with the current ship, make sure other British-flagged ships are safe to operate in these waters and then look at the wider picture," Ellwood told Sky News. Asked about the possibility of sanctions, he

### BRITISH SHIP GOT WARNING

In an audio recording released on Sunday, a UK naval officer said the transit of the vessel must not be impaired

The naval officer from HMS *Montrose* says "You are passing an international strait, ... your passage must not be impaired, intruded..."

He then tells an Iranian patrol boat: "Please confirm you are not intending to violate international law"

After Twitter suspended accounts of Iranian state media outlets, it said it acted on harassment of Baha'i people

An Iranian officer tells *Stena Impero* to change course: "You obey, you will be safe. Alter your course to 360 degrees, over".

### IRANIAN TANKER BEING DOCKED IN SAUDI RELEASED

Tehran, July 21: An Iranian tanker held in Saudi Arabia since being forced to seek repairs at Jeddah port has been released and is returning to the Islamic republic, a minister said on Sunday.

The *Happiness 1* tanker "was released following negotiations and is now moving toward Persian Gulf waters," said transport minister Mohammad Eslami, quoted by state news agency IRNA.

The ship was forced to seek repairs in Saudi Arabia in early May after suffering "engine failure and loss of control", the Iranian oil ministry's SHANA news agency said at the time. The rare docking came despite rising tensions between staunch enemies.

"Yesterday, with follow-ups from the ports and maritime authority the issue was resolved," Eslami said. "The tanker is moving towards the Persian Gulf with the permission of the Jeddah port, towed by two Iranian tug boats." —AFP

### PORTUGAL BURNING



A firefighter plane drops water over a wildfire at Relva in Macao, central Portugal on Sunday. More than a thousand firefighters were fighting wildfires, early in the day in Portugal, which left eight injured in a mountainous region in the centre of the country where fire killed a hundred people in 2017. — AFP

## Imran arrives in US, will meet Trump on Monday

Washington, July 21: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan arrived here on his maiden trip to the US during which he will hold talks with Donald Trump and reboot bilateral ties that were hit after the US president publicly criticised Islamabad, cancelled military aid and asked it to do more to fight terrorism.

Khan, 66, is scheduled to meet President Trump at the White House on Monday during which the American leadership is likely to press him to take "decisive and irreversible" actions against terrorist and militant groups operating from Pakistani soil and facilitate peace talks with the Taliban.

The cricketer-turned-politician arrived here on Saturday afternoon aboard a commercial Qatar Airways flight and is staying at the official residence of the Pakistani Ambassador to the US, Asad Majeed Khan.

He was welcomed at the airport by his foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

TRUMP, in addition to a one-on-one meeting in the Oval Office, will host the visiting delegation over a working lunch at the White House

A large number of Pakistani Americans also welcomed him.

Nawaz Sharif was the last Pakistani prime minister to visit the US on an official trip in October 2015.

During his three-day visit, Khan, in addition to his meeting with Trump, is also scheduled to meet IMF acting chief David Lipton and World Bank President David Malpass. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will call on him on Tuesday.

Trump, in addition to a one-on-one meeting in the Oval Office, will host the visiting delegation over a working lunch at the White House on Monday. Khan is also scheduled to meet lawmakers at the US Capitol Hill.

— PTI

### IMRAN HAS NOTHING NEW TO PROMISE: EX-PAK DIPLOMAT

Washington, July 21: Imran Khan's maiden visit to the US as Pakistan's Prime Minister will be "weak in substance", a former top diplomat said.

"Imran Khan will be selling old wares to a new US president. There is nothing he can promise that hasn't been promised before," former Pakistan ambassador to US Hussain Haqqani said.

Khan, 66, accompanied by Pakistani Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa and director general of ISI, arrived in the US on Saturday afternoon.

"The visit will be weak on substance, notwithstanding the symbolic value of a Pakistani prime minister and the army chief showing up at the White House together to make new promises on counterterrorism cooperation," he said. —PTI

## Bangla PM halts sedition charge on Hindu woman

Dhaka, July 21: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has disapproved a planned government move to file sedition charges against a Hindu woman who told US President Donald Trump in Washington that the minority communities in her country were being persecuted

Reacting to Saha's statement, road transport minister Obaidul Quader on Saturday told reporters that she has made a "false, purposeful and treasonous remarks" and a sedition case will be filed against her.

However, Quader on Sunday said Hasina has disapproved the move to file sedition charges against Saha without

obtaining her explanation on her comments. "The prime minister last night sent me a message (from the UK where she is on an official tour), saying no legal action was required to be initiated hastily," Quader told a media briefing at the party's Dhanmandi office.

But, he maintained that Saha must make a public statement, explaining what actually she wanted to tell Trump.

Quader said Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque was set to lodge a sedition case against Saha, but he already conveyed him the premier's message and talked to law minister Anisul Huq and home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal as well in this regard. —PTI

### OZ GIRL BEHEADS MOM, PUTS HEAD AT HOME NEARBY

Sydney, July 21: An Australian woman charged with murder was sent for a medical assessment amid reports she decapitated her mother and left the head outside a neighbour's house.

Police said the body of a 57-year-old woman was found inside her Sydney home on Saturday night. They said it as one of the "most horrific" crime scenes they had seen. The woman's 25-year-old daughter was arrested in the front garden of a neighbour's house after allegedly putting her mother's head on the footpath outside, the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper reported.

National broadcaster ABC said the accused woman appeared in Parramatta Bail Court via video link on Sunday, telling the court she needed medical attention. She was sent to hospital for medical assessment, police said. She did not apply for bail. Officers said a four-year-old relative witnessed the incident, and was treated in hospital for a minor head injury. —AFP

## Xinjiang inseparable part of our territory: China

Beijing, July 21: Battling a wave of international criticism over alleged mass detention of ethnic Uighur Muslims in internment camps in Xinjiang, China on Sunday issued a white paper, asserting that the volatile province is an "inseparable" part of the Chinese territory and has never been "East Turkistan" as claimed by separatists.

China is facing severe criticism from western countries over reports

that it is holding one million people, mostly ethnic Uighurs, in internment camps in Xinjiang bordering India, Afghanistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Central Asian States in a bid to control violent attacks by separatist East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) organisation.

China blames ETIM, stated to be an affiliate of Al-Qaeda, for numerous violent attacks in Xinjiang region and various other parts of the

country including Beijing. Resource-rich Xinjiang province is the home of over 10 million Turkic speaking Uighur Muslims. China, however defends the camps, describing the facilities as re-education centres aimed at de-radicalising sections of the Uighur Muslim population from extremism and separatism. China asserted that never in its history has Xinjiang been referred to as "East Turkistan." —PTI

### MYSTERY | DEEPENS

Jewish panel says hoard exposes differences among Hungary's Jews in WW-II

## Treasure discovery poses Holocaust puzzle

Keszthely (Hungary), July 21: A vast and "unique" trove of antique and Roman-era coins, unearthed in what was one of Hungary's wartime Jewish ghettos, is proving a conundrum for historians.

Thrilled with the chance discovery of the 2,800 gold and silver coins spanning decades and continents, researchers are in the dark, however, about who collected and then hid them.

That the coins were

buried under a house whose one-time owner, the likely collector, is presumed to have been murdered in the Holocaust deepens the mystery.

According to a Hungarian Jewish organisation, the hoard also exposes how gaps remain in what is known about Hungary's Jews during World War II.

The current owners of the house in the town of Keszthely, 190 km southwest of Budapest, stumbled across the coins in



Gold, silver and other metal coins of a Holocaust victims collection are seen in the Balatoni Museum in the town of Keszthely, 200 km west of Budapest. — AFP

February during work on the cellar. They were likely hidden by a Jewish owner who was later deported to

a Nazi German death camp in 1944, said Balint Havasi, director of Keszthely's Balatoni Museum where the items are currently exhibited.

"It's a priceless collection that can also help us learn about the Holocaust," Havasi said.

In a letter to the museum, the building's current owners explained how they had been digging a hole in the cellar after pumping out groundwater when they came across the hoard. "We slowly dug out

five carefully sealed and buried glass jars," reads the letter.

"When we opened one of them, we were greeted by an amazing sight, just like in a fairy tale: hundreds of coins, real treasure," it continued. "We hope that it can return to its legal owners one day."

The finders have requested anonymity, according to the museum, which also declined to reveal the exact location of the house.

— AFP



# Brokers BYTES

## Bharti seeks to get high paying customers

After weeding out low-paying subscriptions through minimum recharge plans, Bharti is attempting to improve ARPUs via Airtel Thanks. Bharti has tied its plans around content offerings, and to avail premium content subscribers will have to commit to a higher tier/tariff plan. As per the broking house's analysis, differentiation is centred more on Amazon and Netflix primarily at this moment (deciding factor for Gold and Platinum upgrades). For instance, Amazon Prime for 12 months is the differentiating factor when the consumer is moving to '299 from '199. We understand getting critical mass should help Bharti bring down its content costs, so over next 2-3 quarters this initiative may not deliver on margins but some improvement in ARPUs is a possibility. But the broking house believes that Bharti will need to think beyond content else segmentation may lose novelty over time, and one of the ways could be offering shopping vouchers from brands to kirana stores. The broking house, therefore, maintain a hold rating.

**Broking firm:** SBI Cap Securities  
**Rating:** Hold  
**Closing price:** ₹340



## RIL's earnings may double in next 5 years

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is the largest private player in the refining and petrochemical in India. Its strength lies in its ability to build businesses of global scale and execute complex, timecritical, and capital-intensive projects which will prove advantageous as it embarks on large investments in all core segments. Refining margins in Asia will rise due to a paradigm shift in regional refining dynamics from West to East, which will favour a complex refiner like Reliance whose largest cash cow is refining. RIL is currently in a capex phase, investing in world-scale projects like petcoke gasification, off-gas crackers and telecom, which are expected to drive future growth. Earnings are expected to double over the next five years and RoCE to surge after assuming five years of cumulative losses in the telecom business. RIL is trying to improve its return ratios further by divesting utility businesses. Part monetisation of refinery and retail businesses may happen too. Q4FY19 beat estimates by seven per cent. This quarter, GRMs should boost numbers alongwith telecom and retail but lower petchem will lead to flattish numbers.

**Broking firm:** Edelweiss  
**Rating:** Overweight  
**Closing price:** ₹1,249

## Yes Bank's biz depends on its fund raising

Yes Bank reported a poor set of numbers for Q1FY2020. Slippages for the quarter were ₹6,232 crore, up 51.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter. This led to a jump in GNPA to 5.01 per cent, up 1.79 per cent qoq and 370 bps year-on-year. NIM compressed to 2.8 per cent while loan book growth moderated to 10 per cent yoy (declined two per cent qoq), of which retail book increased by 44 per cent yoy to constitute 18 per cent of total advances. NIM compressed by 0.21 per cent, 0.28 per cent qoq/yoy to 2.8 per cent on account higher NPA recognition and increase in COF. Henceforth advances growth will primarily depend on capital raising as banks tier 1 capital stands at 8.04 per cent. The broking house has a neutral view on Yes Bank, considering low tier 1 capital of 8.04 per cent; the bank will have to raise capital at current valuations for growth, which is dilutive.

**Broking firm:** Angel Broking  
**Rating:** Neutral  
**Closing price:** ₹83.25

# Avoid rookie mistakes with your income-tax returns

Here are some tips to help you make an error-free filing



**Money talk**  
Adhil Shetty

July 31 is the deadline for filing your income tax returns for financial year 2018-19. With just a few days left for the deadline, it's necessary for tax-filers to gather their various income, TDS, and investment proofs and make a timely and error-free filing. Here are some mistakes you need to avoid as you prepare to file your returns.

### NOT FILING & LATE FILING

Filing one's income-tax returns is mandatory in several situations. Some of which are as follows: if your gross total income in FY 2018-19 exceeded ₹2.5 lakh (or ₹3 lakh if you are aged 60 or above, or ₹5 lakh if you are 80 or above), if you want to get a refund on the excess taxes paid for that year, or if you want to carry forward losses from the previous year. Late filing of returns also attracts penalties: ₹5,000 for filing after July 31 but before December 31, ₹10,000 for filing between January 1 and March 31.

### NOT DECLARING ALL INCOME

An error-free filing needs you to declare all your income and receipts for the year correctly. Not doing so may invite the scrutiny of the income-tax department. Your various forms of income include salary, business income, interest from bank and other deposits, capital gains, pension, income from house property, dividend, etc. Not all income is taxable, and not all tax needs to be paid at the same rate as your slab. Therefore, educate yourself about the applicable tax rates on various incomes. For example, Long Term Capital Gains above ₹1 lakh from equity investments are tax-free.

### NOT SELECTING THE RIGHT FORM

When filing your income-tax returns online, you must pick the right ITR form. There are several forms for Assessment Year 2019-20 namely, ITR1 to ITR7. ITR1 is also known as Sahaj, and this is



for salaried and resident tax payers. ITR2 is for those who have earned an income or capital gain from house property. ITR3 is for income from business or profession. Of these seven options, you must pick the one applicable to you. This is most important.

### NOT KNOWING YOUR DEDUCTIONS

You are allowed to make deductions from your taxable income. For example, deductions for rent paid, a standard deduction, deductions for home loan principal and interest payments, the purchase of life or health insurance, and so on.

You must make yourself aware of the applicable deductions for financial year 2018-19.

Not knowing the deductions you're eligible for, and what the limits of those deductions are, may lead you into paying the incorrect amount of taxes.

### FALSIFYING INFORMATION

Do not under any circumstances falsify any information regarding your income, TDS and investments in your income tax returns. Do not especially accept

suggestions that you do so in order to increase your tax refunds. Do not deflate your income and correctly report all receipts under their relevant heads. Misreporting of income can attract a penalty worth 200 per cent of the tax evaded, as per Section 270A of the Income Tax Act.

### NOT CHECKING 26AS DETAILS

Form 26AS is a record of the TDS paid on your behalf by your employer, client, bank, or anyone who needs to make payments to you. Sometimes, a payer can incorrectly report your TDS, which will create problems for you. For example, a client may assign a TDS payment to you but fail to make the full payment to you. Therefore, download a copy of your 26AS and check it. Ensure its details are as per your expectations.

You can simplify your returns filing process by going online and educating yourself further. You can also file your returns online and validate it using Aadhaar OTP. When in doubt, consult your tax advisor. Remember to always file your returns before time so that last-minute glitches don't delay your filing.

The writer is CEO, BankBazaar.com



## WHAT DOES A TERM INSURANCE PLAN COST?

Insurance Company Name	Premium Costs for Sum Assured of ₹1 Cr	Premium Costs for Sum Assured of ₹50 lakh
IndiaFirst Life Insurance- Life E-Term Plan	₹7,080	₹3,599
Edelweiss Tokio Life - Zindagiplus	₹7,159	₹4,207
CanaraHSBCOBC Life Insurance- Iselect	₹7,379	₹4,203
Aegon Life - iTerm	₹7,497	₹4,223
Future Generali Life - Flexi Online Term	₹7,682	₹4,229
DHFL Pramerica- FlexiTerm	₹8,149	₹4,569
Bharti AXA Life Flexi Term Plan	₹8,260	₹4,543
ICICI Prudential Life - iProtect Smart - Life	₹8,279	₹4,728
Max Life Online Term Plan Plus	₹8,378	₹4,720
Reliance Nippon Life-Digi Term-Life Secure	₹8,402	₹4,687
Aviva i-Life Term Plan	₹8,694	₹4,868
PNB MetLife Mera Term Plan	₹8,756	₹5,428
Kotak e-Term Plan	₹8,968	₹5,546
IDBI Federal - iSurance Flexi Term Plan	₹9,251	₹5,050
Aditya Birla Sunlife - DigiShield Plan	₹9,523	₹5,452
HDFC Life Click2Protect	₹9,717	₹5,550
Shriram Life Online Plan	₹9,763	₹5,177
Exide Life Elite Term Plan	₹9,810	₹5,938
Bajaj- eTouchOnline- Shield	₹10,366	₹6,166
SBI Life- eShield	₹11,092	₹6,372
TATA AIA - Maha Raksha Supreme- V2	₹13,000	₹7,500
LIC- e- Term Plan	₹15,850	₹7,925
Star Union Dai-ichi- SUD Life Premier	₹18,172	₹10,384

Data pertains to term insurance cover for a 30-year-old, salaried, non-smoker male, residing in Bengaluru, earning ₹5 lakh annually, for a 30 year term. Data as on July 17

— Data Compiled By: BankBazaar.com



**Tax matters**  
Kamal Rathi

## Interest sop for foreign study too

My son, who resides in Europe, had invested money in a residential flat and is earning rent from the property. On his behalf, I want to file income-tax return for financial year ending March 31, 2019. Please advise whether I can sign on his behalf in the income-tax return? If not, what is the solution? Can I ask for General Power of Attorney from him, legally authenticated? Will it be accepted by the income-tax officer, as per the provisions of law? Can I sign, while investing his money derived from rent in NSCs, etc on his behalf?

SURAJ GOEL  
Via email

A) The return of income of your son can be filed by you in the capacity of a representative assessee. You are required to obtain a General Power of Attorney from your son. The method of filing is as follows: Login in your e-filing website & register yourself as a representative assessee for your son by uploading the GPA certificate. After the income-tax department approves the document, you may file your son's return in capacity of representative assessee. Investments in various instruments eligible under Section 80C is subject to the rules and regulations of the respective framework authorities.

**Deduction under Section 80C is applicable only for tuition fee paid in India. However, any interest paid on loan taken for higher education is eligible for deduction under Section 80E of the I-T Act.**

I purchased a flat by taking a loan in July 2018. However, I will receive the possession of the flat in November 2019? I want to know whether the interest benefit will be available to me for the assessment year 2019-20 (FY 2018-19).

ANAND MISHRA  
Via email

A) You will not be entitled to claim interest on housing loan for the assessment year 2019-20 (FY 2018-19).

As per explanations to provision of Section 24(1)(vi) of the Income-Tax Act, "Where the property has been acquired or constructed with borrowed capital, interest, if any, payable on such capital for the period prior to the previous year in which the property has been acquired or constructed, as reduced by any part thereof allowed as a deduction under any other provision of this Act, shall be deducted under this clause in five equal annual installments, commencing from the previous year in which the house was acquired or constructed and each of the four immediately succeeding previous years."

Interest pertaining to assessment year 2019-20 (FY2018-19) will be deductible in five equal installments beginning from AY 2020-21 (FY 2019-20).

What is the maximum deduction allowed under Section 80C of the Income-Tax Act for children education? My daughter is pursuing higher studies in the United Kingdom. Can I claim her university fees for deduction under section 80C or any other section in the Income Tax Act?

REENA JAISWAL  
Via email

A) Payment made as tuition fees to any university, college or school or other educational institution situated in India for the purpose of full time education in respect of any of your two children is eligible for deduction under Section 80C. However, deduction under Section 80C is subject to an overall ceiling limit of ₹1.5 lakh. Tuition fee payments made for institutions situated abroad are not entitled for deduction. However, any interest paid on loan taken for higher education is eligible for deduction under Section 80E of the Income-Tax Act.

(The writer is a chartered accountant. He can be reached at info@rathindmalanis.com)

## WHAT IS PRE EMI?

Interest paid on part home loan before taking possession of house from the builder is called pre-EMI. You can't claim this as deduction immediately. Instead, it can be deducted from your income in five equal instalments over five assessment years.



**Financial planning**  
By L. Ravindran

PANKAJ,  
45 years

PROFESSION: Senior executive  
DEPENDENTS: Two

WHILE PLANNING IS CRITICAL TO OUR FINANCIAL WELL-BEING, IT HAS BECOME INEVITABLE IN THE UNCERTAIN TIMES WE NOW LIVE IN. DR RAVINDRAN ANALYSES YOUR FINANCIALS AND LAYS OUT A ROADMAP FOR ACHIEVING FINANCIAL GOALS.

## FUNDS REQUIRED TO MEET GOALS

₹5.3 CR

## ASSUMPTIONS

(L. Ravindran is a certified financial planner and managing director of Wealthmax Enterprises Management Pvt Ltd. Readers can send their queries to ravind0099@gmail.com)

## WHERE DOES SHE STAND NOW?

Income ₹35 lakh  
Expenses: ₹24 lakh (includes household expenses)  
Net disposable income ₹11 lakh

## NET WORTH

Asset	Value
EPF	₹33 lakh
Home	₹160 lakh
Car	₹27 lakh
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>₹220 LAKH</b>

## FINANCIAL GOALS (AT CURRENT COSTS):

Expenses	At cost
Post-retirement expenses	₹4.8 crore
Child's education and marriage	₹50 lakh

(I) LONGEVITY HAS BEEN PROJECTED AT 85 YEARS; (II) THE RETIREMENT IS PLANNED AT AGE 60; (III) COST OF LIVING GROWS AT 8% PER ANNUM, WHILE EARNINGS ON SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS GROW AT 10 PER CENT PER ANNUM (III) INCOME IS ASSUMED TO BE GROWING AT 8% IN LINE WITH INFLATION.

## PLAN OF ACTION

Retirement is 20 years from now. Health insurance is not provided by employer. The disposable surplus of ₹10 lakh every year for the next 15 years, until retirement, can be placed in the following proportion:

■ Term assurance of ₹100 lakh may be taken for about 20 years, which will cost about ₹25,000 per year.

■ Contribute ₹1.5 lakh per year in PPF in the name of his son for the next 15 years which will be valued at ₹44.37 lakh growing at 8.10 per cent a year at maturity.

■ Unit linked pension plan may be undertaken so as to gain on an upside, with a 15 years horizon. A sum of about ₹1,05,000 per year over 15 years will yield a future value of ₹30.79 lakh with eight per cent a year growth.

■ Investments may be carried out in a systematic investment plan of balanced (equity and debt) of ₹75,000 per month aggregating to ₹9 lakh over the next 15 years. This will help create a corpus of ₹135 lakh at cost (₹263.91 lakh) in value terms if growth is aimed at eight per cent a year. This will help him to build up the retirement corpus fully. This fund can be placed in a safe debt fund to earn monthly dividends at retirement.

■ The PPF and pension plan can be used to buy an immediate pension policy at retirement.

■ Bank deposits may be converted into a tax free bond upto an extent of ₹50 lakh immediately, maturing 12 years from date.

SHORT TAKES



## TINDER REMOVES PLAY STORE PAYMENTS

Mumbai, July 21: Dating app Tinder, in a major move that could lead to a turnaround in the non-gaming money-making apps segment on Google Play Store, replaced the Play Store integration within its Android app with a credit card based payment system for premium services. This means Google will lose out on a share of the revenue it had been earning through Play Store payments.

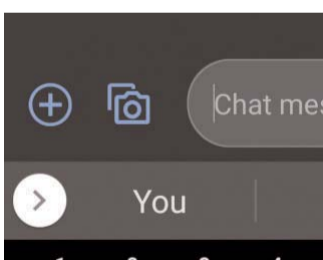
One of the top-ten constants in the segment, the app earned a record \$275 million last year. In the last six years, Tinder outperformed Netflix, Pandora, and HBO Now in terms of Play Store revenues. Match Group, which owns Tinder, OkCupid, and Match.com, experts say, might have made the latest move may be seen as a response to keep a check on Google Play Store's revenue making model, which yields as much as a 30 per cent share from small-sized apps OkCupid.



## SEVEN RUSSIAN SPYWARE APPS REMOVED

Mumbai, July 21: Seven "stalkerware apps" have been removed from Google's Play Store after doubts were raised around data privacy. The stalkerware applications were touted to be remotely spying on activities of persons of target. It is said that all the seven apps — Track Employees Check Work Phone Online Spy Free, Spy Kids Tracker, Phone Cell Tracker, Mobile Tracking, Spy Tracker, SMS Tracker, and Employee Work Spy — were developed by a Russian developer.

The spying apps would gain remote access to the device of the person of interest through malicious links or direct downloads. Common features of these stalker apps include tracking a device via GPS, monitoring phone calls and SMS and contact data theft. If the user chooses to opt for premium spying services, the targeted person's social media privacy might also be compromised. Also, the app manages to gain remote access without the victim's consent while leaving no chance of getting caught.



## ANDROID Q LIKE FEATURES ON MESSAGES APP

Mumbai, July 21: Android's Messages app is up for a makeover in the near future as reports of changes to iconography and style in the keyboard were spotted in testing versions. These style changes are in close resemblance with Android Q's messaging interface, which also has a transparent gesture bar. However, chances are there would be several other additions in the final version.

Icons for attachments and send button are inspired by the ones in Android Q. The video/voice call feature, however, does not have a new icon so far. Google is expected to include supporting transparency with the new gesture navigation bar in its next update. It can be concluded that the transparency feature might have been deliberately disabled until recently as testers observed the feature to be feasible with current version of the Messages app as well as older versions like Android Q Beta 3.

# ONLINE PRESENCE NOW TURNS RISKIER

While making our lives easy with hundreds of gadgets and applications, advancements in internet technology have put our privacy at risk. Going by recent trends, it could bare our lives further.

### TRACKING THE EMAIL

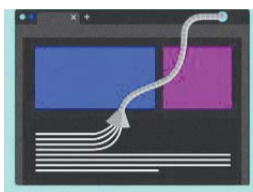
If you are little tech savvy, there are hundreds of free and easily available tools — similar to Superhuman email client — which let you track the journey of an image breaking through several protective layers.

For instance, an open source, Python-based web tool called Supertracker lets anyone create their own tracking pixel, coyly disguised as either a transparent image, an image of the pokémon pikachu, or a not-so-subtle magnifying glass. Creating it is as easy as inputting a user name, picking a tracking pixel image, and hitting the enter key. From there, you can save the image, paste it in the body of any email, and send it off. Whoever opens it will have the when and even the where transmitted back to you. So when you save an image or a file, you never know who is tracking you.



### BROWSER EXTENSIONS SELL INFO ON YOUR PREFERENCES

If you use browser extensions, you are going to want to pay attention to this one: Widely used Chrome and Firefox browser extensions scraped and sold the data of more than 4.1 million people, until the researcher alerted Google and Mozilla. These extensions took the URL and other details from your browsing history and sold them to a data firm called Nacho Analytics, which marketed itself as providing a "god mode for the internet." Nacho Analytics then published them, for a fee. Because of the way many of the pages were protected—or rather, not protected — those published links often allowed people to see the content of the pages themselves. Virtually everything that you have done online is out on sale in the cyber world.



### HACKERS GET MORE LETHAL

Hackers have breached SyTech, a contractor for FSB, Russia's national intelligence service, from where they stole information about internal projects the company was working on behalf of the agency — including one for deanonymizing Tor traffic. The breach took place last weekend, on July 13, when a group of hackers going by the name of 0v1ru\$ hacked into SyTech's Active Directory server from where they gained access to the company's entire IT network, including a JIRA instance.

Hackers stole 7.5TB of data from the contractor's network, and they defaced the company's website with a "yoba face," an emoji popular with Russian users that stands for "trolling."



### USING INSTAGRAM TO TRACK YOU

A new app knows what your Instagram-loving friends did last summer. Called Who's in Town, the iOS and Android app is ostensibly designed to show you, well ... who's in town. But it does much more than that. Users who download the app and grant it access to their Instagram account are presented with an eerie interactive map of every place the people they follow have visited and shared online since they created their profile. So forget about private visits.



### INFO STORED ON CLOUD SERVICES TOO NOW TURN VULNERABLE

Israeli spyware company NSO Group's powerful Pegasus malware is capable of scraping a target's data from the servers of Apple, Google, Amazon, Facebook, and Microsoft, a report in the Financial Times said. According to the Times, "people familiar with its sales pitch" as well as leaked sales documents show that NSO Group's parent company Q-Cyber is advertising Pegasus as having the capability to copy authentication keys to services including Google Drive, Facebook Messenger, and iCloud from an infected phone to a web server that is then capable of independently downloading the target's entire online history."



## Security patch for EVMs

Hacking of voting machines had become a big issue in India in the recent times. But how does one hack a voter machine? While Indian EVM (Electoral Voting Machine) is till now considered safe as it is a standalone unit which remains protected from vagaries of internet, the American voting machine does not seem to be safe. Experts have warned for years that voting machines in the US are insecure.

But authorities were slow to upgrade and secure them despite voting machines being listed as critical infrastructure by the US. So Microsoft offered to provide an open source software to help in making voting machines more secure. Microsoft also announced it has found 781 attempted cyberattacks by foreign hackers targeting political organisations so far this year. — Agencies

## AMAZON SELLS ₹9L CAMERA GEAR FOR JUST ₹6,500

New York, July 21: This year Amazon had the Prime Day on July 15 and 16. However, the best deal by Amazon this year was probably a glitch. Some lucky photography enthusiasts were able to buy high-end camera gear that originally retails at \$13,000 (₹9 lakh approximately) for just \$94.50 (₹6,500 approximately). It all began with some bargain hunter spotted the Sony deal on Amazon US and shared it on a deal aggregator called Slickdeals. Shortly after the deal was posted, many users rushed to Amazon's platform.

Some customers noticed that they were able to buy Sony Alpha A6000 and 16-mm lens bundle for just \$94.50 (₹6,500 approximately), much lower than the original price of \$550 (₹37,800 approximately).

The camera (body only) is listed on Amazon India for ₹34,990. "Everything with the prime day tag on my account is 94.48. I just bought a 3000\$ telescope for 94.48," wrote a user. Some users thought that the listing was a mistake and that Amazon would cancel it later on. Interestingly enough, some of the deals with \$94.50 were from Amazon directly instead of third-party sellers.

A user who had ordered the Canon lenses posted "WOW they actually delivered the lenses! I ordered 5 of the Canon EF 800mm f/5.6L IS USM Super Telephoto Lens for Canon Digital SLR Cameras" lenses for just \$500! That's \$65,000 worth of lenses! Can't believe Amazon actually delivered! Now the question is what's the best route to get these sold? Should I head straight to Adorama and see if they will purchase them?"

## 'MYSTERY' SENSOR RENDERS



The Google Pixel 4 has leaked yet again, this time the credit goes to iGeeksBlog. The larger Pixel 4 XL has been the star of most Pixel 4 leaks lately, but this time we're getting a detailed look at the smaller Pixel 4 in a set of CAD renders. The renders unsurprisingly show off a device that looks just like the Pixel 4 XL, only smaller. iGeeksBlog claims the Pixel 4 will have a 5.6-inch display and measure 147 x 68.9 x 8.2mm. A large "forehead" bezel sits above the display, housing two front-facing cameras, an earpiece, and some type of mystery sensor.

## NEW OS SOFTWARE WON'T REPLACE ANDROID: HUAWEI

Los Angeles, July 21: Huawei says the operating system it's building is being designed for industrial use rather than as a direct Android replacement. That's as per the state-backed Xinhua news agency, which reports a Huawei executive insisting that Android will continue to run on Android phones for the foreseeable future. Huawei senior Vice-President Catherine Chen told the media that the operating system — which also goes by the name Hongmeng — is "not for smartphones" and has far more lines of code than would be needed for consumer mobile devices.

Huawei representatives have previously said that the Chinese tech giant is indeed working on a replacement for Android. — Agencies

## TARGET | CHANGE ■ Proving ground for VR shifted to labs and training stations of Fortune 500 firms

# VR revolution is alive but isn't ready for you

Washington, July 21: Virtual reality headsets is no longer a most-talked-about topic. Unlike 2016, when HTC and Oculus launched their first-gen virtual reality headsets, it felt like the beginning of a revolution. VR headsets still aren't commonly found in arcades or schools. Unless you are one of the rare VR evangelists, you probably don't have a VR headset in your home. It looks like VR has been forgotten and left for dead alongside tech like curved TVs and laser discs. But the fact is that it continues to live however, the driving force behind VR innovation has just moved. The proving ground for VR has

shifted — from homes of early adopters with powerful desktop PCs to the labs and training stations of Fortune 500 companies. Numerous VR companies have created dedicated enterprise VR divisions. HP has one. Varjo makes the VR-1 aimed exclusively at the enterprise sector. Just a few weeks ago, HTC announced its Vive Enterprise Solutions department to support commercial applications for VR hardware and software. And then consider the tangentially related Microsoft HoloLens 2, which for the time being, remains a gadget strictly targeted at big business. For the average person,



this might be sound disappointing, but really, it all comes down to economics. VR is expensive. Headsets like the Vive Pro and Valve Index cost between \$800 (₹55,000 approx) and \$1,000 (₹66,000 approx), and even more affordable standalone headsets like the Oculus Quest cost \$400 (₹27,000 approx). Unfortunately, unlike traditional game consoles,

no VR platform has enough content to satisfy people's entertainment needs completely. Budget constrained consumers might be forced to choose between buying a new TV, console, PC, or a VR headset. And more often than not, traditional alternatives win out. On top of that, using VR is more taxing than watching TV or playing games on the

couch or at a desk. Going by experiences, an hour in VR is equal to three or four hours worth of traditional entertainment, both physically and mentally. Think about it in terms of value. \$500 or \$1,000 is a lot for a regular person to spend on niche entertainment tech, but for a large enterprise, it's chump change. For the same cost as flying one engineer out to a job site or production facility, a company could buy a VR headset. That's not to say that VR isn't a significant investment — the biggest cost of VR is maintaining all the support systems needed to utilise the tech properly. But it's possible to see how the numbers might add up. VR can also be a useful training tool. For example, instead of showing a person a presentation about safety guidelines and regulations, you can drop someone into a simulated environment and have them respond to a simulated emergency. HTC Vive's head of Enterprise solutions Dan O'Brien said that the company is still very much focused on creating consumer VR products like the upcoming Vive Cosmos. But a lot of VR innovation is now coming from demands on the enterprise side, which was one of the driving forces behind the development of the Vive Pro Eye. — Agencies

## TAKEAWAYS ABOUT 5G DATA

AFTER TESTING IN MORE THAN A DOZEN CITIES WORLD-WIDE BY CNET, WE KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT THE NEXT-GEN DATA NETWORK FOR PHONES.

■ 5G phones are in a very few pockets today, but this next-generation wireless technology is widely accepted as the most significant advancement to come to phones in a decade.



### CONSISTENCY IS MORE SATISFYING THAN SPEED

■ For some future uses of 5G, pushing down a lot of data really quickly will let you do cool, resource-intensive things on the fly, like play smooth, real-time games with high-res graphics and participate in lag-free video chats while walking down the street.

### GAP BETWEEN HAVE, HAVE-NOTS WILL WIDEN

■ With carriers, phone-makers and even presidents feeding the 5G hype machine, it's easy to see how a bias for ultrafast speeds could develop among everyday people. It's easy to see how people who don't live in the right metropolitan areas, or who live in rural surroundings, will trail behind in 5G adoption.

■ Phone prices are already spiking year over year, far outstripping the cost of inflation.

# FB fails to check content spreads

Washington, July 21: Social media companies have once again come under fire after images of a murdered teenage girl's body were posted online and were widely shared on Instagram as well as other sites including Discord and 4chan.

Bianca Devins, a 17-year-old girl from Utica in New York, was brutally murdered on July 14. Police allege she was killed by Brandon Clark, 21, after the pair, who met on Instagram, attended a concert together.

Police on July 15 charged Clark with second-degree murder of Devins. According to BuzzFeed News, a photo of Devins' bloodied body was posted to Clark's Instagram with the caption "I'm sorry, Bianca".

The photo stayed up for several hours until Instagram ultimately removed Clark's account for violating the company's terms of service, but in the hours the photo was up, it got shared and reposted by hundreds of accounts, according to BuzzFeed.

Instagram has subsequently prevented the photo from being reshared, but according to Rolling Stone, users continued to be sent the photo if they were following Devin's account, and as late as July 15 night, the photo was still being uploaded and tagged to Devin's account, or on the hashtag #riplebianca.

Like the deeply-socially-mediated Christchurch, New Zealand, shootings in March, the act demonstrates both the suspected killer's savvy for web platform mechanics and just how rapidly extreme content spreads. It also demonstrates how little

■ IT'S BEEN one-and-a-half year that the tech executives had said that they're deploying cutting-edge AI and automated content moderation systems to keep this from happening.

has changed since these acts of real-time violence have grown prominent, and, yet again, how badly platforms are failing to keep content like this off their farms: The Instagram post of Devins' body was left on a platform shared by 1 billion monthly active users, for what was reportedly most of July 14. At one point, Instagram placed the image behind a filter screen that merely cautioned against graphic content before finally removing the post and the account altogether.

Tech executives have long said they're deploying cutting-edge AI and automated content moderation systems to keep this from happening. It's been nearly a year-and-a-half since the CEO of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg which who owns Instagram, said advanced AI tools would soon make occurrences like this a thing of the past.

"Over the long term, building AI tools is going to be the scalable way to identify and root out most of this harmful content," Zuckerberg said in a congressional hearing in April 2018. So the question is, why, a year after Zuckerberg touted AI moderation tech, did Instagram, and its parent company Facebook, reportedly take most of a day to remove the Devins post? — Agencies





## Touch Wood!

England paceman Mark Wood has set his sights on recovering from injury in time to play a role in the Ashes against Australia



I don't think it's fair to have a result like that when there's very little between the sides.

— Eoin Morgan is still struggling to make sense of the Cup end

## SHORT TAKES

### Pak Board mulls split captaincy

**Karachi:** Pakistan could have separate captains and head coaches for Test and limited overs cricket following its failure to qualify for the World Cup semifinals in England.

A well-placed source in the Pakistan Cricket Board told PTI that when the

Cricket Committee meets later this month, a proposal to split the captaincy and coaching for the different formats would be up for discussion. "Since

Pakistan has to play eight Tests of the World Test Championship against Sri Lanka, Australia, Bangladesh and England before the T20 World Cup in Australia next year, the PCB is pretty concerned about how to improve performance of the team in Tests," the source said. Pakistan will be playing only three ODIs but 10 T20s before the T20 Asia Cup and T20 World Cup next year, prompting PCB to consider separate captains and coaches for red and white-ball cricket," he said.

He said PCB Managing Director Wasim Khan met with Wasim Akram, who is a member of the Cricket Committee, in London earlier this month.

The former captain and fast bowler had advised the MD that the board should retain Sarfaraz and Mickey Arthur for the limited overs cricket until the T20 World Cup. "But the board is now considering the option of having separate captains and head coaches for Test and limited overs cricket with the support staff i.e manager, bowling coach, batting coach, trainer, fielding coach, physio-therapist remaining the same for all formats." Pakistan are presently sixth in the ODI rankings and number one in T20s. — PTI

## MSD request gets Army approval

**New Delhi:** Army Chief General Bipin Rawat approved former Indian cricket team captain MS Dhoni's request to train with the Parachute regiment for two months, top Army sources said on Sunday.

The wicket-keeper batsman had requested the Indian Army to allow him to train with a territorial army battalion of the Parachute regiment for two months. "The request has now been approved by the Indian Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat and the honorary Lt Col would train with the Parachute regiment battalion," top Army sources said.

The wicketkeeper-batsman would now train with the Parachute regiment, a part of which is expected to take place in Jammu and Kashmir, sources said. The Army, however, will not allow Dhoni, who holds an honorary post of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army, to be part of any active operation, sources mentioned. — ANI

**Pacer Navdeep Saini** who was named as one of the five standbys for the World Cup impressed the selectors with his IPL performance



# FUTURISTIC

## With an eye on future, selectors pack teams with youngsters

IRFAN HAJI | DC MUMBAI, JULY 21

Indian selectors have blooded youngsters for the upcoming West Indies tour following the shock exit from the World Cup. Wicket-keeper batsman Dinesh Karthik who played just two innings in the World Cup has been axed from the limited-overs side, while Mahendra Singh Dhoni has opted out of the entire West Indies tour, starting on August 3. Team India are scheduled to play three T20s, three ODIs and two Tests. The series will start on August 3 with Twenty20 game at Fort Lauderdale in Florida and conclude with second Test in Jamaica.

Hardik Pandya who has been grappling with groin issues has been "rested" for the entire tour to "manage his workload". Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been also rested for T20s and ODIs to pave the way for youngster Navdeep Saini. He will, though, play in Tests along with Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav.

Rookie leg-spinner Rahul Chahar has been picked for the first time to join his sibling Deepak Chahar in the T20 squad. Rajasthan's Rahul had a good domestic season and played a crucial role in Mumbai Indians' fourth Indian Premier League triumph earlier this year. He will form spin attack in shortest format with Krunal Pandya and Washington Sundar.

Manish Pandey and Shreyas Iyer make a comeback into the limited overs squad through their consistent performances

**FOR 3 T20IS** Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (Wicket-keeper), Krunal Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini

**FOR 3 ODIS** Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (Wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kedar Jadhav, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Navdeep Saini

**FOR TWO TESTS** Virat Kohli (Captain), Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant (Wicket-keeper), Wriddhiman Saha (Wicket-keeper), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav

for India A. The duo is likely to be considered for the vacant No 4 spot. Vijay Shankar was the selectors No. 4 pick for the World Cup but he hasn't fully recovered from the toe injury sustained during the quadrennial event and isn't part of the Indian squad across all formats.

Senior opener Shikhar Dhawan made a comeback to India's limited overs squad after recovering from a thumb fracture he sustained during the World Cup. But he has been ignored again for Tests. Mumbai batsman Prithvi Shaw, who made his International debut against West Indies last year, is yet to recover from hip injury prompting selectors to show faith in new opening Test pair of KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal. Rohit Sharma also makes a comeback to the Test squad so does

wicket keeper batsman Wriddhiman Saha. The Bengal wicket keeper underwent a shoulder surgery to recover from an injury sustained during the 2018 IPL and has recovered fully.

He will give competition to Rishabh Pant who has sealed his Test spot for now due to overseas hundreds against England and Australia.

Pant is part of all three formats for the West Indies tour.

Contrary to speculations, Virat Kohli will tour West Indies and will remain the skipper in all three formats. Rohit will remain his deputy in ODIs and T20s and Ajinkya Rahane will remain vice captain in Tests.

Kedar Jadhav has retained his place in the ODI squad despite facing criticism during the World Cup.

### UNCAPPED

The T20I and ODI squads include a pair of uncapped players, Delhi fast bowler Navdeep Saini and Rajasthan leg-spinner Rahul Chahar.



### RECALLED

Middle-order batsmen Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey, and left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed were also recalled to the ODI squad, while pace bowler Deepak Chahar and allrounder Washington Sundar made their way back into the T20I squad.



### DROPPED

Dinesh Karthik, who was India's reserve wicketkeeper at the World Cup, missed out of both limited-overs squads.



## Dhoni knows when to retire: MSK

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, JULY 21

Mahendra Singh Dhoni may not have announced his retirement from limited-overs cricket yet, but it seems the BCCI selectors have started looking beyond him. Dhoni has skipped the entire West Indies tour to take a two-month break to serve his regiment in the paramilitary forces. Selectors on Sunday made it clear that they want to groom his potential successor Rishabh Pant.

Dhoni has been criticised for low strike rate

while batting in recent times and his lack of intent during the course of the World Cup especially against England in the league game and against New Zealand in the semi-final affected his finisher image.

The emergence of Rishabh Pant and other available young talent in KS Bharat, Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan are considered as possible replacements to Dhoni.

While they sent a clear message by dropping Dinesh Karthik from limited-overs squad, chairman of selectors MSK Prasad said the call on

retirement would be Dhoni's individual decision.

"A legendary cricketer like Dhoni, he knows when to retire. First of all he is not available. Second, we have already started grooming youngsters. Post World Cup, we have laid down a few more plans and we thought of giving as many opportunities as possible to Pant and to see, he is groomed. That is our plan right now and we did discuss this with him (Dhoni)," Prasad said.

Pant grabbed the spot in Tests after Wriddhiman Saha got injured last year. Saha was the first choice

after Dhoni's Test retirement in December 2014. Prasad also revealed that KS Bharat was close to a Test call-up.

"It is a norm that when a senior or established player makes a comeback from injury, he is given a chance in the team. So that's how we have given a comeback opportunity to Wriddhiman Saha. But, I can tell with the stellar performances that KS Bharat has been doing in India A. He was very close to making the cut in longer format," Prasad said.



India captain Virat Kohli arrives for a selection committee meeting at Mumbai on Sunday. — AFP

## No bias against Rayudu: MSK

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, JULY 21

Chairman of selectors MSK Prasad praised Ambati Rayudu's sarcastic '3D Tweet' after he was ignored for the World Cup squad. Months before the World Cup, Rayudu was considered a solution to India's No. 4 woes but in the end the spot was handed to Vijay Shankar who batted just a couple of times at that position in the World Cup.

Rayudu had taken a dig at the selectors when the team for the World Cup was announced. "Just ordered a new set of 3D glasses to watch the world cup," Rayudu had tweeted. Prasad had said that Shankar was a "three dimensional" player. Prasad on Sunday chose to take it in a lighter vein. "It was a lovely tweet. Very timely one. I really enjoyed the tweet. It was fantastic. I don't know how it struck him," Prasad quipped.

Prasad also ruled out any bias in team selection. "With regards to the decision taken, it has been completely devoid of any bias or any favouritism into why we have picked Shankar, Pant or Mayank Agarwal also," Prasad said.

Prasad recalled that selection panel had supported Rayudu when he failed the fitness test. "There was a lot of criticism when we picked him on the basis of 17-18 completed by the batsmen, together with the run in progress if they had already crossed at the instant of the throw or act."

"One must understand that there were too many things on our plate. We had to watch the batsmen complete the first run, the ball



**When Rayudu failed the fitness test (before England away ODIs), this selection committee backed him.**

— MSK PRASAD, chief selector

him and we put him through a fitness programme for a month, ensured that he gets fit and comes into the side. Once he came into the side, we backed him but due to certain permutations and combinations in the side, we couldn't pick him," the former stumper said in his defense.

On injury replacements, Prasad said: "the team management requested for a left-hander and we had no other choice than Pant (after opener Dhawan got injured).

"When Agarwal came in, it was more about having a cover for KL Rahul, who had suffered an on-field injury during the England game in Birmingham," he added while revealing that team management which had asked for an opener to replace Shankar (a middle-order batsman).

## I made error but won't regret decision, says Dharmasena

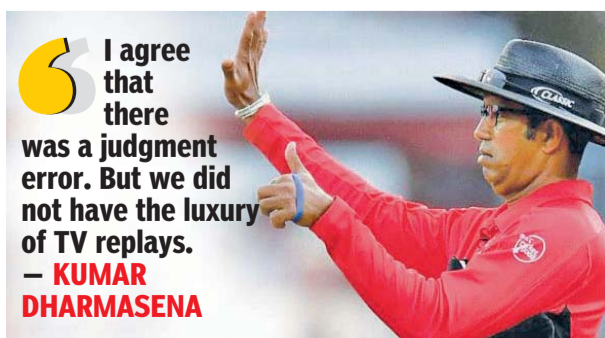
**Colombo, July 21:** It indeed was a judgement error to award six runs to England from an overthrow in the World Cup final admitted umpire Kumar Dharmasena but the Sri Lankan will never "regret" the decision.

Dharmasena had signalled to add six runs to England's total, instead of five, when Martin Guppill's throw from the deep raced to the boundary ropes after being deflected of a diving Ben Stokes' bat. The match was stretched to a Super Over which also remained

inconclusive and eventually hosts England were declared champions on better boundary count, leaving New Zealand players in disbelief.

"It's easy for people to comment after seeing TV replays," Dharmasena told *Sunday Times*. "I agree that there was a judgment error when I see it on TV replays now. But we did not have the luxury of TV replays at the ground and I will never regret the decision I made. Besides, the ICC praised me for the decision I made at that time."

The TV replays showed that Adil Rashid and Stokes had not completed the second run when Guppill released the ball from the deep. Dharmasena, who was standing as head umpire, consulted leg umpire Marais Erasmus and added six runs to the England total following the incident — four runs for the ball reaching the boundary plus two for running between the wicket. England needed nine from the final three balls. This changed to three off two balls.



**I agree that there was a judgment error. But we did not have the luxury of TV replays.**

— KUMAR DHARMASENA

The 48-year-old added that according to the law, there was no provision to consult the third umpire on the

incident. "There is no provision in the law to refer this to the third umpire as no dismissal was involved. So,

I did consult the leg umpire through the communication system which is heard by all other umpires and the match referee. And, while they cannot check TV replays, they all confirmed that the batsmen have completed the run. This is when I made my decision," he said.

Former international umpires Simon Taufel and K Hariharan had also come out and said the officials standing in the World Cup final erred by awarding six runs. Law 19.8 of the ICC rules, pertaining to

'Overthrow or wilful act of fielder', states: "If the boundary results from an overthrow or from the wilful act of a fielder, the runs scored shall be any runs for penalties awarded to either side, and the allowance for the boundary, and the runs completed by the batsmen, together with the run in progress if they had already crossed at the instant of the throw or act."

being fielded, how it was handled by the fielder and whether the batsmen completed the second run. And where the throw would come from, the striker's end or non-striker's end."

"In this case, we were all happy that the batsmen had completed the second run because the ball ricocheted off Stokes' bat at the time of him completing the second run. So, we assumed that they had crossed each other at the time of fielder releasing the ball," Dharmasena said. — PTI



## Record deal

### Premier League newcomers Sheffield United break club transfer record to sign France U-21 striker Lys Mousset from Bournemouth



It's probably one of the best goals of my career.

— Harry Kane, Tottenham star striker after scoring against Juventus in a friendly

## SHORT TAKES

### Junior paddlers in quarterfinals

**New Delhi:** India set up a quarter-final clash with Indonesia despite losing their last group match to Korea at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2019 (Mixed Team Event) in Suzhou, China on Sunday. Maisnam Meiraba's great effort was the silver lining of the day for the Indian contingent in their 1-4 loss but by finishing second to Korea in Group C, they made it to the last-eight. On the first day of the continental event, India blanked both Mongolia and Macau China by an identical score of 5-0. Manipur's Meiraba had been in sterling form of late and he even won his first international tournament at the White Night Russian Junior International earlier this month. Meiraba refused to give up and fought for 1 hour 32 minutes to subdue Korea's Hyeon Seung Park. While that was the solitary win of the day for Team India, there were encouraging performances from others. — Agencies



Nikhat Zareen

### Nikhat advances in Thailand Open

**New Delhi:** Former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) on Sunday advanced to the second round of the Thailand Open International boxing tournament with a comfortable opening win in Bangkok. The boxer from Hyderabad prevailed 5-0 over New Zealand's Tasmyr Benny in the first round of the tournament. However, former youth world champion Shashi Chopra (60kg) bowed out of the competition early. The Haryana-boxer went down to local favourite Sudaporn Seesondee in her opening clash, making it a mixed day for India. — PTI

### SATHIYAN, ARCHANA WIN MIXED GOLD

**Cuttack:** India added another golden chapter to the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships when their mixed doubles pair of G. Sathiyam and Archana Kamath defeated Singapore's Peng Yu En Koen and Goi Rui Xuan 3-0 in the final here on Sunday. The gold count, on the penultimate day of the championships, stood at three. This had, in a way, avenged the earlier loss of A. Sharath Kamal and Sreeja Akula in the semifinal by the same Singaporean pair as well as the defeat of Sharath in men's singles quarterfinals by Peng. The Indian pair was on top in the final as they piled on the agony of their rivals, particularly on a tired Peng who could not cope with the pressure applied by the top-seeded duo. But the second-seeded Sharath Kamal squandered three match points and then the quarterfinal match, shattering his men's singles medal hope. The other Indians that made the grade included top-seeded G. Sathiyam, who beat Nigerian Bode Abiodun 4-0 and Harmeet Desai who defeated fellow Indian Sushmit Sriram 4-1 in the quarters. — PTI

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20  
Printed and Published by T. Venkateswari on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3.  
RNI Registration No. 3081/1957.  
Editor: A.T. Jayanti

# Lowry in fast lane

## Shane opens up 6-shot lead early in Open final round

**Portrush (United Kingdom), July 21:** Ireland's Shane Lowry withstood howling gales and a bogey at the first to stretch his lead of the British Open to six shots through 10 holes and move closer to his first major victory on Sunday. Roared on by huge crowds despite the inclement weather at Royal Portrush, Lowry had a nervy start but crucially holed a tricky putt to avoid dropping two shots at the opening hole. The 32-year-old then streaked further clear with three birdies in four holes between four and eight to move to 18-under. But two bogeys at eight and nine slowed Lowry's charge towards the Claret Jug and gave his closest challenger Tommy Fleetwood an outside chance with rain hammering down on Northern Ireland's north Atlantic coast. Fleetwood is two-over for his round after missing a number of key putts to put the pressure on his playing partner. However, it looks set to be a shootout between those two for a first ever major with the terrible conditions hampering the chasing pack's chance to post a challenging score. Lee Westwood is on course for his 10th top-three finish in a major without ever winning one as the Englishman stands at eight-under after 12. World number one Brooks Koepka was hoping for the wind to blow Lowry off course, but it was the four-time major champion whose chances

were washed away early on. Four consecutive bogeys on one, two, three and four realistically ended his challenge for a first Open Championship. The American recovered with eagle at the fifth to turn at seven-under alongside Rickie Fowler and Danny Willett. Scotland's MacIntyre and Englishman Tyrrell Hatton set the clubhouse lead also at five-under. On Day Three, Lowry said it had been "the most incredible day" after firing a stunning eight-under-par 63 on Saturday to take a four-shot lead over Fleetwood. The 32-year-old delighted the thousands of fans following him around the course in the first Open to be held in Northern Ireland since 1951, pouring in eight birdies in his bogey-free third round, the best of the championship. His 16-under overall total of 197 is the lowest after 54 holes in British Open history.

### SHARMA SHOOTS BEST ROUND AT MAJORS

**Shubhankar Sharma** sunk a 45-foot birdie on the final hole to savour a career-best round of 68 at the Majors, putting him in sight of a top-50 finish. Making his 23rd birthday memorable, Shubhankar hit six birdies, three of them on last six holes, including the dangerous 16th, also called 'Calamity'. Sharma carded 70, 72, 77 and 68 for a total of three-over 287. — Agencies

Ireland's Shane Lowry in action during the fourth round of the British Open Golf Championships at Royal Portrush in Ireland on Sunday. — AFP



## PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

### Kane stunner earns Spurs win

**Singapore, July 21:** Harry Kane scored a stunning 93rd minute winner from the halfway line as Tottenham Hotspur edged Juventus 3-2 in an entertaining pre-season friendly in Singapore on Sunday. The England captain latched onto Lucas Moura's short pass and launched a first-time shot high over a scrambling substitute Wojciech Szczesny in the Juventus goal as Spurs rallied past new manager Maurizio Sarri's Italian champions in front of a delighted National Stadium crowd. "It's probably one of the best goals of my career. I noticed the keeper was often off of his line and thought if I get a chance to shoot I will, and it just went in," Kane said in a post-match interview. A youthful Spurs dominated the first half as Juventus struggled to adapt to their new manager's "Sarri-ball" tactic of playing out from the back with short, quick passes. Instead of moving the ball forward, Juventus often found themselves defending desperately after being caught in possession as Spurs pressed high up the pitch with the Premier League side going on to take a deserved lead on the half-hour mark. Spurs were level five minutes later, however, when Champions League semi-final hero Lucas fired home record signing Tanguy Ndombele's low cross, the French midfielder finding the Brazilian with his first touch after coming on as

a substitute. Kane and Higuain both squandered good chances to score winning goals in the final 10 minutes before the England striker prevented the contest going to a penalty shootout with the most brilliant of strikes. **NKETIAH STRIKES AGAIN FOR ARSENAL** Youngster Edward Nketiah made it three goals in two matches on

Saturday with a brace that boosted Arsenal to a 3-0 win over Fiorentina in a pre-season friendly in North Carolina. The 20-year-old striker, who fired the game-winner two minutes from time in a win over Bayern

Munich on Wednesday, picked off right where he left off with goals in the 15th and 66th minutes. Joseph Willock added an exclamation point with a goal to make it 3-0 in the 89th. In Houston, Bayern Munich spoiled Eden Hazard's Real Madrid debut, downing the Spanish giants 3-1 in a friendly despite goalkeeper Sven Ulreich's sending off. — AFP



Tottenham's Harry Kane (right) is congratulated by teammates after scoring during the International Champions Cup match against Juventus in Singapore on Sunday. — AFP



Hima Das

## Dhing Express on golden run

**Nove Mesto (Czech Republic), July 21:** Indian sprinter Hima Das extended her sensational run by claiming her fifth gold of the month as she returned to her pet 400m competition with a season-best time of 52.09 seconds here. The timing on Saturday slower than her personal best of 50.79 seconds, which she managed at the Jakarta Asian Games and she also narrowly missed out on the World Championships qualifying mark of 51.80. However, it was better than the timing of 52.88, which she managed earlier in the season. It was Hima's fifth gold medal since July 2 when she ran her first competitive race in Europe. In her first competitive 200m race of the year, she clocked 23.65 on her way to gold at the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix in Poland on July 2. After that, she won her second 200m gold at the Kutno Athletics Meet, also

**● Sprinter Hima Das wins a fifth gold medal since July 2 when she ran her first competitive race in Europe.**

in Poland, on July 7 with a time of 23.97. On July 13, she won her third 200m gold at the Kladno Athletics Meet in Czech Republic with a time of 23.43 while her fourth gold came at the Tabor Athletics Meet in the same country on Wednesday. It was the first competition in 400m for the 19-year-old from Assam, fondly called the 'Dhing Express', since she struggled to finish the Asian Athletics Championship in April this year because of a back issue. Meanwhile, M.P. Jabir also won a gold in the 400-metre hurdles race, clocking 49.66 but Mohammad Anas settled for a third-place finish in the 200m with a timing of 20.95 seconds. — PTI

## INDONESIA OPEN



Runner-up P. V. Sindhu (left) and winner Akane Yamaguchi of Japan pose on the podium following their women's singles final at the Indonesia Open badminton tournament in Jakarta on Sunday. — AFP

## Anxious Sindhu again bites dust

**Jakarta, July 21:** P.V. Sindhu's hopes of breaking a seven-month title drought came crashing down as the Indian lost in straight games to Akane Yamaguchi in the finals of Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 tournament here on Sunday. Seven months after becoming the first Indian to win the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals in December, Olympic silver medalist Sindhu had an opportunity to finally lay her hands on another crown only to squander, losing 15-21, 16-21 to the Japanese in a lop-sided summit clash that lasted 51 minutes here. Playing her first final of the season, Sindhu looked a bit anxious and failed to match the brilliance of the 22-year-old Yamaguchi, whom she had beaten in the last four meetings. "She played really well and there were long rallies. I was leading in the first game by 2-3 points but I made a few mistakes and then she finished it off. If I could have won the first game, it could have been a bit different," Sindhu said. "In the second I gave her a huge lead like 5-6 points and was left to cover it. But

**● Playing her first final of the season, Sindhu looked a bit anxious and failed to match the brilliance of the 22-year-old Yamaguchi, whom she had beaten in their last four meetings.**

overall, I think it was a good tournament for me and I hope I can take the confidence going forward. Next I am playing Japan and I hope to do well there." This was Sindhu's fifth loss to Yamaguchi in 15 meetings. The last time the Indian lost to the Japanese was at the semifinals of the All England Championship last year. The defeat added to Sindhu's list of runners-up finishes, which include silvers at the World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Thailand Open and India Open last year. It was Yamaguchi's third title of the season after claiming crowns at German Open and Asian Championship. — PTI

## THALAIVAS RULE OVER TITANS IN PRO KABADDI

**Hyderabad, July 21:** Manjeet Chhillar and Rahul Chaudhry produced the goods as Tamil Thalaivas notched up a 39-26 win over Telugu Titans in the first southern derby of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 7 here on Sunday. Manjeet with a high five and Rahul with a super 10 were the chief architects of the Thalaivas' victory. Rahul proved to be the nemesis for his old side as he showed immense strength to power through the Titans' defence throughout the match. On the other hand, Siddharth Desai had a quiet match by his standards and could score just five raid points. Rahul opened Tamil Thalaivas' account in the first minute itself, while Telugu Titans forced a super tackle in the fourth minute to trail 3-4. It took six minutes for Siddharth to open his account for the Titans. It looked like an evenly-matched contest in the first 10 minutes as Telugu Titans led 7-6. But Shabeer Bapu turned the tide in favour of Thalaivas first with a super tackle and then with a two-point raid. Rahul got a two-point raid and in the 16th minute, the Titans inflicted an all out to lead 16-7. Ajay Thakur then produced a super raid in the 18th minute as Titans led 19-8. At the end of the first half, Tamil Thalaivas led 20-10 and their defence showed strength and toughness to contain Siddharth. — Agencies