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LIFT-OFF AT 2.43 PM TODAY

Narrow window for second Moon shot

Chandrayaan-2: Launch opportunity open for a few mins

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, JULY 21

A WEEK after they had to postpone the launch of Chandrayaan-2 less than an hour before lift-off, scientists of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will try to make use of an extremely narrow window of opportunity Monday afternoon to make another attempt at sending India's first lander mission to the Moon.

A 20-hour countdown for the launch started 6.43 pm Sunday for the scheduled launch at 2.43 pm Monday. This time, scientists have very little flexibility in terms of time as the suitable slot during which the spacecraft can be launched lasts barely a few minutes.

"The most suitable launch window this month was between July 9 and 16. On these days, the time slot during which the mission could be launched extended to about an hour or more. But on Monday, this launch opportunity exists for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

Rocket holds key to first step in mission

THE PROBLEM that aborted last week's launch was in GSLV Mk-III, the rocket that will go on its first operational flight in this mission. Chandrayaan-2's composite module — Orbiter, Lander and Rover — and other instruments were normal. The rocket's job is only to deliver the spacecraft in Earth's orbit.

Kill the corrupt, why target PSOs, SPOs: J&K Governor Malik

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JULY 21

'Kill those who have looted the wealth of Kashmir'

SPEAKING IN the context of alleged corruption among politicians and bureaucrats, Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Sunday asked militants to kill "those who have looted Kashmir" instead of targeting Personal Security Officers (PSOs) and Special Police Officers (SPOs) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"*Ladke jo bandook liye hue hain, fizool nihathey logon ko mar rahey hein. PSOs ko martey hain, SPOs ko martey hain. Bhai, kyun maar rahey ho inko? Unhe maaro jinhone tumhara mulk loota hai, jinhone tumhare Kashmir ki saari daulat looti hai. Inme se bhi koi maara aapney abhi* (The boys with guns are unnecessarily killing unarmed people. They are killing PSOs and SPOs. Why are you killing them? Kill those who have looted the wealth of your country and your Kashmir. Have you killed any of them so far)?" Malik said, speaking at the inauguration of the Kargil Ladakh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RS numbers not on its side, govt cautious on pushing triple talaq Bill

ABANTIKA GHOSH & LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

WITH ALLY JD(U) having made its opposition clear and many friendly parties still sitting on the fence, the NDA government appears to have removed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019, commonly known as the triple talaq Bill, from its priority list.

On Friday, when Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi announced the List of Business on its agenda for the coming days, the triple talaq Bill — the first to be introduced in the 17th Lok Sabha by the BJP-led government amidst acrimonious scenes — was among the 17 Bills that are set to be introduced, debated and passed in the five working days that are left in this session.

Though there was indication that there could be an extension

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FINAL JOURNEY

Former Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit's body is taken to Nigambodh Ghat, Sunday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

FULL COVERAGE PAGE 4

Out of West Indies tour, Dhoni leaves future in hands of selection committee

DEVENDRA PANDEY & SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
MUMBAI, KOLKATA, JULY 21

AFTER CONVEYING his non-availability for the West Indies series next month, M S Dhoni has left it to the national selectors to take a call on whether to pick him or not when he returns to action, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The veteran wicket-keeper is understood to have had an "informal discussion" with chief selector M S K Prasad before the selection meeting Sunday, during which Prasad laid out Indian cricket's future roadmap. It was after this that the selectors decided to "move on" and designate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TERRITORIAL ARMY REQUEST 'UNDER PROCESS' PAGE 17

PM rebuke may not have been aimed at son of Vijayvargiya: BJP panel head

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JULY 21

AS AKASH Vijayvargiva, who assaulted a civic official with a cricket bat on June 26, attends the ongoing Budget Session of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, BJP state disciplinary committee convener Babusingh Raghuvanshi has said he is not sure if Prime Minister Narendra Modi's criticism of the action was directed at the Indore MLA.

In an apparent justification of Vijayvargiya's behaviour, Raghuvanshi added, "I am also a lawyer, and when someone is provoked, like Akash was, the punishment is different."

It has been nearly three weeks since Modi's remarks, seen as condemnation of the assault and of Akash's remarks justifying the same. It was expected that disciplinary action would follow against the MLA, who is the son of prominent BJP general

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IL&FS looks for new law firm after conflict of interest complaint

Complaint to Govt claims Uday Kotak would be 'upset' if issue is raised

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
MUMBAI, JULY 21

AFTER A top official of IL&FS sent a complaint to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs alleging "strong" conflict of interest in Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas (CAM)'s association with the crisis-ridden company as its legal adviser, the financial institution has started searching for another law firm.

The complaint alleged that CAM was legal adviser to the former board of IL&FS, which is facing criminal and legal action by government agencies, and continues to perform that role for the new board, too.

The complaint also alleged that IL&FS officials feel that speaking about the conflict of interest issues of CAM would "upset" Uday Kotak, chairman of the new IL&FS board, because of his "longstanding business relationship" with CAM.

Following the Ministry's directive to look into the issue, the new board has shortlisted four separate law firms for the

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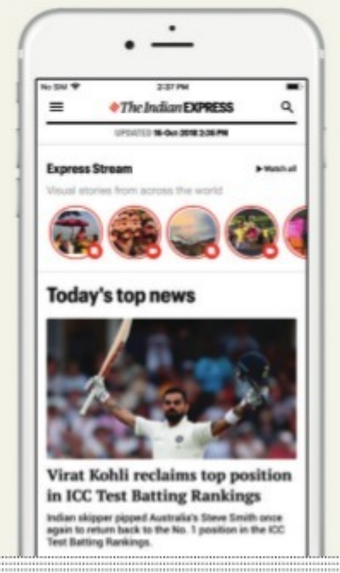

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

HAS PUBG PUSHED YOUNGSTERS TOWARDS GAMING COURSES IN INDIA?
India had 120 million online gamers in 2016, according to a KPMG-Google report. But all that was before PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG) Mobile swept the country. There are no clear estimates of how many has the game turned into gamers, but it seems to have pushed youngsters towards gaming courses

VIDEO OF THE DAY

CHANDRAYAAN-2 DELAY
Postponed because pressure dropped in helium tank

FULL COVERAGE

MARTYRS' DAY RALLY IN KOLKATA
Mamata accuses BJP of EVM tampering, horse-trading, lynchings

EXPRESS AUDIO
The Sonbhadra killings: What led to the killing of 10 people in a village
NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY
In this episode, we look at how the dispute started, what led to the killings and why politicians were not allowed to visit the victims

WORLD BANK STUDY ON PMGSY

'Rural roads scheme triggered shift from farm to non-farm employment'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

A RECENT independent World Bank assessment of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) rural roads programme meant to establish 'farm to market connectivity' shows that the PMGSY roads, in fact, "triggered a shift from farm to non-farm employment" in the habitations studied between 2009 and 2017 as with roads in place, people chose employment opportunities outside their habitations over expanding their farming.

"As a consequence of PMGSY roads, the rate of primary employment in the non-farm sector increased by about 12 percentage points in the habitations studied. This increase represents a 33 per cent increase over the average share of non-farm primary employment in 2009 in habitations that were connected after 2009," it said.

The study also shows it is the men that switch to non-farm employment while women step in to take care of the farms. The entry of women into the workforce, the report notes, is the main reason for the 5.5 per cent increase in employment in connected habitations. Moreover, the shift to non-farm employment was found to be more pronounced in hilly areas.

PMGSY was rolled out in 2000 to provide access to all-weather roads in 1.78 lakh rural habitations across the country. The study states that by December 2017, 1.59 lakh habitations were connected at a cost of $ 27 billion with some of the financing also coming from the World Bank. The World Bank impact evaluation of PMGSY applies panel data and difference-in-difference methodology for 2009 and 2017 household and habitation level data from Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

"The results on employment and agriculture indicate that improved connectivity in rural areas mainly leads people to look for employment opportunities outside their habitations instead of improving and expanding their farming to take full advantage of improved access to input and output markets...However, if India wants to make more efficient use of agriculture land, it needs complementary programmes to support the development of agricultural value chains." It says such programmes should examine the entire value chain, adopt efficient farming practices, and ease constraints on agriculture logistics.

The World Bank study also shows a positive impact on child immunisation, childbirths in hospitals, and schooling of both boys and girls in rural areas. The share of babies delivered at home reduced by as much as 30 per cent in the connected habitations with the decrease being greater in habitations that are more remote from urban agglomerations. It showed 0.7 more years of schooling in 2017 in the connected habitations and also showed that young children were less likely to fall ill owing to vaccination take-up in children under 4 years increasing by 15 percentage points.

FATEHGARH SAHIB

Three siblings fall in pit dug to drain out rainwater, die

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUDHIANA, JULY 21

TENSION AND gloom prevailed at village Khoje Majra in sub-division Sirhind of Fatehgarh Sahib as three siblings drowned in a 10 feet deep pit and died on Sunday.

Police said that as per initial probe, the pit was dug by a farmer in his fields to drain out excess rainwater. The deceased siblings — three brothers — were identified as Jashanpreet Singh (12), Jobanpreet Singh (10) and Lovepreet Singh (9).

Doctors at Civil Hospital in Fatehgarh Sahib said that three children were brought dead.

Police said that the children were playing near the pit filled with rainwater. They slipped and could not come out. By the time villagers rescued them, they had already died. They were taken to a hospital but were declared dead on arrival.

Tension gripped the village as some residents accused 'irresponsible' panchayat and sarpanch for the tragedy. While villagers alleged that the panchayat had got the pit dug without their consent, police said that land on which pit was dug, belonged to a farmer, Parminder Singh.

Police was in process of recording father Nirmal Singh's statement till filing of this report.

Inspector Rajneesh Sood, SHO Sirhind police station, said, "The land on which pit was dug belongs to one Parminder Singh against whom we are registering an FIR. The pit was at least ten feet deep and was dug to drain out excess rainwater. Children were playing nearby and probably slipped into it. But probe is on."

Will do best to ensure no harm comes to pride, honour of our jawans: Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

LAUDING THE heroes of the Kargil war, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said he will do his best to ensure that no harm comes to the pride and honour of the soldiers.

Addressing a gathering of war veterans, Kargil war widows and others at an event held in New Delhi to commemorate 20 years of Operation Vijay, Singh also asserted that people's "faith in armed forces has increased".

"Whatever we can do to honour our martyrs is less. We honour them and salute the war widows present here. We feel proud of our soldiers," he said.

He also shared his experiences of visiting Drass on Saturday, where he paid homage to fallen soldiers at the Kargil War Memorial.

"I can only say this from my side that I will do my best and whatever is possible to ensure that no harm comes to the honour, pride and esteem of our jawans," the Defence Minister said to a thunderous applause.

He also said a man could compromise with other things, but not with his pride and honour. "That pride ('swabhiman') could be personal, social or nationalistic ('*rashtriya swabhiman*'). It was with this sense of pride that 18-year-olds and 20-year-olds had embraced the gallows during the freedom struggle," Singh said.

He also felicitated the war widows present on the occasion, including those who lost their husbands in the Kargil conflict or in the line of duty this year.

FROM PAGE ONE

J&K Governor

Tourism Festival, 2019, at Khree Sultan Cho Sports Stadium in Kargil.

Earlier, Malik lamented that the biggest problem in Jammu and Kashmir is of corruption. There are retired bureaucrats with palatial bungalows in Delhi, the Governor said, adding that if he could, he would "send them to jail and take back all the property looted by them".

Without naming Kashmir's political families, he said that while people in the state lived in extreme poverty, there was no limit to the wealth of the big families who ruled the state. "They have one house in the state, another in Delhi, Dubai and London... I guarantee you that in the next two-three months, you will seen two-three big fish, who have been ministers, seeking bail. And then, I will ask you to applaud," Malik said, while pointing out that he would complete a year in office in a week's time.

While stressing on talks, Malik said, "They (militants) are unnecessarily putting their lives at stake. Nothing will come out of it. Nothing will be achieved through the gun because in India, no one can put pressure on the government through the gun."

Criticising Kashmiri politicians for their alleged double-speak, he said, "In Delhi, they keep us in good humour and in Kashmir, they instigate the people. Now we have asked them to speak the same language."

Pointing out that there are "only 200-250 militants left in the Valley", he said 100-125 of them are from Pakistan. "Whenever encounters take place, militants from Pakistan take two-three days to get killed, while those from Kashmir do not survive for even two hours as they neither have the training nor weapons," he said.

Narrow window for second Moon shot

barely a couple of minutes. So, all operations in the run-up to the launch have to be completed with extreme precision. There is no room for any delay. I am sure the mission control can do this," said a former ISRO scientist.

The scientist said similar narrow time slots were available on a few other days this month but after that, a suitable widow would be available only in September.

PTI quoted ISRO chairman K Sivan as saying Sunday that Chandrayaan-1 had revealed the presence of water molecules on the Moon and that there were possibilities of the latest mission returning successful scientific experiments.

"It is because of these reasons that Chandrayaan-2 has attracted attention not only from Indian scientists but also global scientists," Sivan told reporters at the Chennai airport during a stopover enroute to Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, the launch site.

The launch was originally scheduled for the early morning of July 15, but scientists noticed a sudden drop in pressure in a chamber filled with helium gas with about two hours to go. Unable to immediately ascertain the reason, and unwilling to take chances with the prestigious mission, they decided to abort the launch.

An expert committee was constituted to assess the problem and recommend corrective measures. On Thursday, ISRO said the committee had rectified the problem and that all systems were functioning normally. It had then announced that the spacecraft would be launched on July 22.

"Whatever technical snag we observed on July 15 has been rectified. The vehicle is in good health... The (pre-launch) rehearsal has been successfully completed," PTI quoted Sivan as saying.

Despite the delay, there is no change in the September 6 date on which the lander and rover modules of the mission would land on the Moon. But the path it would take would be different, since there would now be 48 days between launch and landing instead of the original 54 days.

There is also a possibility that by the time it lands on the Moon, the date in India would have changed to September 7. This is because the lander might take some time in locating the right spot to land, an ISRO scientist said.

According to the revised flight sequence, Chandrayaan-2 would spend 23 days in the Earth's orbit instead of 17 in the original schedule.

After incrementally raising its orbit during this period, the spacecraft would embark on its journey towards the Moon, which will take seven days. For the next 13 days, it would remain in lunar orbit, going around the Moon in an orbit of 100 km. Earlier, it was supposed to spend 28 days in lunar orbit.

The lander module would separate from the Orbiter on Day 43, or September 2, and could continue to go around the Moon for another few days in a lower orbit. The actual landing would happen on September 6, as originally scheduled, or in the early hours of September 7.

Chandrayaan-2 is India's first attempt to land on the lunar surface. Its first Moon mission Chandrayaan-1, which was launched in 2008, was an Orbiter mission. But one of the instruments on board, called Moon Impact Probe (MIP) was made to crashland on the lunar surface. The MIP was one of the two instruments of Chandrayaan-1 that provided irrefutable evidence of the presence of water on the Moon.

With Chandrayaan-2, India will become the fourth country to soft-land a rover on the Moon after Russia, the US and China.

IL&FS looks for new law firm after complaint

position and is likely to conduct interviews this week. The board of IL&FS may also discuss the appointment of a new legal advisor in its board meeting on July 24.

When contacted, a spokesperson for Uday Kotak said: "Mr Uday Kotak and the new board of IL&FS are committed to the highest levels of corporate governance, and all decisions of the board are taken solely in the interest of IL&FS. Therefore, any allegation of emotion or relationship as the basis of decision making by anyone is baseless."

Cyril Shroff, managing partner of CAM, said: "Our firm does not have any conflict of interest."

The complaint to the Ministry alleged CAM had been giving off-the-record legal advice to IL&FS Transportation Networks India Ltd (ITNL) during its extreme liquidity crisis in mid-2018. It alleged that despite knowing about the crisis at ITNL, a listed entity, the law firm did not advice the company to disclose these issues to SEBI, the capital markets regulator.

To validate its claims, the complaint cited an email found during the forensic audit of ITNL, purportedly written by Ravi Parthasarathy, former chairman of IL&FS, to a few top officials of the ITNL, IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN) and IL&FS.

Parthasarthy's email of May 21, 2018, pertained to the liquidity crisis at ITNL and allegedly stated that he discussed the issues of ITNL with Cyril Shroff and a top official of an audit firm. Based on the discussions, Parthasarthy purportedly stated in the email, approaching the National Company Law Tribunal under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code may not be a suitable option for the firm.

The email goes on to state that ITNL should instead create a scheme for coming out of the liquidity crisis and approach the lenders.

The IL&FS Group has total liabilities of about Rs 94,000 crore. The alleged financial irregularities at IL&FS came to light in September 2018, after some group entities started defaulting on debt repayments. The entire group has been defaulting on repayments since then. The government subsequently superseded the company's board, and appointed a new management to work on a resolution plan.

Vijayvargiya

secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya.

Confirming that Akash's case had not been referred to the three-member disciplinary committee, Raghuvanshi told The Sunday Express, "Did he (the PM) name Akash? There were some other instances (of indiscipline), maybe he referred to all of them together. Is there a sound byte or video of him saying what has been attributed to him?" He also said, "If the PM has actually condemned it (the incident), it's more than a punishment."

About taking up Akash's case, Raghuvanshi said, "It will come to me only if the state BJP chief is unhappy with (Akash's) reply to a notice, if it has been served... In any case, when a criminal offence is registered, it's for the courts to take a call."

While addressing the BJP parliamentary board on July 2, the PM had said, "Arrogance and misbehaviour will not be tolerated irrespective of whoever it may be, whoever's son he may be." He had also hinted that action should be taken against the leaders who welcomed Akash after he was released on bail.

But not just the MLA, the state BJP is yet to take any action against the partymen who were part of the welcome either. Moreover, confusion prevails over whether a show-cause notice has been served on the 33-year-old MLA, if he has apologised, whether this has been accepted or not, or forwarded to the central unit.

Following the PM's comments, Akash had met Madhya Pradesh BJP chief Rakesh Singh twice at the party headquarters and is believed to have apologised during his second visit.

Asked about the matter, Rakesh Singh told The Sunday Express, "Requisite information will be made available to the media at an appropriate time." He refused to elaborate.

Senior BJP leaders told the Express that the failure to act against Akash was embarrassing for the party, given how quickly it had cracked down against Uttarakhand MLA Pranav Singh 'Champion' over a video, and against ex-MLA Surendranath Singh for threatening to "spill the blood" of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath.

"Is the state organisation bigger than the Prime Minister? Despite the PM clearly spelling out what he thought, nothing has been done so far," said a BJP Rajya Sabha member from the state, adding that the state chief should make the party's position on the issue clear.

An Indore-based leader said the party was dragging its feet over Akash due to his father, and claimed that while they were not keen on defending the MLA, instructions to do so had come from a senior leader.

Only former Lok Sabha Speaker and BJP Indore-based leader Sumitra Mahajan has spoken out. "What is wrong is wrong," she told reporters in Indore recently.

Triple talaq Bill

of the session, which is scheduled to end on July 26, there is no official information yet.

According to top sources in the government, the Bill is not on its "top priority list" now as the government wants to ensure required support for the passage of the Bill in the Rajya Sabha.

There is already an ordinance in place which will lapse if the Bill does not get passed by both Houses and gets the President's assent within this session. The proposed legislation, which seeks to criminalise instant triple talaq among Muslims, has been controversial ever since its inception following a SC judgement in 2017.

The Bill was tabled in the Lok Sabha last month amidst Opposition protests but was not taken up for discussion and passage. While the government had won a vote in the Lok Sabha on whether it could be tabled and, given its majority in the House, the Bill will sail through the Lower House - it was introduced following a vote, with 186 members supporting and 74 opposing it — but it is in the Rajya Sabha where things may get slightly complicated.

"The government may choose to re-issue the ordinance if the uncertainty continues about it clearing the Upper House," said a source.

Numbers in the Upper House are delicately poised - NDA, minus JD(U) and with the support of BJD, Independents and others, stands at 109 while the Opposition number stands at 108. The fate of the Bill will hinge on what position three parties take — JD(U) and TRS, with six seats each, and YSR Congress with two. In the 241-member Upper House, BJP has 78 members and the NDA has 115, while the Congress-led Opposition has 107 votes. Without AIADMK and JD(U), NDA's strength will come down to below 100.

Taking off from the Supreme Court verdict of 2017, the law ministry had moved the triple talaq Bill immediately afterwards, making instantaneous triple talaq a criminal offence punishable with a three-year jail term. However, the Bill failed to get past a united Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. In 2018, when the Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha, the Opposition had moved for a Select Committee reference but the House was adjourned before voting could take place after treasury benches trooped to the well and shouted slogans.

Sources in the ruling party said it is unlikely that the Bill will get cleared in the ongoing session. "The Bill is not on the agenda for consideration and passing in this session. It is unlikely that it will come up for passage in the ongoing session," said a senior BJP leader.

Dhoni

Rishabh Pant as the first-choice keeper across formats for the Caribbean tour.

The next 50-over World Cup is in 2023, and Dhoni is unlikely to last in top-flight cricket till then. However, sources said, the selectors are looking beyond him even for the next year's World T20 in Australia.

"If he (Dhoni) comes back after a two-month break, where shall we judge his match fitness? He doesn't play domestic first-class cricket and turns up only for shorter formats. The present selection committee has decided to move on from Dhoni. And Dhoni has informed M S K (Prasad) that it's up to the selection committee whether to pick him or not," BCCI sources told The Indian Express.

The situation could change, though. "Things depend on whether the present selection committee will continue to the next year or not. The BCCI elections are scheduled on October 22, and a new selection committee will come after that...it will be too early to call time on Dhoni's international career," sources said.

At the press conference Sunday to announce the team for the West Indies series, Prasad confirmed that Dhoni had opted out. Asked if the selection committee would have picked him if he were available, Prasad said: "First of all, he is not fit. When he is fit and when he is available (for selection), then we will look into the picture."

Prasad said the committee had a "certain roadmap and plans till the World Cup". "Subsequently, post World Cup, we have laid down a few more plans and we thought of giving as many opportunities as possible to Rishabh Pant and to see him groom. This is our plan right now," he said.

"Retirement is purely individual. A legendary cricketer like M S Dhoni...they know when to retire... what is the future course of (action), what is the roadmap we have to take, is in the hands of selection committee," Prasad said.

Of the other wicket-keepers, Dinesh Karthik has been left out of the squad, which all but ends his international career. Parthiv Patel's case, too, has probably been closed. It is left to Pant now to cement his place in all three formats, with back-up options in Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and K S Bharat.

But for the West Indies tour, it's fit-again Wriddhiman Saha who has made the cut. "We have an unwritten norm, that the established cricketer when he gets injured, and when he comes back, an opportunity should be given to him," Prasad said.

At the same time, Prasad praised Bharat's "stellar performances" for India A.

Pant has made an electric start to his Test career, with centuries in England and Australia. He has an average of 49.71 after nine matches but hasn't replicated his Test form in the shorter formats. In nine ODIs so far, he has scored 209 runs at 26.12, and in 15 T20 internationals, 233 runs at 19.41.

Dhoni, meanwhile, is aiming to train with his Territorial Army battalion — his request is under process, the Army said. The West Indies series, from August 3 to September 3, includes three T20s, three ODIs and two Test matches.

Health Ministry proposes minimum standards for clinical establishments

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE HEALTH Ministry has proposed "minimum standards of facilities and services" for clinical establishments. The standards will be applicable to clinics offering both AYUSH and allopathy services.

According to the minimum standards proposed in the amendments for the Clinical Establishment (Central Government) Rules, 2019, health facilities not complying with prescribed norms in terms of infrastructure, manpower, equipment, drugs, support service and record registration will not be granted registration.

Clinical Establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, makes registration a must for running a clinical establishment. However the Act is currently applicable only in 11 states, including Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

"At present, minimum standards are available only for medical diagnostic labs which were notified in May 21, 2018. The proposed amendments are aimed at bringing uniformity in standard of healthcare services provided by several establishments," an official source said.

According to the proposed standards, the physical facility shall be developed and maintained to provide safe and secure environment for patients, their families, staff and visitors and should be situated in a place having clean surroundings and shall comply with local by-laws in force, if any, from time to time.

There has to be a minimum space requirement for carrying out basic functions of the facility as prescribed in the rules.

"The clinic facility shall be well-illuminated, ventilated and clean with adequate water supply. It shall have a prominent board or signage displaying the name of the clinic in local language at the gate or on the building of the clinic," the draft amendments say.

Besides, the name of the doctor with registration number, fee structure of various doctors or specialists, timings of clinics and services provided within the facility should be well displayed in signages in language understood by the local public in the area.

ANAND VIHAR	SIRIFORT	SHADIPUR	DWARKA- SECTOR 8
Moderate	Moderate	Satisfactory	Moderate
131 AQI PM: 10	115 AQI PM: 10	51 AQI Pollutant: CO	130 AQI PM: 10

0-50 Good | 51-100 Satisfactory | 101-200 Moderate | 201-300 Poor | 301-400 Very Poor | 401-500 Severe

3-year-old boy electrocuted at plastic utensil factory

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

A THREE-YEAR-OLD boy was electrocuted in Gandhi Nagar Saturday, when he strayed into a plastic utensil manufacturing unit.

Police had to exhume the boy's body, as his parents had buried him without informing them or registering any complaint. The body was later sent for a post-mortem, and a case was registered against the factory owner under IPC section 304A (death due to negligence).

"We received a call at 9 pm about a child who was electrocuted inside a plastic utensil manufacturing unit. The child's parents didn't want to register a complaint, and buried the body in a cemetery near Geeta Colony in Gandhi Nagar. We exhumed the body and sent it to a nearby hospital," said Meghna Yadav, DCP (Shahdara). The factory owner is absconding.

Police said the child was playing on the street and went inside the factory, which is near their residence, around 3 pm on Saturday. After some time, he was found lying on the floor of the factory. A neighbour who saw the body informed his family. The boy was rushed to Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, where the doctors declared him dead on arrival. The parents took the body and went to the nearby cemetery to bury him, police said.

Police said no one noticed the boy entering the factory, or when he came in contact with machinery and died after receiving a high voltage shock. The post-mortem report is awaited, they added.

TO ADOPT DU'S CHOICE-BASED CREDIT SYSTEM

School of open learning to get new system, too

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE CHOICE-BASED Credit System (CBCS) in place in Delhi University's regular colleges since 2015, will also be applicable to the School of Open Learning (SOL) from the current academic session, the university's Executive Council (EC) decided Sunday.

The move will be applicable to nearly 5 lakh students enrolled in SOL. The Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board (NCWEB) will also be part of the move. The EC resolved that the "revised curriculum of the undergraduate and postgraduate courses shall also be applicable for School of Open Learning and Non-Collegiate Women Education Board w.e.f academic session 2019-20" and that "the examination scheme for undergraduate and postgraduate shall also be applicable to SOL and NCWEB".

During Sunday's meeting, EC member Rajesh Jha said concerns were raised about conducting the SOL examinations under CBCS. He said the EC had decided to set up a committee to determine the modalities: "There will be a committee on the roll out, which will submit a report within a week for a decision in the EC."

Janmejoy Khuntia, SOL Staff Council Secretary, welcomed the decision "although too late", but agreed that there were concerns in conducting examinations.

"We have been saying for long that SOL should be made at par with DU's regular colleges. At least now, they have realised this, even though it is late. However, there are concerns regarding examinations due to the sheer number of students. If exams are to be held in semester mode by the end of the year, we will need time to formulate the syllabus and study material according to CBCS. There isn't enough time for that," he said.

Khuntia also said that if CBCS was being implemented, students should finally be allowed to migrate from SOL to regular colleges: "Until now, that possibility did not exist as we were in annual mode, while the regular colleges were in semester mode. But CBCS allows for migration, so that should be made an option."

The move will be applicable to nearly 5 lakh students enrolled in SOL. *Archive*

EXPLAINED

For SOL, move means shift from annual to semester

UNDER CBCS, students are supposed to opt for core and elective courses, as well as self-enhancement skill courses, for which they get credits. The system provides grades as opposed to marks. It was under attack by DU's teaching community when it was implemented, for allegedly being hasty and not well thought out. The system also provides for semester-wise grading. So far, SOL has followed the annual mode of examination for undergraduate courses. It remained untouched by various changes brought to DU's undergraduate courses — whether it was the semester system in 2010 or the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme in 2013, which was subsequently rolled back.

DU's EC sends 4 undergrad courses back for revision

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

DELHI UNIVERSITY'S (DU) Executive Council (EC) Sunday decided to send undergraduate syllabi of four courses — English, History, Political Science and Sociology — back to the respective departments, for revision. Earlier, DU's Academic Council decided the same, after a section of teachers opposed the inclusion of certain topics in the syllabi.

The objections include showing right-wing leaders in "poor light" in a fictional story on Gujarat riots, inclusion of Muzaffarnagar riots and lynchings, teaching Marxism and Maoism and showing Hindu gods as members of the LGBT community. The English department has already decided it will remove contentious parts from its syllabus, while the other three departments are yet to respond. The departments have the final power to make changes.

EC member Rajesh Jha said, "The syllabi of the four departments were sent back. These syllabi have to be finished by July 31, which includes completing the process from Committee of Courses, Faculty Committee and Oversight Committee. What will happen to the students of these courses within that period?"

He, along with another EC member J L Gupta, even submitted a dissent note on the same. "From the start, we have strongly opposed the imposition of CBCS in centralised manner from the top, i.e. UGC-MHRD, usurping the AC's and EC's statutory jurisdiction. The teachers' basic right to frame the syllabi was snatched away. The revision of UG courses started by your administration sidelining the statutory bodies is also following the same line, which also violates our statutes and established practices..."

They said DU's "syllabus-making process has evolved over a century of its glorious existence and cannot be allowed to be subverted" and the revision was "extra-judicial killing of public-funded universities and colleges so the private player can thrive"

Owners away, thieves ransack two flats in Vasant Kunj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

TWO HOUSES in Vasant Kunj were ransacked and robbed by burglars, police said Saturday. Both houses are located in the same apartment building in Vasant Kunj's Sector A. A case has been registered against unknown persons under IPC sections 457 (house-breaking by night) and 380 (theft in dwelling house).

The first incident took place inside the house of Raju Penmetsa on Friday night, said police. As they were investigating the robbery, another man from the colony approached them and said his house was burgled too when he was away. The complainant, Vivek Panwar, told police he had returned to Delhi on Saturday morning to find his house ransacked.

In her complaint, Penmetsa's neighbour Rekha Dwivedi said the couple had gone to London. "Penmetsa's wife gave me their house keys on Thursday, and told me that a domestic help would come to water the houseplants. On Saturday, around 7.20 am, I noticed the main door of their residence was open, but the mesh door was shut. I thought some relative had come. Later, the man who cleans their car informed me someone robbed their house. I rushed and saw the locks of both doors were broken," she said.

Police said the house was ransacked and all three almirahs were open. "We are contacting the family to find out what is missing from their home," said a senior police officer.

While police were investigating the case, Panwar approached them and said he had been robbed too. "I was out of town for a few days and returned to my house in the morning. I saw the latch was broken. I entered the house and saw everything was ransacked," he wrote in his complaint. Police are still trying to ascertain which items were stolen.

Last week, in similar incidents at Greater Kailash II and CR Park, two houses were burgled when the owners were out of town. Police said the burglars robbed cash and valuables worth Rs.15 lakh.

Former Delhi BJP chief Mange Ram Garg dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

FORMER DELHI BJP president Mange Ram Garg passed away at a city hospital on Sunday at the age of 83.

Garg was an MLA from Wazirpur constituency between 2003 and 2008. He had held a number of positions in the party, which included treasurer, district president and the BJP Delhi president.

Garg's mortal remains were taken to his residence in Ashok Vihar, from where it was taken to the Delhi BJP office at Pant Marg, party leaders said. A large number of leaders and workers gathered at the Delhi BJP office to pay their condolences.

Garg had pledged his organs to the 'Dadhichi Deh Dan Samiti,' for which his body was taken to Lady Hardinge Medical College hospital, family members said.

Paying tribute to Garg, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "All his life, he worked dedicatedly towards the service of people. From the time of the Jan Sangh, he served the people of Delhi. His sudden demise is a very big loss, which cannot be compensated."

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari said, "He contributed a lot to the expansion of the party, and the manner in which he raised people's issues is unparalleled, which was why the BJP won many elections."

BJP MP Gautam Gambhir pays his respects, Sunday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

Social stigma sidelining child rape victims: Report

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES of rape are hugely prejudicial to victims of sexual abuse and their families, as people, in general, do not see victims in the right perspective, a study by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has found. It further observed that instead of making the perpetrators responsible for the act, social stigma is attached to victims and their families "who are often pushed to the margins of society".

The study by DCPCR, along with the Human Development Society, covered 100 child victims — 94 girls and 6 boys, aged between 2 and 18 years — of rape cases reported in 2017-18. It was released earlier this month.

It also highlighted "rape" as the most important factor among victims for dropping out of school. "The principal reason is related to the incident of rape, as 33% (the highest of all) cite legal procedure, social stigma, safety and health concerns following rape as reasons for dropping out of studies.

"While 14% each noted financial crisis and lack of interest in study as the reason; 10% children dropped out due to the need of special schools; 7% did so due to illness of parents and families responsibilities. The sample also has 10% victims who are either living with accused or are planning to marry the culprit," the study said.

It added that rape victims, mostly girls, suffer from different types of illness, like lower abdominal pain, anaemia or weakness, for which 81% of the parents are "unable to meet healthcare challenges of their children due to lack of money".

"The challenge for 24% parents is rooted in their inability to spend long time for treatment... as it adversely affects their work as wage labour and work-related commitments... There are 14% parents whose inability to discuss health issues of child with doctors due to social stigma act as an obstruction to fulfilling health needs," it states.

It added that 57% families of child victims face challenges to their livelihood following the incidence of rape: "... livelihood challenges are being faced by 56% families of girls victims and 67% families of victims who are boys."

BARMER LIGNITE MINING COMPANY LIMITED
NIT No. / Bidding Doc. No. : CS-9925-602-9
Extension of last date for Submission and Opening of Bids

The due date for the tender for Development and Operation of Jalipa and Kapurdi Lignite block, State of Rajasthan, India is hereby extended with details as under:

S.No.	Particulars	Earlier Date	Extended Date
1.	Last date for receipt of Bids [Both Techno-Commercial Proposal (Envelope-I) and Price Proposal (Envelope-II)]	22nd July, 2019, 3:00 PM	Upto 19th August, 2019, 3:00 PM
2.	Techno-Commercial Proposal (Envelope-I) Opening Date & Time	24th July, 2019, 3:30 PM	21st August, 2019, 3:30 PM

*Any further changes/ updations in the bidding documents will be published on the website of NTPC https://eprocurentpc.nic.in, website of the Company www.blmcl.in, and the website of Rajasthan State Public Procurement Portal, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in only.

Authorised Signatory
for Barmer Lignite Mining Company Limited

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA
Presents

The Graduate Show
Showcasing Eight Student Productions 22-29 July, 2019

KHWAHISH GALI
Design & Direction : Hari Shankar Ravi
22 July, 7 pm, Duration : 80 min.
Abhimanch Auditorium

RUINS IN REVERSE
Concept, Design & Direction : Sarthak Narula
23 July, 8 pm, Duration : 60 min.
Open Air, Near Abhimanch, Limited Seats. *

BEHIND THE BORDERS
Direction : P. Melodi Dorcas
24 July, 7 pm, Duration : 60 min.
Abhimanch, Limited Seats. *

ASHANTI NIWAS
Direction : Mayengbam Sunil Singh
25 July, 7 pm, Duration : 60 min.
Bahumukh, Limited Seats. *

THOOTHUKUDI MASSACRE 13
Dramaturgy, Design & Direction : Balasubramanian G
26 July, 7 pm, Duration : 60 min.
Abhimanch Auditorium

NEELKANTH PAKSHI KI KHOJ MAIN
Design & Direction : Sejuti Bagchi
27 July, 8 pm, Duration: 60 min.
Open Air, Near Costume Department, Limited Seats. *

A CASE OF CLAIRVOYANCE OR EXECUTING MISS K
Co- Dramaturgy , Scenography & Direction by : Shruti
28 July, 7 pm, Duration : 60 min.
Abhimanch, Limited Seats. *

INFINITE WALK
Concept, Design & Direction : Saras Kumar Namdeo
29 July, 7 pm, Duration : 45 min.
Bahumukh, Limited Seats. *

The Seat cards for the performances with limited seating may only be available one hour before the show and the Seat Cards for the Performances on 22 & 26 July will be available on the day of the performance at the NSD reception from 11.00 am - 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm and if available, one hour before the Show at the venue.

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA,
Bahawalpur House, Bhagwandas Road,
New Delhi-110001
Ph.: 011-23389402 / 7916 / 2821
Website : www.nsd.gov.in

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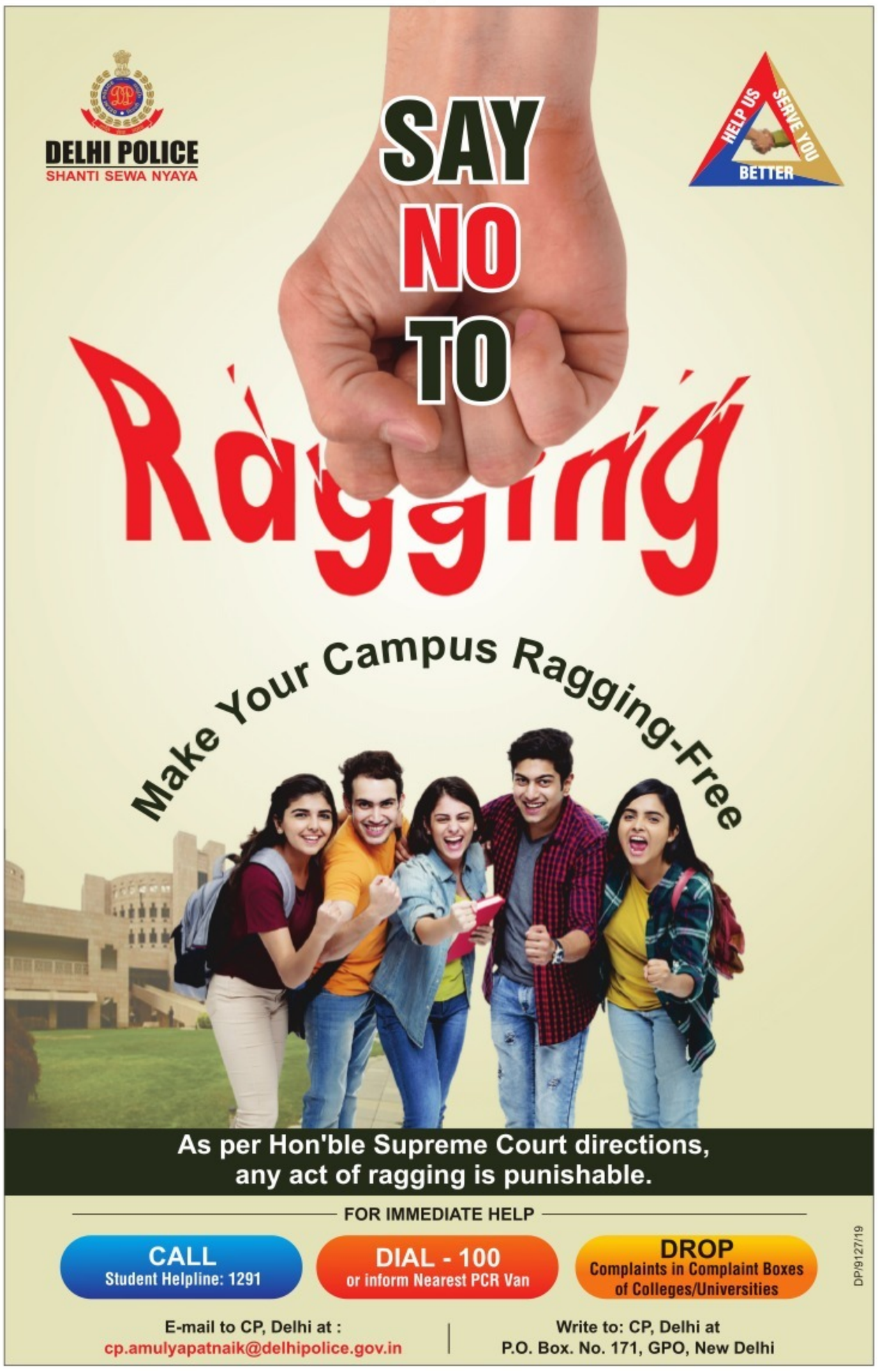
SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Hav Tara Chand (02 Apr 1959- 22 Jul 2000) | Gdr Dalip Singh (12 Aug 1978- 22 Jul 2000) | Gdr Parsa Ram (12 Dec 1975- 22 Jul 2000)

On this day, 3 GRENADIERS proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice made by the brave-hearts during an Ambush on the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir. These gallant soldiers laid down their life in the finest traditions of Indian Army. To these brave martyrs we pledge that we shall always be guided by their immortal spirits & do their names proud

May their Souls attain Moksha.
Commanding Officer and All Ranks 3 GRENADIERS



SHEILA DIKSHIT

MARCH 1938 - JULY 2019

The convoy carrying the mortal remains of former Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit heads to Nigambodh Ghat, Sunday. *Gajendra Yadav*

Her city bids farewell

Common man to top leaders come out for final journey

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

FROM COLLEGE tales to her polite manner of dealing with the public, several anecdotes echoed on the streets of Nizamuddin East on Sunday as the mortal remains of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit were taken from her residence to the All India Congress Committee office at 24, Akbar Road. The final rites were performed at Nigambodh Ghat later in the day.

The three-time CM died Saturday afternoon after she suffered a cardiac arrest. Wrapped in the Tricolour, she was cremated at 2.45 pm with full state honours. As per Dikshit's wishes, the cremation was done in a CNG machine.

All through Sunday, several leaders, workers and the public poured in to pay homage. BJP veteran LK Advani and former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj visited Dikshit's residence, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain were among those who attended the last rites.

Among those standing outside her house was 43-year-old Raj Kishan Singh. Carrying a packet of rose petals in his hand, Singh came to bid adieu to Dikshit who, according to him, was "the most helpful politician" he ever saw.

"I was new to Delhi when I heard about her for the first time in 1999. As the years passed, we kept reading about her work in the newspapers. But in 2002, I went to meet her as my son was unwell and no hospital was ready to admit him. She politely asked about the problem and assured me that my son will soon get treated. In the next one hour, I got a call from a party worker and the next day, my son was admitted to a government hospital. I never met her after that. For us, she was the CM who helped a person without any political backing," said Singh.

Decorated with jasmine flowers and displaying a smiling photo of Dikshit, the convoy left her Nizamuddin East residence around 11.45 am and reached the AICC office around 12.20 pm. The truck was followed by a tempo, with her daughter Latika, senior Congress leader Sharmistha Mukherjee and Rohit Manchanda, who was recently appointed as the party spokesperson, sitting in the vehicle.

As the truck slowly entered the gates of the party office, shouts of '*Sheila ji amar rahe*' rang in the air.

Rajni, who came to get a glimpse of her college senior, said: "Dikshit's younger sister and I were in the same class. Back then, we were extremely scared of her... Her sister used to scare me saying '*Rajni chalo, didi aa rahi hai*' and we would then hide behind the pillar. After graduation, we parted ways... I met her again after she had stepped into the politics."

Deepa Kaul, a former minister in the UP government, was among those who came to pay their respects at the AICC office. "What I remember about her was that she never forgot to say 'thank you' to each and every person, sometimes even in writing."

Top party leaders including former PM Manmohan Singh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh chief ministers Ashok Gehlot and Kamal Nath, leaders Raj Babbar, Sachin Pilot, Priyanka Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi paid their respects at the Congress headquarters.

Sonia Gandhi said: "She was a friend... almost like an elder sister. This is a big loss to the Congress party."

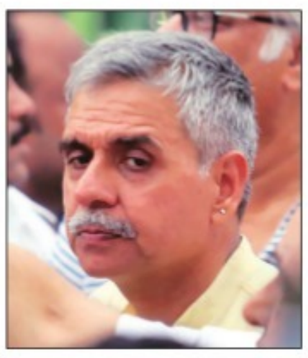
"She used to take care of the responsibilities assigned to her by senior leaders. Going forward, the Delhi unit should continue to walk in her footsteps," said senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal.

To many people, Dikshit was not only a political leader but a motherly figure who helped them in difficult times.

Sitting across the road outside the AICC office, Ruksana Begum from Mukundpur recalled how Dikshit, who she referred to as 'Aunty', helped her daughter a few years ago. "*Meri beti ka pati usse pareshaan karta tha, Aunty ne bohot madad ki. Unke jaisa koi nahi*," she said.

From there, the body was taken to the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee office at DDU Marg — the city unit that Dikshit was heading at the time of her death. Several local councillors and party workers waited outside, hoping to catch one last glimpse of their chief.

"Her doors were never closed for anyone. I met her for my daughter's admission through the EWS category and I still remember the smile she had on her face while listening to my problems. It is because of her that my son is now studying in Delhi University," said Subodh Kumar, a resident of Mukundpur.



Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi said Dikshit was a 'friend, like an elder sister'; Sheila's son Sandeep Dikshit. *Prem Nath Pandey*

(Clockwise from top) Home Minister Amit Shah; Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia at Nigambodh Ghat; Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at the Congress headquarters.
Photos: Prem Nath Pandey & Gajendra Yadav

Vacuum of leadership, long road ahead

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE DEATH of Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit Saturday comes at a time when she was trying to overhaul the state unit and make a fresh push for next year's Assembly elections.

With Delhi polls six months away, party leaders said the main challenge before them is to unite state leaders, who are currently divided into several camps. "We are trying to overcome the grief... once we settle down, maybe in next 10 days, we will chose the new president. But the true tribute to Sheila *ji* would be that everyone should set aside their differences and put up a united face," former DPCC president Ajay Maken said.

Sources said AICC in-charge of Delhi P C Chacko will hold a meeting with the party high command in the coming days to discuss possible candidates for party president in Delhi.

According to sources, there are several camps in the party, with some senior leaders not seeing eye to eye on the functioning of the state unit.

A senior Congress leader said, "Though we lost the Lok Sabha elections, the fact that we were ahead of AAP in most seats was some consolation for us. It showed people still had confidence in Sheila *ji*. We now need a leader like her who can take everyone along."

"J P Agarwal could make a comeback as party president; he is someone who has good relations with most senior leaders... Ajay Maken is also favoured by many... Arvinder Singh Lovely could also be considered because he has taken opponents head on," the leader said.

Another Congress leader said Dikshit was the face of development work done by party in the capital during her 15-year tenure — something the party hoped to reiterate as polls came closer. "We don't have a leader of that calibre to project in the upcoming Assembly polls," he said.

JOURNEY IN POLITICS

Sheila, in her own words: CWG to December 16

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

WHILE ON a campaign trail in 1998, Sheila Dikshit walked down the "lanes of Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi, beating a *thali* with a rolling pin, to literally create a hue and cry about the impact of price rise so evident in the kitchens of ordinary Delhiites".

From nostalgia-ridden tales of her childhood in Lutyens' Delhi and a college-era romance that culminated in marriage in 1962, Dikshit's autobiography, *Citizen Delhi*, published in 2018, also offers a glimpse into the life of a Chief Minister and strategist looking to solve problems the city and its dwellers faced as they entered a new millennium.

In a chapter titled '*Real Politics of being a Chief Minister*', Dikshit wrote about the complexities that arise with multiple agencies running the Capital — something she learnt in her first term as CM beginning 1998: "...if I wanted to pursue power sector reforms, the approval of the Union power ministry would be essential... Although people expected me to make their lives more secure, I had no control over Delhi Police, which reported to the Union Home Ministry... moreover, every file had to go to the LG for approval."

While Dikshit wrote in detail about her relationship with the Opposition and bureaucracy, she also delved into opposition within the party. From leaders such as Jagdish Tytler and Ram Vir Singh Bidhuri calling her "corrupt, incompetent, an outsider" in 2000 to dissent in 2005 when she offered her resignation, which was rejected by Sonia Gandhi — her 15-year tenure was full of challenges from her own partymen.

The one scheme Dikshit wrote about page after page is "Bhagidari" — direct interaction between the government and the people, via Resident Welfare Associations: "Whether it was a campaign to say no to plastic bags or water wastage, citizens' assistance would be invaluable in tackling or monitoring such issues at the local community level."

Sheila Dikshit (on the extreme left) with her friends Nat, Rajni, Ena and Anjali in March 1957. *Courtesy: Bloomsbury*

The first Bhagidari meeting was held with 20 RWAs in 2000 and by 2003, at least 2,000 RWAs were on board. It was also the drop in her interactions through Bhagidari in the run-up to Commonwealth Games 2010 which, she wrote, "gave the opposition a chance to woo the vast Bhagidari constituency".

The end of her CM-ship was marred by another controversy, CWG 2010 — from alleged irregularities to pitiable condition of the Games Village. Before the Games began, Dikshit "spent over six hours daily at the Village". She wrote: "There were times when I hitched up my sari and picked up a broom; I could not help it."

Before she could catch her breath, the country woke up to the December 16 gangrape. She wrote: "The Centre had not wanted the blame to fall on it directly, and I knowing well that our government would be blamed by the Opposition, decided to take it on the chin. Someone had to take the blame."

After the end of her term, Dikshit served briefly as the Governor of Kerala. Close aide Kiran Walia said, "I went to drop her off to Kerala and when I was returning, I felt this deep sense of loss, for myself and Delhi."

In the book, Dikshit didn't mince her words about her absence in the 2015 Delhi poll campaign. She wrote: "Party workers called on me wondering why I was not involved... the truth was that I had not been asked."

BRIEFLY

Truck driver attacks cop

New Delhi: A traffic police officer was attacked with an iron rod allegedly by a truck driver in South West Delhi's Seemapuri Saturday. "When we asked for his licence and vehicle documents, he started arguing and after some time pulled out the rod from his vehicle and hit an officer," said police. The accused tried to flee but was caught at the next traffic junction, said police. **ENS**

US national held with fake ticket at airport

New Delhi: A US national was apprehended by CISF personnel at Delhi airport Sunday for allegedly using a fake ticket to enter the terminal area, a senior official said.

North MCD questioned on meat policy

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has asked the North MCD under which law a street vendor requires a licence to sell meat and meat products. "Where is the law that prohibits a street vendor from selling meat without a licence?" Justice Vibhu Bakhru said. The court was hearing a plea by an association of street vendors seeking directions to the corporation not to displace them from their squatting sites at Mahendra Park. **PTI**

CAPITAL'S MONSOON DEFICIT AT 73%

Heavy showers bring traffic to a standstill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

HEAVY RAIN Sunday helped Delhi bridge some of the monsoon deficit but also brought waterlogging and congestion.

South Delhi received the highest rainfall across the city with the Aya Nagar weather station witnessing 106 mm of rain. Safdarjung, the official observatory for Delhi, saw 49.2 mm of rain. On Sunday, Delhi's monsoon deficit was 73%, down from 84% last week. IMD officials said moderate rain is expected on Wednesday and Thursday.

Despite rain, the weather remained muggy most of the day, with the maximum temperature touching 36.5 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal, and humidity between 55% and 100%.

The heavy rain also laid threadbare the Delhi government and municipal corporations' claims of successful desilting. Waterlogging was seen in areas such as Aurobindo Marg, Adchini, Deoli and Khanpur. At ITO, waterlogging lead to long traffic snarls.

Traffic officials said diversions had to be made to maintain the flow of cars. "We had a tough time diverting traffic in Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg to Katwariya Sarai and Vedanta More to Adchini, due to waterlogging," said an official.

In East Delhi, there were complaints of waterlogging in Geeta Colony, New Ashok Nagar and Mayur Vihar. Nitish Parashar, who was travelling from Britannia Chowk to Raja Garden, said, "The distance that is covered in 15 minutes took more than 40 minutes due to breakdown of a vehicle."

There were also complaints of waterlogging in internal roads in areas like Lado Sarai, Saket, New Ashok Nagar, Jhilmil. A senior MCD official said that most complaints they received were of PWD roads. A senior PWD official said that they had received several complaints and officials were ordered to go to affected spots to pump the water out.

Waterlogging at ITO, Sunday. *Express*

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Day	Min	Max	Forecast
Monday	27	36	Generally cloudy sky with light rain
Tuesday	27	37	Generally cloudy sky with light rain
Wednesday	27	37	Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain
Thursday	25	33	Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain
Friday	24	32	Rain or thundershowers
Saturday	24	34	Rain or thundershowers

In Gurgaon, IFFCO Chowk underpass hit

Gurgaon: Several parts of Gurgaon experienced waterlogging on Sunday afternoon, following 2mm of rainfall over less than an hour, with traffic police personnel being deployed in the affected areas to handle vehicular movement. Officials said the right-turn underpass at IFFCO Chowk junction, which was opened to commuters in March, was among the affected areas.

"Around 2-2.5 feet of water collected in the underpass. However, it was drained out within 5-10 minutes, as the pump sets installed were automatically activated," said Saurabh Singhal, team leader and traffic transportation expert at Bloom Companies LLC, the NHAI consultant for the underpass.

"The issue at the underpass is, whenever there is heavy rain in Aravallis, water reaches IFFCO Chowk via Sikanderpur and Ghata. But we have installed two pumps to deal with such a situation," he said. Other waterlogged areas included Basai village, Sikanderpur, Jawala Mill road, MG road, and AIT Chowk.

There was congestion, but no traffic jams, said police

"Traffic cops were deployed... There was congestion in areas, but no traffic jams," said Gurgaon Police PRO Subhash Boken. **ENS**

Prem Bhatia awards announced

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

SENIOR JOURNALIST Rajdeep Sardesai has won the Prem Bhatia Award for political reporting this year. The other winners are Ishan Kukreti of *Down to Earth* and independent journalist Sharada Balasubramanian, who were recognised for environmental and development reporting. The journalists will be felicitated at an event at the India International Centre on August 11 at 6.30 pm.

Kukreti has covered issues ranging from the forest law amendment to heat waves while Sharada writes on topics such as organic farming and ingenuous industries for several news outlets. The annual lecture will be delivered by Admiral Arun Prakash, former Chief of Naval Staff, on 'India's Contemporary Security Challenges'. The Prem Bhatia Awards was instituted in the memory of the eminent journalist.

Delhi will not survive without Yamuna, says NGT chairman

SHIVNARAYAN RAJPUROHIT
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

SAYING THAT Delhi will not survive without the Yamuna, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has given one more "opportunity" to authorities to list steps taken to rejuvenate the river within two weeks. "Killing Yamuna will ultimately kill Delhi — if not today, then tomorrow," observed NGT Chairman Adarsh Kumar Goel.

The four-member bench led by Goel was hearing a bunch of petitions on reviving the Yamuna earlier this month. The NGT order said Rs 10 crore performance guarantee deposited by the Delhi, Haryana and UP governments each, and Rs 50 lakh by DPCC "may have to be forfeited" for not implementing its directions.

NGT has sought reports from 3 states, DDA, DJB and DPCC

Criticising the three states and their agencies, Goel said, "Large-scale violations require stern punishment. But no action (has been taken)... That's unfortunate."

The NGT order asked the three states, DDA, DJB and DPCC to file affidavits on action taken, action required and reasons for delay in executing its earlier order.

It had earlier ordered setting up of STPs and upgrading existing ones; trap drains; stop discharge of toxic water into the river; clear Yamuna floodplains of encroachments; and set up common effluent treatment plants in industrial zones, among other measures.

Returning home on new bicycle, class X boy falls into drain on flooded road, dies

ASHNA BUTANI
GHAZIABAD, JULY 21

ON SATURDAY morning, 17-year-old Deepanshu Pal had taken his new bicycle to school for the first time. On his way back home a few hours later, the Class X student of St Teresa's Convent School in Ghaziabad was passing through Vijay Nagar — whose lanes were flooded due to the rain. As a result, he did not spot a drain in the middle of the road and fell into it. His body was found a few hundred metres away and he was declared dead on arrival at MMG District Hospital.

Police said the road had been broken in places recently to facilitate desilting of the drain. "The boy could not see the opening because the water on the street and in the drain was at the same level.. The water in the drain was toxic as well," said Vijay Nagar SHO Shyamvir Singh.

Deepanshu Pal fell into the drain in Ghaziabad's Vijay Nagar area

Rekha (18), who saw Deepanshu cycling on the road, said she tried to warn him: "I saw him heading towards the drain... by the time I shouted out a warning, he had fallen in."

Locals alleged that the drain had been open for the past 20-25 days and that the municipal corporation did not put up any board to warn commuters.

But Dinesh Chandra Singh, Nagar Aayukt, Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, said most drains in the area are uncovered. "The drain has always been open, like most drains in Vijay Nagar. As it is an old road, we cannot do much about the design. Our team is investigating the matter and will prepare a report in a day. We are trying our best to maintain the drains and prevent such incidents. We will provide the family with compensation."

The victim's aunt, Vasudha, said the family heard about the incident on the news but hadn't realised it was Deepanshu: "We were all watching the news and heard that a boy had fallen into the drain... we were beginning to worry as Deepanshu was not yet home. His classmate who lives in Vijay Nagar, recognised his cycle and came to us." The family had bought him the cycle on July 7.

Deepanshu's father Ashok Pal, who works as an accountant, said: "The minute I heard that Deepanshu had fallen into a drain, I knew he would not survive."

His younger brother, Shubham, who shared the cycle with Deepanshu and had decided to walk home from school that day, said: "Just the previous night, we were discussing a doubt he had in Chemistry."

His teacher said he was an "ideal student". "He wanted to make his parents proud and score high marks in his ICSE board exams," said Apekshit Baliyan, Deepanshu's Math and Science tutor.

From Beijing, lessons for Delhi on Metro fare pricing and scaling up

SOWMIYA ASHOK
BEIJING, JULY 21

AIDED BY fare cuts and a rapid network expansion partly due to the 2008 Olympics, the Beijing Metro's ridership rose exponentially over the years, while the impact of a fare hike pushed lakhs out of the fold of the Delhi Metro even as it touched newer areas.

The ridership pattern of the two public transporters — cumulatively carrying over 1.50 crore passengers daily in two of the most populated world capitals — seen against their evolving fare structures and growth in network makes for a study in contrast.

In January 1971, Beijing Metro started on a 10.7-km stretch with 10 stations and a single ride fare of 0.10 yuan (1 yuan converts roughly to Rs 10). Today, it has 22 lines stretching across 640 km, with 391 stations and 59 interchange stations.

Delhi Metro currently spans 373 km across Delhi-NCR.

On an average, 22,600 commuters rode on the Beijing subway daily in 1971, and the network transports nearly 13.5 million (1.35 crore) commuters in 2019, with "safe crowd management" the biggest challenge. During peak hours, passengers are allowed entry into stations in batches.

"Beijing was the first city in China to have a subway system," a Beijing Rail Transit Network spokesperson told *The Indian Express*. The planning began in the mid-1950s. "They considered passenger flow in Beijing and since it was the capital, they wanted to plan ahead."

Data with Beijing Metro shows that a combination of fare rationalisation and rapid expansion ahead of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing led to a spike in commuter traffic over the last decade. In 2007, average daily ridership was 1.7 million (17 lakh); in 2008 the figure nearly doubled to 3.2 million (32 lakh); from 2009 to 2019 it went from 3.9 million (39 lakh) to 13.5 million (1.35 crore).

'1,000-KM NETWORK BY 2021'

THE BEIJING Metro network grew slowly initially. After a personal go-ahead from PRC's founder Mao Zedong in February 1965 — pictures of his approval letters are on display at the Beijing Rail Transit Command Center — construction began in mid-1965. Between 1981 and 2000, the Metro operated two lines, which got a boost in the early 2000s ahead of the Olympics. The city planned to achieve 19 lines by 2015, which now stands at 22 lines, four years later. A 2015 report by the National Development and Reform Committee says that by 2021, public transport will comprise 60% of all trips in Beijing, of which the subway will comprise 62%. "It is estimated that by 2021, Beijing would have built nearly 30 lines and nearly 1,000 km of urban rail transit network," said the spokesperson.

Beijing Metro has 22 lines, stretching across 640 km, connecting 391 stations

This sudden spike in 2008 can be explained by a flat fare schedule of 2 yuan per person for the entire network except the Airport Line (25 yuan), which came into effect in October 2007. Before this move, fares ranged from 3 yuan to 7 yuan based on the line and number of transfers, said Beijing Metro officials. "Beginning October 2007, Beijing Rail Transit dramatically reduced ticket prices and implemented a single ticket system with a reduction of more than 50%," said the spokesperson.

In the years leading to this, Beijing Metro saw an adjustment of fares in 1996 from 0.5 yuan to 2 yuan, after which it rose again to 3 yuan in 2000. Ridership meanwhile fell from a record high of nearly 500 million (in 1995) to 444 million (in 1996) and to 434 million (in 2000).

The slash in fares also coincided with the opening of three new lines ahead of the 2008 Olympic Games. "In July 2001, Beijing successfully applied for the Olympics. By the eve of the opening of the 2008 Games, Beijing Rail Transit has added six new lines and 146 km," said the spokesperson, adding that the government simultaneously "encouraged passengers to take public transport as a green initiative".

On December 28, 2014, ticket price was adjusted to a "time-limited" ticket system — "3 yuan for 6 km; 4 yuan for 6-12 km; 5 yuan for 12-22 km; 6 yuan for 22-32 km; and 1 yuan for every additional 20 km", the spokesperson said.

In contrast, the Delhi Metro, launched in 2002, saw a steady rise in the number of commuters till 2017. With the launch of newer corridors and a marginal rise in fares in three phases over the years, ridership showed a healthy growth. But a double-phased steep hike of up to 100% in 2017 triggered a slide in ridership, which even the launch of new corridors could not arrest.

Delhi Metro lost around 2.23 lakh commuters daily in 2017-18 as compared to the previous year, according to the Delhi Metro's annual report. According to the report, the Metro's daily average ridership was 25.38 lakh in 2017-18, against 27.61 lakh in 2016-17. It has risen to around 27 lakh now, when all lines are considered.

The current fare structure of the Delhi Metro is Rs 10 up to 2 km; Rs 20 for 2-5 km; Rs 30 for 5-12 km; Rs 40 for 12-21 km, Rs 50 for 21-32 km; and Rs 60 for journeys beyond 32 km.

(With inputs from Sourav Roy Barman in New Delhi)

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LONG SHIFTS

BESIDES BEING keen to ensure that new Lok Sabha members get to speak in the House in the first session, Speaker Om Birla is also conscious about not letting senior members lose their opportunity. For this, he has not hesitated to extend the window for Zero Hour mentions by individual members. Last Thursday, mentions continued for almost five hours and saw a record participation of 162 members. This meant extending daily proceedings till late into the night. While a lot of time on the Chair is to be shared by members from the panel of presiding officers for these long sittings, the Speaker has been sitting in the last hours before adjourning for the day.

TIMELY APPLAUSE

GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI was the main speaker at an event to celebrate the birth centenary of late CPI leader Indrajit Gupta. His remarks about Gupta and his proximity with communism as an ideology were received with loud applause, but when he spoke about his actions as Governor of West Bengal, there was silence. About those days, when he criticised the then Left government during the Singur and Nandigram stir, he said his remarks were on "administrative miscarriage" and that he would have done it the same if any other party was in power. Seeing the response, Gandhi remarked that he could understand the crowd and "loyalty" is a noble value. Then came the applause.

THE RIGHT FIT

IN THE newly-constituted Lok Sabha, members are eager to get into the committees of their choice. Just like they approach all the ministers concerned and officials for their favourite residences , the MPs are keen to get into parliamentary committees on subjects they are interested in. Among the BJP MPs, a majority want to be in the the standing committee on agriculture. Second choice, according to sources, is the one on petroleum and railways. The last in their list of choice is science and technology and personnel, law and justice. The members apparently said they wanted to be on a panel in which they have something to do, said a party leader.

At Martyrs' Day rally, Mamata to BJP: return black money

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, JULY 21

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS chief Mamata Banerjee alleged Sunday that the BJP was trying to purchase elected leaders of the Opposition across the country, and announced that her party would later this month start a movement for the return of black money from the ruling party.

Mamata was addressing the first Martyrs' Day rally, the flagship political show that the Trinamool organises in the heart of Kolkata on this day every year, since the return of the BJP to power in New Delhi after a bitterly contested election that saw the saffron party lift its Lok Sabha number in the state to 18 from a mere two.

"They (the BJP) are indulging in horse-trading everywhere. They are trying to break (governments) in Karnataka, Goa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and other states," Mamata said. "But if you (the BJP) continue to indulge in such activities, one day your back will break, and you will never be able to rise again."

The Chief Minister claimed that an MLA who had switched to the BJP had told her that he had been offered Rs 2 crore and a petrol pump for joining.

"I have seen governments at the Centre, governments of Rajiv Gandhi or Deve Gowda or even Atalji," she said. "But I have never seen a government like this. Bills are being planned in the dead of the night and are placed (in Parliament) in the morning. No one is being consulted or informed. The federal structure is being bulldozed," Mamata said.

"After this government came to power, prices of LPG and petroleum were raised. Dalits, minorities, even Hindus were killed across the country," Mamata told the rally in Esplanade. "The BJP thrives on divisive politics. Dalits were killed in Uttar Pradesh. Priyanka Gandhi was not allowed to visit them. We sent a delegation that was stopped by police there.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee speaks at the rally in Kolkata on Sunday. *Partha Paul*

EXPLAINED

A different pitch, looking ahead and within

THIS YEAR'S July 21 Martyrs' Day rally was different. The Chief Minister assailed the BJP with her usual aggression, but importantly, also asked party cadre to go back to the grassroots and work towards the rejuvenation of its bases. The context is the remarkable performance of the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections and has come to represent the most formidable political threat to the Trinamool since it uprooted the Left Front from power in 2011. With municipal polls looming next year and Assembly elections scheduled for 2021, and the BJP seemingly gaining in strength, the CM spoke about strengthening both booth level workers, and the various wings of the party.

The government has planned disinvestments worth Rs 1.3 lakh crore. Earlier it was 'Khelo India', now the BJP is saying 'Becho India'. We will start an agitation with the 'Becho India' slogan."

The Trinamool's annual July 21 Martyrs' Day Rally commemorates the police firing in the state capital on July 21, 1993, in which 13 people were killed during a demonstration by the West Bengal Youth Congress — led by Mamata at the time — demanding that the Voter's Identity Card be made the sole required document for voting in order that a stop is put to the CPM's alleged "scientific rigging".

On Sunday, Mamata accused the BJP of manipulating elections, and demanded the return of ballot papers. "I believe that the results of the (Lok Sabha) elections is a mystery. We want ballot papers. Why are there no EVMs in countries like the US, UK, France and Germany? During the (LS) polls, they (BJP) doled out cash and pressed in Central forces. We will ask the State Election Commission to hold elections to panchayat and civic bodies through ballot papers," she said.

Her direction to her party leaders to return the "cut money" that they had taken from beneficiaries of government schemes was well intentioned, Mamata said, and assailed the BJP for trying to use it to target the Trinamool.

"We will tell the BJP to first return the black money they used in the elections. Where did you get the money for 5-star party office, for the huge campaign arrangements and to and fro transport? Return the black money and cut money — all that you have taken till now — and used for winning elections," she said.

"On July 26 and 27, we will launch a 'Black Money Phiriye Dao' (Return Black Money) programme. There will be protests in every block, we will demand from the BJP the return of black money and cut money..."

"We have documents on the BJP asking for cut money — they asked for money for schemes like Ujjwala LPG cylinders — the information is from their own leaders. Action will be taken," she warned.

Karnataka BJP president BS Yeddyurappa holds a meeting with party MLAs at a resort in Bengaluru on Sunday. *PTI*

Trust vote today; BSY, Kumaraswamy exchange barbs

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, JULY 21

THE RULING Congress-JD(S) coalition in Karnataka will face a crucial trust vote in the Assembly on Monday even as legal questions hang over participation of 13 coalition legislators whose resignations are pending acceptance by the Assembly Speaker.

The resignation of 15 coalition MLAs has reduced the strength of the H D Kumaraswamy government in the 225-member Assembly to 102 MLAs compared to the opposition BJP's 105 MLAs plus two Independents.

Coalition leaders worked over the weekend to convince the rebel MLAs to participate in the trust vote but the 13 rebels in Mumbai sent out a video message saying they would not budge from their decision to resign and withdraw support to the coalition.

The only glimmer of hope for the coalition came from the BSP whose supremo Mayawati directed the lone BSP MLA in the assembly to support the coalition.

Despite their numbers not adding up to a majority, members of the coalition have insisted that the government will win the trust vote. "We are confident that we will be able to save the government," JD(S) MLA D C Gowrishankar said.

BJP state chief B S Yeddyurappa said, "Kumaraswamy has been saying he does not want to stick on to the chief minister's chair. In the past three days, it has been apparent to the people of Karnataka the extent to which he is stuck to the chief minister's chair."

Offering to hold talks with the rebels MLAs to resolve their issues, Chief Minister Kumaraswamy on Sunday said in a statement, "My only intention of seeking time for debate on trust vote is to let the entire country know how the BJP, which talks of morality, is trying to subvert the very principles of democracy as well as Constitution."

Kumaraswamy moved the trust vote on July 18 but the process of conducting the vote has been affected by procedural aspects of the legislature. Governor Vajubhai Vala has sent messages with deadlines to complete the trust vote but Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar, who is the custodian of the Assembly, has said that legislators must be given a chance to speak on the trust vote before it is put for voting.

The trust vote process on Monday may witness lengthy speeches by coalition MLAs while the BJP has decided to refrain from speaking at length in order to ensure that the trust vote is completed by the end of the day.

Not elected to clean your toilets: Pragya

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, JULY 21

CONTROVERSIAL BJP parliamentarian Pragya Singh Thakur on Sunday said she had not been elected to clean toilets and drains, drawing criticism from the Congress, which called the statement an insult to her mandate.

Thakur was speaking to people in Sehore, a part of her constituency.

The crowd apparently raised local issues with her during their interaction.

"*Hum naali saaf karwaaneke liye nahi bane hain. Hum apka shouchalaya saaf karwane ke liye bilkul nahi banaye gaye hain. Hum jis kaam ke liye banaaye gaye hai, woh hum imaandari se karenge* (I have not been elected to clean drains. I have definitely not been elected to clean your toilets. I will honestly do the work for which I have been elected).

Pragya Singh Thakur

Congress spokesperson Shobha Oza said the BJP should make its stand on her statement clear or act against her. She said her statement shows how much importance she gives to the problems of the people.

"Her comment exposes the cleanliness campaign, which the PM calls a flagship programme," she added.

Ram Vilas Paswan's MP brother dies at 57

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA,NEW DELHI, JULY 21

SAMASTIPUR MP Ramchandra Paswan, the youngest brother of LJP chief and Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, passed away at RML Hospital Delhi on Sunday where he had been admitted three weeks ago following a cardiac arrest.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. He was 57. His body was kept at his residence at 18, Rajendra Prasad road in the capital on Sunday evening where several senior leaders including Home minister Amit Shah and Defence minister Rajnath Singh arrived to pay their respects.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi and leader of Opposition in Assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav also condoled Ramchandra's death.

Ramchandra Paswan was a four-time MP. *Lok Sabha*

LJP MP and Ramchandra' s nephew Chirag Paswan announced that the body will be taken to the LJP office in Patna on Monday for people to pay their respects following which, it will be cremated around 4 pm.

Ramchandra was a four-time Lok Sabha MP. Since his first Lok Sabha contest in 1999, he lost just once in 2009, when Ram Vilas also lost due to the Nitish Kumar wave. He also served on several parliamentary committees including the standing committee on urban and rural development and also home affairs.

Preferring to stand by Ram Vilas's side throughout his career, Ramchandra took to assisting the elder brother in politics just after finishing high school. When Ram Vilas floated the Lok Janshakti Party, the political fortunes of the family changed. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Ram Vilas's younger brother Pashupati Kumar Paras (Hajipur), Ramchandra and son Chirag Paswan (Jamui) clinched victories.

Ramchandra was an avid supporter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the 2019 polls, he defeated Congress' Ashok Ram and would often tell voters to "criticise him as much as they can but vote for him in name of PM Narendra Modi". The camaraderie between brothers Ram Vilas and Ramchandra has always been a talking point in political circles. Announcing Ramchandra's demise, Ram Vilas addressed him as his "dearest brother". Several times, Ram Vilas fondly said Ramchandra always stood by him like "Laskhman".

Prime Minister Modi took to Twitter to express his condolences. "Shri Ram Chandra Paswan Ji worked tirelessly for the poor and downtrodden. At every forum he spoke unequivocally for the rights of farmers and youngsters. His social service efforts were noteworthy..." he wrote.

2 Ind MLAs to move SC: CM may avoid trust vote

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE SUPREME Court is likely to witness fresh action on Monday over the political crisis in Karnataka with two more MLAs set to approach it seeking a direction that the floor test in the Assembly be conducted before 5 pm on Monday as they fear Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy "may make himself scarce" to avoid the trust vote.

The plea of Independent legislators R Shankar and H Nagesh is likely to be mentioned in the morning before Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

In their petition, the MLAs said, "It is apprehended that the Chief Minister of Karnataka, who is heading the minority government, may make himself scarce from the proceedings on 22.7.19. It has been reliably learnt that in a desperate attempt to avoid the trust vote, the Chief Minister of Karnataka may also rake up an emergent situation and use medical emergencies including hospitalisation."

They also said they had withdrawn support to the government headed by Kumaraswamy. On July 12, Kumaraswamy "made a mention on the floor of the House that in view of certain political situations arising in the state, he would seek the confidence of vote of the House." Accordingly, "the House was to take up the motion of vote of confidence of 18.07.2019," they said, adding that this "is not being conducted despite the government being in a minority".

A minority government, is being allowed to continue in office, their plea said.

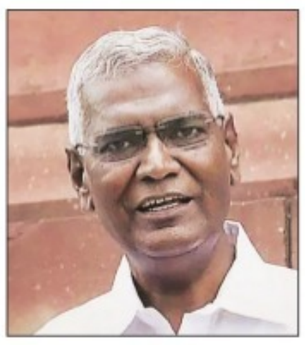
They also claimed that taking advantage of the logjam, the government, despite being in minority, is taking several executive decisions like transfers of officials. The Governor's direction to seek trust vote had been ignored, they said, adding that the Governor had also mentioned in his communication that he had received information of horse-trading.

They wanted the court to "to intervene to uphold the rule of law and constitutional democracy" and pass an order directing the floor test be conducted and completed "on or before 5 pm on 22.07.2019".

Acting on a plea by 15 rebel legislators, the SC had on July 17 asked Assembly Speaker not to compel them to attend the proceedings of the ongoing session. Kumaraswamy and Congress state president Dinesh Gundu Rao have moved the court against the order.

'Party will have to be active at grassroots'

ON A day he took over as CPI general secretary, **D RAJA** speaks to **MANOJ C G** on the road ahead for the party and why the Left continues to be relevant.



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
WITH D RAJA
GENERAL SECRETARY, COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

You are taking over as the general secretary of the CPI at a difficult time for the party in particular and the Left movement in general. How big is the challenge?

The recent elections were a setback to the entire Left and the CPI also. And on the other side, a right-wing political party has come to power with more strength.

Now they will try to implement their agenda of redefining nation and nationhood. And they will try to pursue their agenda of Hindutva.

The economic policies, despite their rhetoric, are all anti-people and retrograde measures.

So on one side, we will have to fight for the democracy, defence of Constitution and on the other, we will have to fight for the rights of the people.

The Left has always raised the issue of growing economic inequality. You are saying that it has only deepened, that there are job losses and joblessness. Ideally, it is a fertile situation for the Communist movement, but the Left is losing its space.

Exactly. That is why we do not buy the arguments of some intellectuals who think the relevance of Left has gone, who question the future of the Left. Left is the hope for the nation and the people.

But electorally you are at your lowest point?

Despite the electoral victory, the BJP cannot claim it has won the political and social battle. Otherwise, why would they allow the kind of mob lynching, attack on Dalits and minorities... It is the politics of intimidation.

But isn't it time for the Left to rethink or review if not your core ideology, then the way you are implementing it. There are few takers if you look at it from an electoral point of view.

The Left should address the Indian social reality. Marxism is science. How do you apply the science, how do you apply the ideology to the concrete situation in India? Indian society is a complex society. Communists should understand the superstructure, base relationship, Communists should address the social issues, the caste issues, the social divisions and economic inequalities. Indian revolution cannot be won by fighting only on economic demands.

You are the first Dalit to become the CPI general secretary. Why did it take so long for a Communist party to appoint a Dalit at its helm?

It also reflects the Indian social reality. And the Communist party is not in an abstract situation... it shows that the party is changing.

But why did it take so long?

It is the Indian system. That is what people should understand... How Ambedkar had to fight, Gandhi had to fight against untouchability... I recently said in Parliament that caste is anti-national. I told BJP that if you want to build new India, then declare new India will not have caste and manual scavenging.

What is your immediate priority?

We should instill confidence in the minds of the people and lead them in action, in movements and struggle. People will have to stand up and fight, resist. They cannot lie low and succumb to whatever the government dictates.

But the traditional form of agitations which Left used to lead... don't you think it has become outdated? The dharnas, bandhas, marches at Jantar Mantar. Do you think the Left has to change?

That will be there. Other forms will also evolve. It is a reaction to what this government does that will decide the forms of agitations...

In the last 5-10 years, we have seen new leaders emerging. From Arvind Kejriwal to Jignesh Mewani and Chandrasekhar Azad...non-conventional leaders are emerging. They are raising issues which the Left raised and are perhaps reflecting the mood of the people in a better way.

It is not non-conventional. Even if political parties do not provide organised leadership, people are not going to keep quiet. There are spontaneous revolts and struggles... The Communists will have to assess because spontaneity will always be there.

These are issues which the Left used to raise. But you did not fill in at the right moment?

That is where we think the party will have to be active at the grassroots. The party should be with people. The life of the party is living with the masses.

So you need to change?

Yes. There is no way out but to go to the people, reconnect with and reach out to people.

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

PDP founding member joins National Conference

Srinagar: One of the founding members of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Mohammad Khalil Band, who resigned from the party earlier this week, joined the National Conference (NC) on Sunday.

Band, who represented the Pulwama Assembly segment for three terms — 2002, 2008 and 2014 — joined the NC in the presence of party president Farooq Abdullah. Band was a senior leader in the PDP and its district president, before he resigned.

In his resignation, which he sent to former Chief Minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, Band said the party's "compromise on its basic principles" was the reason for him quitting.

He added that during her term as CM, Band had felt suffocated. He further wrote that after the demise of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed — two-time Chief Minister — veteran leaders of the party had been sidelined and were kept away from the decision making process. **ENS**

N.E. W.S.

NORTH

32 killed in lightning strikes in Uttar Pradesh

Lucknow: As many as 32 people were killed and 13 others were injured in lightning strikes in several parts of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, said officials. The victims include seven each in Kanpur and Fatehpur, five in Jhansi, four in Jalaun, three in Hamirpur, two in Ghazipur and one each in Jaunpur, Pratapgarh, Kanpur Dehat and Chitrakoot, a statement said. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed sorrow over the deaths and has issued orders to the respective district magistrates to provide a compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the families of each of the victims. **PTI**

People at the Vadakkunnathan Temple to mark the beginning of Malayalam month of Karkkidakam, in Thrissur, Kerala on Sunday. *PTI*

EAST

4 beaten to death on suspicion of practising witchcraft

Gumla: Four elderly people, including two women, were lynched in Jharkhand's Gumla district on the suspicion of practising witchcraft, police saidon Sunday.

The incident took place at Nagar Siskari village in the district on Saturday night.

SP Anjani Kumar Jha said a group of 10 masked men dragged the victims out of their houses and beat them to death with sticks. "It appears to be a witchcraft-related incident. A probe is on," he said. Jha identified the victims as Suna Oraon (65), Champa Oraon (79), Fagni Oraine (60) and Piro Oraine (74). Police have launched a search to nab the accused, he said. **PTI**

WEST

32-yr-old man season's first dengue casualty in Mumbai

Mumbai: A 32-year-old man from Mulund became the first person to die of dengue in Mumbai and its suburbs this season. Harsh Karia died at Fortis Hospital on Saturday morning after battling the infection for more than a week. His mother and sister are also suffering from dengue.

"He had fever last Monday. The doctor prescribed him medicine for viral fever and he felt better and even went to work. The fever relapsed, that is when dengue was diagnosed," said Kaushil Karia, a relative.

Besides Karia and his family members, several others in the Marathon building at Mulund (West) where Karia lived have been diagnosed with dengue. **ENS**

SOUTH

4 dead, 3 missing as heavy rain lashes Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: Four persons have died and three, including two fishermen from Tamil Nadu, are missing as rains continued to lash Kerala. A red alert has been sounded in Kasaragod, Idukki, Kozhikode and Kannur districts till July 23.

The body of Sahayaraju (55), one of the missing fishermen from Tamil Nadu, was found in Kollam district. Two other fishermen had managed to swim to safety, the coastal police said. "The search is on for the remaining two missing fishermen. A Coast Guard ship and two boats of Marine Enforcement are searching for them," a coastal police official said. **PTI**

In simmering Sonbhadra, Adityanath promises justice, safety to victims' kin

ASAD REHMAN & AVANEESH MISHRA
SONBHADRA, LUCKNOW, JULY 21

FOUR DAYS after 10 people were shot dead in a clash over a piece of land at a Sonbhadra village, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday reached Umbha village and assured the families of the victims that all those involved in the killing will be punished and "justice will be done".

The Chief Minister met each deceased's family and promised them adequate security. He also announced that the compensation to the family of each deceased will be increased from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 18.5 lakh, and those injured in the clash will received Rs 2.5 lakh.

"People involved in the killing, irrespective of whether they are officials, will be punished," Adityanath told the victims' families, who had gathered at the village primary school to meet him.

Later, at a press meet at Sonbhadra Collectorate, the Chief Minister once again blamed the Congress for the land row, saying the dispute arose in 1955 when the "Gram Samaj infertile land was transferred to public trust of a Congress MLC".

"Later in 1989, again during the Congress government, the land was transferred to family members of those in the trust. The Congress which is shedding crocodile tears should ask for forgiveness from these poor tribal families. Due to their sins, innocent tribals became victims of the golikaand (firing)," Adityanath said, a day after Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi met the families of the victims in Mirzapur after she was stopped from visiting the village.

The Chief Minister also alleged that the main accused in the case, village pradhan Yagya Dutt, is a Samajwadi Party worker — SP has rejected the allegation.

"The main accused Yagya Dutt is a Samajwadi Party worker and has active responsibilities in the party. The way these people have misused power, we have seen that between 2012 and 2017. When he didn't succeed in his intention, he carried out this incident... He is in the SP, and his brother is in BSP," the Chief Minister said.

"In this incident, whoever is responsible, we have registered cases against them under several sections. The government is going to take serious action. There is a huge political conspiracy at the root of this incident," he said.

Stating that land mafia in the area will be booked under the National Security Act, the Chief Minister said a three-member committee, headed by Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue), has been formed to investigate "all such wrongdoings between 1955 and 1989" and to submit its report within 10 days.

The Chief Minister announced that a police outpost, a fire station and an anganwadi centre will be opened at Umbha village. He also said a separate committee is being formed to focus on the overall development of the Sonbhadra district.

Responding to the Chief Minister's visit, Priyanka tweeted on Sunday, "I welcome UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to Sonbhadra. Standing with the affected people is the duty of the government. Acknowledging one's duty is good."

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath at Umbha village in Sonbhadra on Sunday. *Vishal Srivastav*

Police to book accused under NSA

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JULY 21

POLICE HAVE decided to invoke provisions of the National Security Act (NSA) against all the accused in the Sonbhadra firing case which claimed the lives of 10 people and left several others injured.

Police have seized 14 tractors and five licensed weapons allegedly used in the clash over a land dispute at Umbha village.

The weapons belong to the prime accused, village head Yagya Dutt, and his family members. The pradhan, his brothers Dev Dutt, Dharmendra Dutt and Nidhi Dutt and nephews Ganesh and Vimlesh have been arrested, said a police officer.

Police said they have also recovered 10 empty cartridges and around 45 bamboo sticks from the spot of the incident. The seized weapons and the empty cartridges are being sent for ballistic examination, police said.

"We are collecting details about owners of the seized tractors and how the accused got them. The five weapons seized were used in the crime," SP, Sonbhadra, Salmantaj Jafertaj Patil said.

Police have so far arrested 29 people in connection with the incident and are looking for 17 others who are absconding.

"We have decided to invoke National Security Act against all accused," added Additional DG, Varanasi zone, Braj Bhushan.

For the probe, police have decided to seek the help of district revenue officials as the clash was triggered by a land dispute.

Meanwhile, Umbha resident Ram Raj, who has been pursuing the case against the pradhan and his family, has alleged that an unidentified person threatened him. "On Friday evening, an unidentified youth on a bike arrived at my residence. He told two of my relatives, who were standing outside, that I will be taught a lesson after the matter dies down. My relatives told me about this when I returned home. I immediately informed police officers," he said.

SP Patil, however, said Ram Raj has not made any such complaint.

Meanwhile, a team of Forest Department has started studying its records after media reports that the disputed land was earlier a forest area. Divisional Forest Officer, Kaimur Range, Ashutosh Jaiswal said, "Our team will visit the Sonbhadra revenue office on Tuesday to study the records. We looked into the records with us but did not find details of the land."

54-year-old killed in fire in Mumbai building

ABHA GORADIA
MUMBAI, JULY 21

A 54-YEAR-OLD resident was killed in a fire at a four-storey building in Mumbai's Colaba on Sunday. A total of 15 people were rescued from the building by fire fighters.

Around 12.15 pm, the fire broke out on the third floor of Churchill Chamber on Merryweather Road, behind Taj Hotel. The building is a residential-cum-commercial structure. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Four fire engines, four jumbo tankers and an ambulance reached the spot by 12.25 pm. The fire was brought under control in about three hours.

Firefighters said that nearly 15 people were trapped in the building. "Out of them, five were rescued from the loft of the third floor and administered first aid. Five persons were rescued with ladders while the rest were brought down the stairs," said Chief Fire Officer P S Rahangdale. "According to the information with us, Shyam Aiyar went inside his third-floor flat to extinguish the fire but was trapped. He was found with critical burns," he added.

Aiyar, a financial consultant, was rushed to hospital where he was declared dead. "While his relatives are in the US, his son is in the UK. They are expected to arrive tomorrow," said his friend. "Aiyar's death was caused by shock due to burns. A detailed report is expected by Monday," said GT hospital superintendent Anant Shingare.

Yusuf Punawala (43), a first floor resident, was injured in the fire and has been hospitalised.

Men at centre of TikTok video row are a social media rage

SRINATH RAO, SADAF MODAK & SANYA RUNWAL
MUMBAI, JULY 21

ON JUNE 5, five young men in carefully coiffed hairdos and designer jackets took the stage at a World Environment Day event held at Carter Road in Mumbai. Despite the presence of established stars such as Jackie Shroff and Swanand Kirkire, the loudest cheers from the hordes of preteens and teenagers were reserved for 'Team 07', the moniker that the band of five goes by.

At least three among the five — all in their early twenties and social media sensations, each with millions of followers online — are now at the centre of the TikTok controversy that erupted following the murderous attack on Tabrez Ansari by a mob in Jharkhand last month.

Team 07 had uploaded a video on the popular video-sharing app TikTok, allegedly warning of the consequences of Ansari's lynching.

In a complaint to the Mumbai Police on July 8, Shiv Sena activist Ramesh Solanki alleged that the men had attempted to incite hatred among religious communities: "Their videos are viewed by millions of users every day. The reach of their videos... cannot be passed off lightly."

Each of them has millions of followers online

The leader of Team 07, Faisal Shaikh a.k.a. "Mr Faisu", has 25 million TikTok and 6.2 million Instagram followers. His colleagues, Adnaan Shaikh, Hasnain Khan, Faiz Baloch, and Shadan Farooqui have 10.6 million and 3.3 million, over 11 million and 4 million, 9.4 million and 2.8 million, and 6.7 million and 2.2 million TikTok and Instagram followers respectively.

The FIR registered earlier this month named the TikTok handles of Hasnain (21), Shadan (23), and Mudassir (23), residents of Dharavi and Bandra (East). Last week, a Mumbai local court rejected their plea for anticipatory bail.

After the FIR was registered, TikTok took down the offending videos and suspended the accounts of the three members.

In their plea to the court, the three youths stated their occupations as "entertainers". They said that despite being "too young" and not hailing from families with a background in films, they had achieved millions of followers on social media through "sheer hard efforts". They also claimed they had more followers on social media than many Bollywood celebrities, and that they were often invited for film promotions.

Their lawyer Ali Kaashif Khan told *The Indian Express* that they have now moved the Bombay High Court.

Online advertises have commissioned Team 07 to promote a range of products from chips to kurtas. The group has also appeared at shows hosted by fashion houses. They recently promoted Salman Khan's Bharat through a video online, and uploaded a video on TikTok with the popular musician Badshah.

Members of the group met while studying at Bandra's Rizvi College, and got together a year and a half ago to upload videos on YouTube and musical.ly , the video-sharing app that was rebranded as TikTok in 2018.

Since the FIR, the three Team 07 members have issued an apology stating they did not intend to hurt anyone, and were taking down the video.

Facing ire, TikTok parent firm to set up India data unit

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

CHINESE-OWNED ByteDance, which owns social media apps TikTok and Helo, on Sunday announced plans to establish a data centre in India.

A committee led by Justice B N Srikrishna released a draft Data Protection Bill nearly a year ago that mandates some types of data of Indian citizens to be stored in India.

Against that backdrop, the government has been concerned about TikTok's rapid growth. On Wednesday, the Electronics and Information Technology ministry sent the platform 24 questions. Along with questions regarding "anti-national activities" on the platform, the government asked the company about the type of data it collects and shares with third parties. The deadline for a response is July 22.

"As a global technology company committed to creating truly local products, we're keen to also be at the forefront of change. India is one of our strongest markets...," said ByteDance's Sunday statement. It added that so far, they store data of Indian users at third-party data centres in the United States and Singapore.

Taslima Nasreen's residence permit extended for 1 year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

INDIA HAS extended the residence permit of Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen for one year. The development comes days after the writer took to Twitter to express anguish at being given only three-month extension recently.

A citizen of Sweden, Nasreen has been getting residence permit on a continuous basis since 2004. Her permit is now valid till July 2020, a ministry official said. The 56-year-old writer was last week given a three-month residence permit following which she requested Home Minister Amit Shah to extend it for one year.

"Hon'ble @amitshah ji, I sincerely thank u 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 wd get an extension for 50yrs. India is my only home. I'm sure u'll come to my rescue," she tweeted on July 17.

Following the extension of the residence permit for one year, Nasreen 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.

Nasreen had to leave Bangladesh in 1994 in the wake of death threat by fundamentalist outfits for her alleged anti-Islamic views. Since then she has been living in exile.

SHAH TO MEET BANGLA COUNTERPART

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah will meet visiting Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan on August 7. This will be Shah's first meeting with a counterpart from a neighbouring country. The ministers are likely to discuss issues related to illegal immigration and anti-terror cooperation, MHA officials said on Sunday. Sources said issues related to cattle smuggling and attack on BSF personnel by smugglers may also be discussed. **ENS**

'Even today when soldiers die in Kashmir, I feel same anger and pain'

DIVYA GOYAL
PALAMPUR (KANGRA), JULY 21

5 July 1999: *Dear Kushu, Received your affectionate letter yesterday only. I am sitting at a very high altitude and ready for my task... The situation here is improving but don't know how much time it will take, but our Army is doing a fantastic job here. Keep doing your bit faithfully and sincerely. God is looking at everyone and he will definitely reward one day... Yours. Luv...*

Twenty years have passed and these last words from his identical twin brother still bring a sense of pain as well as relief to Vishal Batra, 44, alias Kush.

"I received his July 2 letter the next day. He had asked to me to reply to his earlier letters and also if they were reaching me. I wrote back immediately and posted my reply on July 4. I am so thankful to God that he received, read and even replied. Had he not received my letter, there would have been a heaviness in my heart for life. He would have died thinking I did not reply to his letters. I would have never forgiven myself," says Vishal.

Vikram's (alias Luv's) last letter, dated July 5, reached Vishal only on July 27, twenty days after he was killed in the war. "It has been 20 years, but my own face doesn't let me forget him. I swell with pride when people say I look like him," says Vishal.

Decorated with Param Vir Chakra posthumously, Captain Vikram Batra of the 13 JAK Rifles first captured Point 5140 in Drass sector at an altitude of 16,962 feet above sea level with his company on June 20, 1999. In a daredevil assault, he pounced on the enemy and killed four of them in a hand-to-hand fight. It is after this that he famously said, '*Ye dil maange more*...' Then on July 7, in another operation to capture Point 4875, he killed five enemy soldiers in a hand-to-hand fight. Despite sustaining grave injuries, he crawled towards the enemy, hurled grenades to clear the position and achieved a near-impossible military task in the face of heavy enemy fire. While rescuing one of his injured colleagues, he bravely took enemy fire and attained martyrdom at the age of 24.

The Indian Army successfully captured Point 4875 which was named 'Batra Top' in his honour.

It has been 20 years, but his father Girdhari Lal Batra's (75) tears haven't dried. His mother keeps Vikram's memories alive, dusting hundreds of his photographs and other belongings.

At 'Luv-Kush Niwas', their residence at Palampur in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, Girdhari Lal remembers the day he received Param Vir Chakra on behalf of his son. "When we were returning to the hotel, I broke down. I told Vishal that this day would have been something else if Vikram had received this honour himself."

Captain Vikram Batra's father Girdhari Lal Batra. *Gurmeet Singh*

"Our son has given us reasons to be proud even in his death. For 20 years, all the respect we have received from the society is because of him. But this pain will never go. He was our Kohinoor..."

Girdhari Lal also remembers Vikram as his "best buddy" who never hid anything from him. "In 1995, he took admission in MA English at Panjab University in Chandigarh. The purpose was to get a hostel room as he was preparing for the Combined Defence Services exam. There he met the love of his life ...he called me to say he was in love."

20 YEARS AFTER
KARGIL
AN EXPRESS SERIES - V

The wheels of time haven't moved for his fiancée. Requesting privacy for her, Girdhari Lal adds, "She is in touch with us and has not married. She says Vikram's memories are enough for her...she is like our daughter. She still breaks down when she talks about him."

The two were to get married on Vikram's return from Kargil.

Vishal, who recently visited Point 4875 with the Army's help to pay tributes to his brother, called his parents from there. "They were very happy, but I said I wish this call had been made by Vikram that day (July 7, 1999)," he says.

Vishal recounts his last meeting with Vikram on March 9, 1999 when the latter returned from commando training. "He showed me his bruised back. Our favourite movie was *Prahaar* and I asked him if the training was akin to what was shown in the film. He said it was not even a tenth of the actual training," says Vishal.

Vikram was also selected for Merchant Navy but decided not to join a day before reporting. His mother Kamal Kanta Batra (73) recalls, "He was selected for Merchant Navy. Everything from uniforms to packing was ready. A day before joining, he asked me, '*Mumma, aapko paison ki zarurat hai?* (Mother, do you need money?). I said no Vikram, both your father and I are earning. Then he said that he doesn't want to join Merchant Navy. He said, 'I will earn money in Merchant Navy but I don't want money, I want to do something for the country. I want to join Army'."

The Batras say they have just one wish.

"The government should not let memories of Kargil heroes die. They should be kept alive forever and younger generations should be told about them. Even today when soldiers die in Kashmir, I feel the same anger and pain that I felt when I lost Vikram. We must give a befitting reply to Pakistan so that they do not dare to do any nuisance again. This anger against Pakistan is not going to die ever," says his father.

'Luv-Kush Niwas' is abound with Vikram's memories. "We got all his photos framed. It is now a habit to look at his smiling face all around us...," says Girdhari Lal.

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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to **explained@indianexpress.com**

TELLING NUMBERS

Sexual harassment at work: a few states see bulk of cases

CASES OF sexual harassment at the workplace have gone up year by year since the the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 came into effect. Under the category "insult to the modesty of women at office premises", 57, 119, and 142 cases were registered in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani said last week in reply to a question in Lok Sabha. These figures are from the National Crime Records Bureau, and 2016 is the latest year for which data are available.

State by state, the data showed huge variations. Of the 142 cases in 2016, Bihar alone accounted for more than half, with 73 cases. This was after no cases had been filed in that state in the previous two years. In a number of states, no case has been filed in any of the three years.

In 2015, a large proportion of the 119 cases was registered in just three states — Delhi (36), Telangana (32) and Maharashtra (27), whose respective counts dropped to 9, 8 and 11 in 2016. Delhi and Maharashtra had the highest counts in 2014, with 11 and 10 cases respectively.

STATES WITH 10 OR MORE CASES IN 3 YEARS

State	2014	2015	2016
Bihar	0	0	73
Delhi	11	36	9
Maharashtra	10	27	11
Telangana	5	32	8
Karnataka	3	5	9
Andhra	3	3	7
Kerala	6	0	8
West Bengal	4	6	0

ZERO CASES IN 3 YEARS:
Arunachal, J&K, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, A&N Islands, D&N Haveli, Daman & Diu, Puducherry

Source: NCRB data via Ministry of WCD

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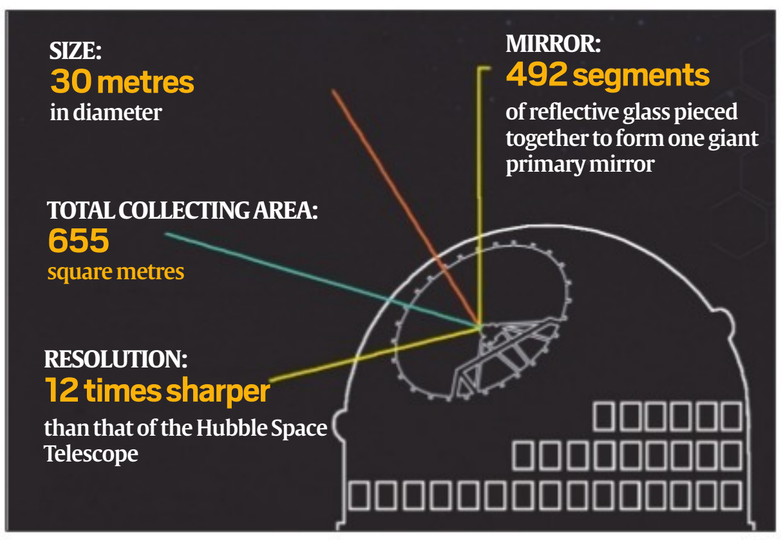

Source: Thirty Meter Telescope International Observatory

THIRTY METRE TELESCOPE

Its construction is facing protests. Why is it special?

LAST WEEK, Hawaii saw protests against plans to start construction of a giant telescope atop Mauna Kea, the US state's highest mountain at 14,000 feet. Already the site of a number of observatories and 13 large telescopes, Mauna Kea is considered sacred by native Hawaiians who believe that such constructions defile the mountain. After a Supreme Court order recently cleared construction of the newest one, called the "Thirty Metre Telescope", locals blocked access to the roads last week, leading to several arrests.

The telescope is being built by an international collaboration of government organisations and educational institutions, at a cost of $1.4 billion. "Thirty Metre" refers to the the 30-metre diameter of the mirror, with 492 segments of glass pieced together, which makes it three times as wide as the world's largest existing visible-light telescope. The larger the mirror, the more light a telescope can collect, which means, in turn, that it can "see" farther, fainter objects. The Associated Press quoted Christophe Dumas, head of operations for the Thirty Metre Telescope, as saying that it would be more than 200 times more sensitive than current telescopes, and would be able to resolve objects 12 times better than the Hubble Space Telescope.

One of its key uses will be the study of exoplanets, many of which have been detected in the last few years, and whether their atmospheres contain water vapour or methane — the signatures of possible life. "For the first time in history we will be capable of detecting extraterrestrial life," Dumas told The AP. The study of black holes is another objective. While these have been observed in detail within the Milky Way, the next galaxy is 100 times farther away; the Thirty Metre Telescope will help bring them closer.

If the Thirty Metre Telescope cannot be built on Mauna Kea, Spain's Canary Islands is a backup site.

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SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

What changes in RTI Act mean

Government has introduced amendments giving itself powers to set salaries and service conditions for Information Commissioners. How does it change the existing Act, and why is the Opposition protesting?

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

ON FRIDAY, the government introduced in Lok Sabha the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which proposes to give the Centre the powers to set the salaries and service conditions of Information Commissioners at central as well as state levels. The government's move triggered protests from the Opposition.

What has changed?

The Bill amends Sections 13 and 16 of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. Section 13 of the original Act sets the term of the central Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners at five years (or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier). The amendment proposes that the appointment will be "for such term as may be prescribed by the Central Government". Again, Section 13 states that salaries, allowances and other terms of service of "the Chief Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner", and those of an Information Commissioner "shall be the same as that of an Election Commissioner". The amendment proposes that the salaries, allowances and other terms of service of the Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners "shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government".

Section 16 of the original Act deals with state-level Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners. It sets the term for state-level CICs and ICs at five years (or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier). The amendment proposes that these appointments should be for "such term as may be prescribed by the Central Government". And while the original Act prescribes salaries, allowances and other terms of service of the state Chief Information Commissioner as "the same as that of an Election Commissioner", and the salaries and other terms of service of the State Information Commissioners as "the same as that of the Chief Secretary to the State Government", the amendment proposes that these "shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government".

Why are Opposition parties protesting?

The original Act had quantified the tenures, and defined the salaries in terms of existing benchmarks. The amendments are being viewed as implying that, in effect, the terms of appointment, salaries and tenures of the Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners can be decided on a case-to-case basis by the government. The Opposition has argued that this will take away the independence of the RTI authorities. Congress Leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the Bill is a "threat to the independence" of the Central Information Commissioner, while Shashi Tharoor called it an "RTI elimination Bill" that removes the organisation's independence. Members of the Trinamool Congress, DMK and AIMIM, too, protested, The government had tried to introduce the amendments last year too, but had to withdraw the Bill because of protests from the Opposition.

Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh in Lok Sabha on Friday, when he introduced the RTI (Amendment) Bill, 2019. *PTI/TV Grab*

THEN AND NOW

TERM

2005 ACT: Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) at central and state levels will serve for five years.

2019 BILL: Central government will notify the term of office.

SALARY

2005 ACT: At central level, salary of CIC and ICs equivalent to salary of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, respectively. At state level, equivalent to salary of Election Commissioners and Chief Secretary, respectively.

2019 BILL: Salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the central government.

DEDUCTIONS

2005 ACT: At the time of appointment, if CIC and ICs (at central and state levels) are receiving pension or any other retirement benefits for previous government service, their salaries will be reduced by an amount equal to that pension. Previous government service includes service under: (i) the central government, (ii) state government, (iii) corporation established under a central or state law, and (iv) company owned or controlled by the central or state government.

2019 BILL: The Bill removes these provisions.

Source: PRS Legislative Research

What are the government's stated grounds for bringing the amendments?

The statement of objects says "the mandate of Election Commission of India and Central and State Information Commissions are different. Hence, their status and service conditions need to be rationalised accordingly". While introducing the Amendment Bill, Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh said, "Probably, the then government of the day, in a hurry to pass the RTI Act, 2005, overlooked a lot of things. The Central Information Commissioner has been given the status of a Supreme Court judge but his judgments can be challenged in the High Courts. How can that exist? Besides, the RTI Act did not give the government rule-making powers. We are merely correcting these through the amendment."

Under what circumstances were these provisions introduced in the 2005 Act?

The Bill leading to the original Act had been discussed by the Parliamentary Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, which included then BJP members Ram Nath Kovind (now the President), Balavant Apte, and Ram Jethmalani. Originally, the salaries of the Chief Information Commissioners were proposed to be equivalent to those of Secretaries to the Government of India, and the salaries of the Information Commissioners were to be equivalent to those of Additional Secretaries or Joint Secretaries to the Union government. The Parliamentary Committee headed by E M S Natchiappan submitted its report in 2005 and said, "The Committee feels that... it will be desirable to confer on the Information Commissioner (the designation was later renamed CIC) and Deputy Information Commissioners (now ICs), status of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioner, respectively. The Committee, accordingly, recommends insertion of a suitable provision in the clause to this effect."

Over the last 14 years, how far has the RTI Act served the purposes for which it was introduced?

The RTI Act is regarded as one of the most successful laws of independent India. It has given ordinary citizens the confidence and the right to ask questions of government authorities. According to estimates, nearly 60 lakh applications are being filed every year. It is used by citizens as well as the media. The law is seen as having acted as a deterrent for government servants against taking arbitrary decisions.

When a juvenile is tried as an adult, when not

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, JULY 21

IN 2016, a 17-year-old was booked for the murder of his three-year-old neighbour in Mumbai. The Mumbai city Juvenile Justice Board as well as a children's court directed that he be tried as an adult under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015. Last week, the Bombay High Court set aside these orders and directed that the accused be tried as a minor, saying the Act is reformative and not retributive.

When is a child tried as an adult?

The Juvenile Justice Act of 2000 was amended in 2015 with a provision allowing for Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) to be tried as adults under certain circumstances. The Act defines a child as someone who is under age 18. For a CCL, age on the date of the offence is the basis for determining whether he or she was a child or an adult.

The amended Act distinguishes children in the age group 16-18 as a category which can be tried as adults if they are alleged to have committed a heinous offence — one that attracts a minimum punishment of seven years. The Act does not, however, make it mandatory for all children in this age group to be tried as adults.

Why was this distinction made?

The amendment was proposed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2014. This was in the backdrop of the gang-rape of a woman inside a bus in Delhi in 2012, leading to her death. One of the offenders was a 17-year-old, which led to the Ministry proposing the amendment (although it could not have retrospectively applied to him). The then Minister, Maneka Gandhi, cited an increase in cases of offenders in that age group; child rights activists objected to the amendment. The J S Verma Committee constituted to recommend amendments also stated that it was not inclined to reduce the age of a juvenile from 18 to 16. The amendment was made in 2015.

In the case that went to the Bombay High Court, what was the basis for the order that the accused (a juvenile at the time of the offence) be tried as a minor?

The Bombay High Court observed: "It [trial as an adult] is not a default choice; a conscious, calibrated one. And for that, all the statutory criteria must be fulfilled."

As per Section 15 of the JJ Act, there are three criteria that the Juvenile Justice Board in the concerned district should consider while conducting a preliminary assessment to determine whether the child should be tried as an adult or under the juvenile justice system, which prescribes a maximum term of three years in a special home. The criteria are whether the child has the mental and physical capacity to commit such an offence; whether the child has the ability to understand its consequences; and the circumstances in which the offence was committed. If the Board finds that the child can be tried as an adult, the case is transferred to a designated children's court, which again decides whether the Board's decision is correct.

How do these criteria relate to this case?

Both the Juvenile Justice Board and the children's court had relied on the probation officer's social investigation report and a government hospital's mental health report. The High Court said that neither report brought out "any exceptional circumstances" to compel the juvenile to face trial as an adult. The probation officer's report, submitted in 2018, had stated the child or his family did not have a criminal record, and called the juvenile "highly manipulative" while also noting that he had "confessed" that the victim was killed "accidentally". It also noted that the juvenile was counselled on focusing on his studies, and that he had taken and passed his exams while lodged in the observation home. The mental health report said the juvenile had "no psychiatric complaints at present", was "normal", and "suffers from no mental incapacity" to commit the offence.

The court said that while the Board had relied on these two reports, it had undertaken no independent assessment. It said that if the Board's criteria of evaluation were followed, "then every case becomes an open-and-shut case". It said that only because the statute permits a child of 16 years and above to stand trial as an adult in case of heinous offence, it did not mean that all those children should be subjected to adult punishment.

One of the court's key observations was that "essentially, the trial in the regular court is offence-oriented; in the juvenile court, it is offender-oriented. In other words, in the children's court, societal safety and the child's future are balanced. For an adult offender, prison is the default opinion; for a juvenile it is the last resort".

The Lion King: why legacy endures, what is different in reimagined version

ANVITA SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

WALT DISNEY STUDIOS has just released a computer-generated imagery (CGI) version of *The Lion King*, re-imagined from its classic animated film. Critics have been mixed in their reviews but the film has found the audience Disney would have expected, with the story of Mufasa and Simba already familiar to viewers since 1994. What is it about the original that makes it so endearing to viewers, and what is different in the new version?

The story: universal appeal

Set in Africa, *The Lion King* is about the cub Simba and his wise father, the King Mufasa, who is killed in a plot by his brother Scar. Blaming himself for his father's death, Simba runs away, returns grown up and defeats his evil uncle Scar in battle — a narrative unmistakably influenced by Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and adapted earlier in Osamu Tezuka's 1960 anime series, *Kimba the White Lion*.

The triumph of good over evil has traditionally worked with all forms of popular culture, and Disney has thrived on it. In fact, some critics of the time felt the plot was too deep for younger viewers. It found a lasting child audience, nevertheless, because it told its story through animals.

If one discounts the Shakespearean influence, *The Lion King* (1994) is based on an original script. This makes it stand apart from most of Disney's best known classics, from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937) and *Bambi* (1942) to *Lady and the Tramp* (1955), all of which were adaptations of fairy tales or contemporary children's stories. As it turned out, *The Lion King* (1994) proved so popular that the film itself inspired further adaptations, including a Broadway musical.

The effort and the reward

The team behind the 1994 version, including directors Roger Allers and Rob Minkoff, reportedly travelled to Kenya's Hell Gate National Park to observe animals in their habitat. Wildlife expert Jim Fowler brought animals into the Disney studio to demonstrate their behaviour, according to press statements of the time. It took Disney animators more than two years to develop the over two-minute stampede scene leading to Mufasa's death, one statement said.

The Lion King became the highest grossing handmade animated feature, with box office collections of over $986 million. Counting all animated features, it is the eighth-highest grosser of all time. Among all films, its collections are the 42nd highest.

Disney remakes itself.

The legacy

The 1994 film was followed by two sequels with a limited release (*The Lion King II: Simba's Pride* and *The Lion King One-and-a-Half*), two television spin-offs (*The Lion Guard: Return of the Roar* and *The Lion King's Timon and Pumbaa*) and three shorts (*Find Out Why*, *Timon and Pumbaa's Wild About Safety* and *It's UnBungalievable*). *Find Out Why* was an educational series that answered science questions for children; *Wild About Safety* taught children about safety in various circumstances; *It's UnBungalievable* was a game show.

The Broadway musical, which released in 1997, had music by Elton John with lyrics by Tim Rice. The musical made some revisions to the story, and is still running in theatres — it is now the third longest-running Broadway musical.

Two video games are based on the film —*The Lion King* released in 1994 itself, followed by *The Lion King: Simba's Mighty Adventure* in 2000.

2019 compared to 1994

The 2019 version is directed by Jon Favreau, who had previously made Disney's *The Jungle Book*. The story of the 1994 original is replicated practically scene for scene, with CGI replacing animation.

While critics have differed in their reviews, most agree that it cannot surpass the original. But it was not meant to do so — this is clearly an effort to rebuild on an idea that has already been successful. As *The New York Times* wrote in its review, "*The Lion King* currently under review isn't meant to replace or outdo [the original] but rather to multiply revenue streams and use a beloved property to show off some new tricks. A lot of people will go, expecting to like what they see, and for the most part they won't be disappointed."

VATICAN

POPE SANCTIONS FORMER US BISHOP

Pope Francis has banned a former US bishop accused of sexual harassment and of financial mismanagement from performing the liturgy, the Vatican News website reported Sunday. Michael Bransfield is also forbidden to live in his former diocese in Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, and instructed to make personal amends for the harm he had caused, said the statement.

TOP OF THE WORLD

JAPAN

Abe's coalition retains majority in Upper House

Tokyo: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling coalition secured a majority in Japan's Upper House of Parliament in elections Sunday, according to vote counts by public television and other media. Exit polls indicated Abe could even close in on the super-majority needed to propose constitutional revisions. NHK public television said Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its junior partner Komeito had won 64 seats in the Upper House after two hours of vote counting. The two-thirds majority needed for constitutional revision could be within reach if the ruling bloc can gain support from members of another conservative party and independents. Up for grabs were 124 seats in the Upper House.

NEW ZEALAND

10,000-plus guns handed over in buy-back scheme

Sydney: New Zealanders have handed over more than 10,000 guns, weapons parts and accessories in the first week of a buy-back scheme prompted by the country's worst peacetime mass shooting, police figures released on Sunday show. A gun reform law passed in April banned most semi-automatic firearms, parts that convert firearms into semi-automatics, magazines over a certain capacity and some shotguns. Owners have until December 20 to hand in their weapons.

SRI LANKA

Negombo church reconsecrated after Easter blasts

Colombo: The St Sebastian's Church in Sri Lanka's western coastal town of Negombo was reconsecrated Sunday, three months after it was badly damaged in the Easter Sunday blasts that rocked the island nation. A monument with the names of 114 people, who died during the church attack, inscribed on it was also unveiled during the reconsecration ceremony. The head of the local Catholic church, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, attended the mass and conducted the service to consecrate the church. A large number of people, including the victims' families, attended the ceremony.

Imran arrives in US, to meet Trump on Monday in hope of rebooting ties

Talks to focus on Afghan peace, terrorism, military aid to Pak

LALIT K JHA
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.

On Saturday afternoon, Khan arrived in Washington aboard a commercial Qatar Airways flight and is staying at the official residence of Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Asad Majeed Khan.

He was welcomed at the airport by his Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. He was received at Dulles International Airport by Acting Chief of Protocol Mary-Kate Fisher, as is standard for an "official working visit" to the White House, a State Department spokesperson said.

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

Khan is also scheduled to address a gathering of Pakistani Americans in Washington DC on and speak at the US Institute of Peace think-tank. **PTI**

Imran Khan and other Pakistani officials after arriving at an airport near Washington DC. *Twitter/@pid_gov*

CUTTING COSTS

- **The Pakistani PM arrived in the US aboard a commercial Qatar Airways flight in a bid to reduce travelling costs as his country struggles to overcome a financial crisis.**
- **In a further cost-cutting measure, he will be staying at the official residence of the Pakistani Ambassador to the US, Asad Majeed Khan.**

Attacks on hospital, checkpoint kill 9 after polls in northwest Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PESHAWAR, JULY 21

AT LEAST nine persons, including six policemen, were killed and around 40 others injured in northwest Pakistan on Sunday in a terror strike on a checkpost and a subsequent suicide blast by a burqa-clad woman at a hospital where the victims of the first attack were shifted.

Both the attacks took place in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a day after the first-ever successful election was held in the newly merged tribal areas of the province.

Four unidentified armed men riding two motor-bikes opened fire on two policemen, who were on duty at the Kotla Syedan checkpost, and killed them, District police chief Saleem Riaz said.

When the bodies of the slain policemen were brought to the district hospital, a burqa-clad suicide bomber, already sitting there, targeted the people who gathered around the ambulance, the official said.

Seven people, including four policemen, were killed in the suicide blast, police said, adding it was the first suicide bombing by a woman in the region.

The site of a bombing at an entrance to a hospital in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sunday. *AP*

STRAIT OF HORMUZ TENSIONS

'You obey, you will be safe': Audio emerges of Iran-UK exchanges before tanker seized

AYA BATRAWY
DUBAI, JULY 21

IN AN audio recording released Sunday, a British naval officer can be heard saying the transit of a British-flagged vessel through the Strait of Hormuz must not be impaired under international law as Iranian naval forces warn the vessel to change course.

The audio, released by maritime security risk firm Dryad Global, shows how the British navy was unable to prevent the ship's seizure by Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces on Friday.

The seizure has prompted condemnation from the UK and its European allies as they continue to call for a de-escalation of tensions in the critical waterway.

In the recording, an Iranian officer can be heard telling the Stena Impero to change course, saying: "You obey, you will be safe."

"Alter your course to 360 degrees immediately, over," the officer says, before saying the ship is wanted for security reasons.

A British naval officer from the *HMS Montrose* frigate patrolling the area around the Strait of Hormuz is heard telling the Stena Impero, which had a crew of 23 on board, that its passage must be allowed.

"Sir, I reiterate that as you are conducting transit passage in a recognised international strait, under international law your passage must not be impaired, intruded, obstructed or hampered," the British officer says.

The British officer then tells an Iranian patrol boat: "Please confirm that you are not intending to violate international law by unlawfully attempting to board the *MV Stena*."

Iranian officials say the seizure of the British oil tanker was a response to Britain's role in impounding an Iranian supertanker two weeks earlier.

Britain's Defence Secretary Tobias Ellwood reiterated calls for de-escalation on Sunday in an interview with Sky News.

In Tehran, some 160 lawmakers on Sunday issued a joint statement praising the interception of the British-flagged vessel by Iran's Revolutionary Guard, which has released video of the seizure showing Iranian commandos in black ski masks and fatigues rappelling from a helicopter onto the vessel. **AP**

EXPLAINED

British response expected today

BRITISH OFFICIALS have said the country's response to Iran's capturing of a UK-flagged ship was expected on Monday. What remains unclear, however, is what Britain will do. With the US already having imposed heavy economic sanctions on Iran, any British sanctions will have minimal impact. Analysts say that while some form of sanctions on the Revolutionary Guards are likely, the UK will also attempt to find a way to de-escalate the situation.

Hindu priest attacked near temple in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK, JULY 21

A HINDU priest was attacked by a 52-year-old man while he was walking down the street in his religious garb near a temple in Floral Park, New York, according to a US media report.

Swami Harish Chander Puri said that while he was walking down the street at around 11 am (local time) on Thursday, near the Shiv Shakti Peeth in Glen Oaks, a man came up from behind and started hitting him repeatedly, PIX 11 news channel reported.

Puri said he was beaten so badly, he had to be rushed to the hospital. He suffered bruises and abrasions all over his body, including his face, during the attack on July 18, the channel reported.

"I'm in a little pain," the priest was quoted as saying by the channel.

Police arrested Sergio Gouveia in connection with the attack. He has been charged with assault, harassment and criminal possession of a weapon. The police are looking into whether the attack should be investigated as a hate crime, the channel said.

Some of the people who regularly attend the temple said they believe the priest was targeted. The attacker screamed things like "this is my neighbourhood", during the incident, they said.

The incident comes days after US President Donald Trump took to twitter to target four democratic congresswomen including Minnesota's Ilhan Omar, a Somali-born US citizen, asking them to "go back" where they came from.

HONG KONG UNREST CONTINUES

Hong Kong's protest movement took a violent turn on Sunday, as police launched teargas at protesters after a massive march continued late into the evening, and subway riders were attacked by masked assailants who apparently were targeting pro-democracy demonstrators. This marked latest confrontation between police and protesters who have taken to the streets for over a month to fight a proposed extradition bill and call for electoral reforms in the Chinese territory. *Reuters*

UK minister says will quit if Boris becomes PM

Finance Minister Philip Hammond cites differences over Johnson's Brexit strategy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, JULY 21

BRITISH FINANCE Minister Philip Hammond said Sunday he would make a point of resigning before Boris Johnson became prime minister, saying he could never agree to his Brexit strategy.

Johnson is widely expected to win the governing, centre-right Conservative Party's leadership contest on Tuesday and be named as prime minister once Theresa May resigns the premiership on Wednesday.

Hammond has become an increasingly fierce critic of Johnson's Brexit strategy — leaving the European Union with or without a deal on October 31 — and would never have expected to remain as chancellor of the Exchequer in a Johnson government.

But the fact that the second-most senior figure in the government is making a point of resigning rather than wait to be moved on in the incoming prime minister's reshuffle is a significant gesture — and an indicator of the opposition Johnson could face in pursuing his Brexit strategy.

"I'm sure I'm not going to be sacked because I'm going to resign before we get to that point," Hammond told BBC television.

"Assuming that Boris Johnson becomes the next prime minister, I understand that his conditions for serving in his government would include accepting a no-deal exit on the 31st of October," he said.

Hammond has emerged as an increasingly fierce critic of the man expected to become the next PM. *Reuters*

Hasina halts sedition case against woman who told Trump about religious persecution in Bangladesh

ANISUR RAHMAN
DHAKA, JULY 21

BANGLADESH PRIME Minister Sheikh Hasina has stopped 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, a senior minister said on Sunday.

Priya Saha, organising secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (HBCUC), attended a meeting at the White House on July 19 and a video of the meeting with Trump subsequently went viral on social media, sparking a controversy back home.

In the video, she was seen identifying herself as a Bangladeshi national and telling the US President that 37 million people of the minority groups disappeared from Bangladesh.

Reacting to Saha's statement, Road Transport Minister and ruling Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader on Saturday said she had made a "false, purposeful and treasonous remarks" and a sedition case will be filed against her.

However, Quader on Sunday said Hasina disapproved of 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. But, he maintained that Saha must explaining what actually she wanted to tell Trump. **PTI**

NATALIE PORTMAN TO PLAY FEMALE 'THOR', SCARLETT JOHANSSON'S 'BLACK WIDOW' CHARACTER TO GET ITS OWN MOVIE

Marvel unveils diverse film lineup including LGBTQ, Asian superheroes

BROOKS BARNES
LOS ANGELES, JULY 21

MARVEL STUDIOS has generated more than $22 billion in global ticket sales since 2008. Its 23 movies during that period have turned minor comic-book characters like Iron Man and Rocket Raccoon into cultural touchstones. Even *Ant-Man* was a hit.

But for months, Marvel played coy with fans, not to mention rival studios and Wall Street, about its future projects.

On Saturday night, the studio finally unveiled what was coming next: a slate of interconnected movies and streaming-service shows that emphasises diversity on both sides of the camera. The lineup includes the first openly LGBTQ superhero in a Marvel film, a superhero who is disabled and a film anchored by an Asian superhero.

The films and TV shows will either push Marvel further into the stratosphere or at long last reveal the studio's limitations. Until now, Kevin Feige, Marvel's fanboy-in-chief, has focused almost entirely on movies. But the Walt Disney Co., which owns Marvel, is now counting on him to also make must-watch shows for its Disney Plus streaming service, which is scheduled to go live on November 12.

And he will have to do it without some of Marvel's most popular characters, including Iron Man and the Hulk, who are taking much-needed rests.

Feige announced Marvel's new projects during an evening presentation at Comic-Con International, an annual fan convention in San Diego that attracts 140,000 people.

Scarlett Johansson will headline *Black Widow*, reprising her role as a spy and superassassin from earlier Marvel films like *Captain America: Civil War*. Fans have long pressed Marvel to give the character her own movie (and sell more related merchandise). *Black Widow*, directed by Cate Shortland, will be released in theaters in May.

Angelina Jolie, Kumail Nanjiani, Salma Hayek, Brian Tyree Henry and Richard Madden will star in *The Eternals*, a film scheduled for November 2020. It will focus on mysterious immortals, one of whom is deaf.

(*From left*) Florence Pugh, O T Fagbenle, Rachel Weisz and Scarlett Johansson in the *Black Widow* portion of the Marvel Studios panel on day three of Comic-Con International on Saturday in San Diego. *AP*

The movie's director, Chloé Zhao, is Chinese and known for little-seen art films like *The Rider*, which collected $2.4 million worldwide last year.

Marvel will also seek to replicate its theatrical success with *Black Panther*, which featured a majority black cast, by adding a standout Asian superhero to its cinematic universe. *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* will star a Chinese Canadian actor, Simu Liu, in the title role. Awkwafina will join him in the film, which is scheduled to be released in theaters in February 2021. *Shang-Chi* is being directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, the Japanese American filmmaker known for the 2013 indie film *Short Term 12*.

Marvel's coming slate also includes *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* (May 2021) and *Thor: Love and Thunder* (November 2021). In a major twist, Natalie Portman will return to the *Thor* series as a female version of the god of thunder. The fourth *Thor* installment will also find Tessa Thompson reprising her role as Valkyrie; Thompson confirmed during the Comic-Con presentation that her character will have a lesbian narrative.

"As new king, she needs to find her queen," Thompson said. "That will be the first order of business."

Feige said he was also working on a new version of the vampire thriller *Blade*, this time starring Mahershala Ali, and a new *Fantastic Four* movie, along with *Captain Marvel 2, Black Panther 2* and *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*. Those films are expected to start arriving in 2022.

The next batch of Marvel movies — Phase 4 in the studio's vernacular, with *Spider-Man: Far From Home* wrapping up the previous phase — will feature storylines that overtly extend to smaller screens, a first for Feige's operation. Until now, Marvel-branded TV shows like *Jessica Jones* and *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* have been made by a lesser Marvel division.

Four of the five shows that Feige is working on for the Disney Plus app, all previously announced, focus on *Avengers* characters. Tom Hiddleston is reprising his villainous role in *Loki* (2021). Elizabeth Olsen will reprise her ethereal Scarlet Witch character in *WandaVision* (2021). Anthony Mackie will return as the Falcon in *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier* (2020). And Jeremy Renner stars in *Hawkeye* (2021). **NYT**

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

THE PHILOSOPHER HAS NEVER KILLED ANY PRIESTS, WHEREAS THE PRIEST HAS KILLED A GREAT MANY PHILOSOPHERS. — DENIS DIDEROT

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

DELHI'S LEADER

Sheila Dikshit had a clear-eyed vision of urban governance and a persuasive politics to implement it

SHEILA DIKSHIT WAS an extraordinary politician and administrator, who during her 15-year-long stint as chief minister, transformed the city-state into a modern metropolis. Marriage into a political family close to the Nehru-Gandhis gave her an opening in politics, enabled her rise to office and helped stave off rivals in the Congress. But her reputation as a politician loved across class, caste, religious, linguistic and political divides and as an administrator admired by both citizens and the bureaucracy was very much her own achievement. Under her leadership, Delhi became a truly urban space with public amenities and services that aspire to higher standards.

Dikshit was the rare Indian politician who had a clear vision of urban governance. She rose above the petty interests that directed Delhi's development concerns and forced the city to think big. She took on entrenched lobbies and interest groups to reform urban administration and overhaul the city's infrastructure, especially its roads, public transport and electricity distribution. Though prodded by a Supreme Court directive, she was convinced that public transport in the national capital needed to run on CNG, a less polluting fuel compared to diesel, and oversaw the difficult transition. However, another well-intentioned attempt to privilege public buses over private transport through the BRT project was defeated by flaws in the plan and vested interests. She made sure that the expansion of the Delhi Metro was not derailed by political or bureaucratic mischief. The odd off-key remark about the burden of migration apart, she recognised that Delhi was a city of migrants, was likely to remain so, and it needed, therefore, to cultivate a cosmopolitan civic culture, which reflected its diversity. This understanding underlined her vision for the city. Incidentally, Dikshit was crafting her urban governance agenda against the instincts of the Congress, which, at that time, was focussed on outreach to the rural and the poor.

Dikshit's non-combative but persuasive style of functioning helped her to get work done with minimum fuss. She skilfully negotiated with the multiple central ministries that had a say in the state administration to extract the best deal for Delhi. Her ability to moderate the edges while dealing with political rivals earned her not just their respect but also their cooperation in governing Delhi. Corruption scandals related to the 2010 Commonwealth Games and a decline in the law and order situation scarred her record. The civic politics she had empowered through the Bhagidari scheme, for instance, turned out to be her nemesis. The Anna Hazare movement and the rise of the Aam Aadmi Party cost her not just office but even her own assembly seat in the 2013 assembly election. Through it all, Dikshit's party was a reluctant admirer of her popularity and her record as an administrator. The Congress ignored her credentials for a national role and confined her to state politics. Delhi's gain was the Centre's — and also the Congress' — loss.

ITS SONBHADRA TEST

Government in UP will be watched for steps taken — and not taken — to bring justice for the victims

THERE ARE MULTIPLE complicities and many questions in one of the bloodiest clashes over land in recent years, in village Umbha, Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. How could a land dispute be allowed to fester, how could anger and mistrust be permitted to thicken, over decades? How did land registered as Gram Sabha land, following the UP Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950, get transferred to individuals? Why was no attempt made to blunt the sharpening divide between the Gonds, the historically marginalised tribal people, tillers of the land, and the Gujjars, the locally dominant backward community that the powerful landowners belonged to? But in Sonbhadra, after July 17, when clashes and firing killed 10 Gonds and injured many others, one question looms more urgent than all others: On the day the tractors rolled in, of the headman and his gang, armed with guns, to the disputed land, why did the police come only after the nearly hour-long gruesome action was over, despite warnings to the local officials of an imminent conflict? In fact, several warning signals had reportedly gone unheeded by the administration after 2017, when the village headman had acquired ownership of the land and begun brazen attempts to oust the Gond tillers.

The Yogi Adityanath government has arrested several people, including the main accused, suspended officials and instituted a probe in the case. But it must know that it is being watched. The fact is that the Sonbhadra killings reinforce an unfortunate impression that has gained ground about the UP government — that it presides over a climate of impunity for atrocities against the poor and the weak, the minorities and the disadvantaged, and where vigilantism rules, be it by the gau rakshak mobs, or by the state itself, through, for instance, the "anti-Romeo squads". That impression, of the rule of law and due process being flouted by the powerful and the privileged, unchecked, is only underlined when the first response of the chief minister to the crime in Sonbhadra is to shift the blame — to governments of the 1950s and 1980s when the ownership of the disputed land changed hands. Or when, in this grim moment, the government seems to expend its energies more on keeping Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra away from the victims' families, than in hastening justice for the victims.

The Yogi Adityanath government needs to visibly pierce the perceived cycle of impunity for crime and atrocity by the powerful in the state. Sonbhadra, site of a terrible and terrifying crime, could mark a beginning.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY

A politician above politics

Shiela Dikshit was a person of many colours and contrasts

AMARINDER SINGH

A WOMAN OF many colours and many contrasts. A rare gem of a politician with a heart, and a woman with the iron will of a powerful administrator. A workaholic who was an excellent homemaker. A leader who did not shy away from making a cup of her special tea for her guests.

I have always found it difficult to define Sheila Dikshit ji. She was, truly, a woman of substance, and the kind of politician you could only dream of, until you met her.

I met her for the first time nearly 40 years ago, with her husband, Vinod, son of veteran Congress leader and former cabinet minister and governor, Uma Shankar Dikshit. Her husband, an IAS officer, was a remarkable man, but I did not find Sheila ji any less, even though she was, as some would say, just an ordinary homemaker then.

And my last encounter with her was at the CWC meeting on May 25, where she was, as were all senior party leaders, extremely concerned about the way things were going in the Congress post the shocking Lok Sabha election results. "We must do something to bring the party back on track Amarinder," I remember her saying, as we walked down the corridor of the AICC. I did not know then that these would be the last words she would speak to me.

Between these two meetings was a long journey of nearly four decades — of shared moments and of close encounters (of the very warm kind). We met often during these years — either when she came to Punjab (incidentally, she hailed from Kapurthala) or when I visited Delhi. Most of these were not accidental meetings. I sought her out to talk to her, as I always found in her the guidance and the support needed to negotiate tough challenges and take difficult decisions. "Milna hai Sheila ji," I would say to her the moment she was on the line. "Haan aa jao," she would be quick to respond.

> Despite being a hardcore politician, the three-time chief minister of Delhi was above politics, as evident in the fond tributes to her from leaders cutting across party lines. Despite being 81, she was an ageless soul, as manifest in the love showered on her by the young and old alike. And despite being ambitious, she was completely selfless, as could be seen in the way she helped each and every one who came to her for help of any kind.

Always forthcoming, always warm, always ready to help, Sheila ji was always there for me — like an elder sister who had taken it upon herself to take care of her younger sibling. That was the bond we shared, and one which I will always cherish.

Since she has passed away, I have heard so many good words about her. That she was full of life, warm, soft-spoken, affable, accessible, and so on. Looking back, I feel each of these descriptions matched her to a T. But I also feel there was much more to her — something which was such an integral part of her personality that it defies description. I am not really a spiritual person, yet I sometimes feel Sheila ji had a deeply spiritual demeanour, which made her universally loved, respected and revered.

Despite being a hardcore politician, the three-time chief minister of Delhi was above politics, as evident in the fond tributes to her from leaders cutting across party lines. Despite being 81, she was an ageless soul, as manifest in the love showered on her by the young and old alike. And despite being ambitious, she was completely selfless, as could be seen in the way she helped each and every one who came to her for help of any kind.

That is why, as I said earlier, I always found Sheila ji a wonderful study in contrasts. A woman who gave generously, without asking for anything in exchange. And a woman who, led by her vision and hard work, came a long way from being the respected "bahu ji" (as all visitors to Uma Shankar Dikshit ji's house would fondly address her) to being the beloved "grandma" of politics.

It was her vision that looked beyond the challenges of today to shape the future of Delhi as befitting the capital of India. It was her love for the people whom she represented that transformed the city from being just an archaic legacy into a vibrant, dynamic and contemporary mosaic of progress and development. And it was her commitment to her party that made the Congress in Delhi a formidable force for many long years.

She was soft, yet so full of life, it was almost difficult to reconcile the two sides of her. But the way she herself had blended these two sides into her personality lent her a charismatic appeal.

I, for one, could never resist that appeal, which drew me to her doorstep every now and then — to seek her out for advice or simply for her scintillating company. She was knowledgeable, and could carry on a serious conversation for hours. At the same time, she was much fun to be with, and someone I could let my guard down with, freely and without worrying about the consequences.

Today, as I look back, I can see her smiling down at me, dressed immaculately, as always, in her graceful saris. I can see her distinguished look, a perfect foil to the twinkle in her eyes. I see her benign and loveable persona standing by me, ready to hold my hand if I so much as seemed to stumble.

That, Sheila ji, is the way I remember you, and will always do. I will miss you, more than I can express in words.

The writer is chief minister of Punjab and leader of the Congress

THE DAUGHTER DISADVANTAGE

Fairer system of parental care would lead to more equality in families

SHRUTI LAKHTAKIA

A FEW WEEKS after I was born, my father travelled to Japan for work for a month. My mother packed her bags and baby, and headed to the cool hills of Darjeeling, to the warmth of her mother's home and to the magic of her love.

I remember nothing of that time, but in the 25 years since, my maternal grandmother, my nani, has always been there for my mother, my younger brother and me. We saw her during summer vacations. We were nourished on her love and her lamb kebabs, the best in the world.

This special relationship between mothers and daughters, two women actively working on maintaining a relationship, pays huge dividends to relevant grandchildren in terms of food, devotion and love. I have lived that experience. As a daughter, and as a granddaughter.

Yet, despite the strength of this bond, when it comes to practical matters, my maternal grandparents rely more on their son.

When my nani slipped and broke her leg last month, she worried endlessly about staying with her daughters. She is currently happily recuperating at her son's house, even though she spends a good hour every day on the phone with my mother, whose calming words and good advice helped her overcome her trauma.

Looking after elderly parents in India is considered a moral, cultural and religious duty, but apparently not for everyone. Married daughters are exempt from this responsibility, as once married, they form "a part of the family" they marry into, and as daughters-in-law, are more responsible for looking after the in-laws than their own parents. Parents, for their part, consider living off the earnings of a married daughter "morally wrong".

ONE OF 800 MILLION

A VOICE, UNDER 35

> Looking after elderly parents in India is considered a moral, cultural and religious duty, but apparently not for everyone. Married daughters are exempt from this responsibility, as once married, they form 'a part of the family' they marry into, and as daughters-in-law, are more responsible for looking after the in-laws than their own parents.

Researchers have documented that even though elderly women have stronger ties with their daughters, they are strongly resistant to staying with them. In particular, studies found that parents most preferred living with a son in their old age, and least preferred living with a daughter. A married daughter was chosen only if the parents had no sons or the sons had moved away.

If all these differential expectations resulted in was that grandchildren get relatively less time with maternal grandparents, I would still be writing this piece. But there is much more than that. Knowing that it is sons who will eventually support them, parents invest less in daughters and in making them independent.

It is no surprise, then, that not enough Indian women are financially independent, that our female labour force participation rate ranks 121 out 131 countries, or that only 27 per cent of adult Indian women are in the labour market, compared to 79 percent of men. The Economic Survey estimates as many as 21 million "unwanted girl children," girls whose parents wanted sons instead. While qualitatively very different from the foeticide and infanticide of the past, this leads to insidious underinvestment in resources and opportunities of girls.

Today, it is easy to say that the current system has persisted in India because for too long sons have usually been the earning members of a household. Daughters, instead, depend on their husbands. No wonder then that parents prefer living with sons. But if parents invested more resources in their sons to begin with, then we are living the outcomes of a society we created ourselves.

Do sons feel more responsible for their family than daughters? Have they stepped towards that role independently? Or is their role in looking after "their family" reinforced from childhood the way it rarely is for girls, who are told that primary responsibility is the family they marry into?

In 2014, the Bombay High Court ruled that married daughters are just as responsible for looking after elderly parents as sons. But if parents themselves hesitate to accept support from daughters, there is little a law can do.

Imagine, instead, an alternative world. One where parents have similar expectations from their sons and from their daughters, and divide their time living with children equally between them. In such a world, parents would invest in their daughters to be financially independent and expect support from them, no longer relying only on sons. Daughters-in-law wouldn't have to forego their relationships with their own mothers. Daughters would have more support from their parents in juggling careers and children. Grandchildren would get the best of all grandparents.

A fairer system of dependence would forge healthier interdependence. I wish that all Indian parents expected more from their daughters.

That, if anything, will help make our families and societies more equal, and ensure that no child in a giant family tree has to miss out on kebabs stuffed with love.

The writer, 26, is a Ph.D. student at the University of Oxford and a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School

JULY 22, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

Chavan fails in bid to form Govt
Congress will back Charan
Spotlight now on Charan
Mizo insurgency an afterthought

CHAVAN OPTS OUT

THE LEADER OF the Opposition, Y B Chavan, has opted out of the contest to form a government. His party has decided to back Charan Singh for prime ministership. 'This means that the three contenders for prime ministership in March 1977 — Morarji Desai, Jagjivan Ram and Charan Singh — have bounced back into the field. Charan Singh may ultimately have to fight against either Desai, who is fighting every inch to retain the leadership of the Janata Party in Parliament, or Jagjivan Ram, who wants to capture the party from Desai. It remains to be seen whom the President will invite next to form a government.

CHARAN'S TURN

WITH Y B Chavan's inability to form a government, the spotlight has now turn ed on Charan Singh. But it is not yet certain whether the President win invite him to form a government. Charan Singh's advisers are. however, looking for parliamentary precedents to support his case. Even if the President does invite him, the numbers do not yet give him a majority in the Lok Sabha. At best, it will be a ram shackle structure. The dispirited Janata members have suddenly come to life; they are trying to reconstruct the party majority. The thinking now is that the party should seize the opportunity to form a government: With Morarji Desai if possible, without him if necessary. So far, Desai has given no indication that he will make way for Charan Singh, despite a request from Jayaprakash Narayan to that end.

HARYANA SHAKE-UP

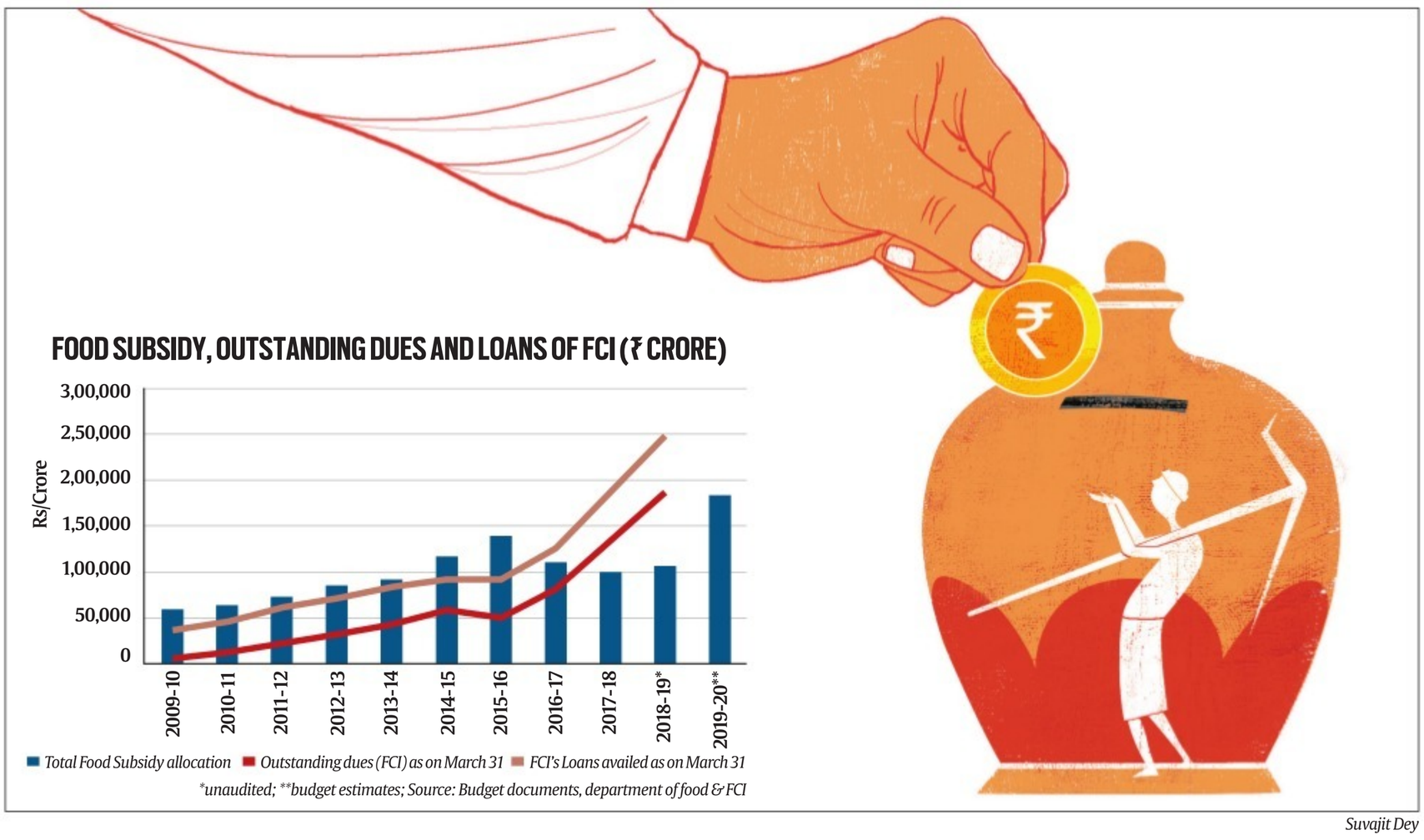
THE FIRST MAJOR shake-up in the Haryana Janata Legislature Party took place today when 28 of its members left the party and formed the Janata (S) group in the Vidhan Sabha under the leadership of Devi Lal. Four legislators had joined the Janata (S) a few days ago, bringing the number of Janata (S) legislators in the Vidhan Sabha to 32. The Janata Legislature Party had 75 members in a house of 90.

THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"China's human rights cannot advance without peace and development. Pence and Pompeo are talking nonsense. The international society is much smarter than what they think."

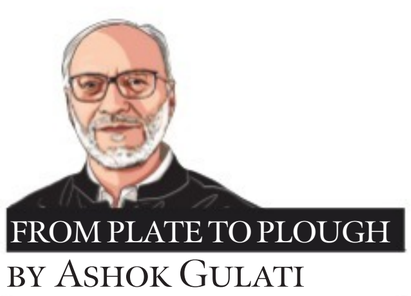
— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA



Suvajit Dey

A win-win deal

Replacing subsidies with direct cash transfers to farmers' accounts will empower them as well as consumers



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH

BY ASHOK GULATI

IN HER BUDGET speech, the Union finance minister (FM) said: "At the centre of everything that we do, we keep *gaon, garib aur kisan* in mind." Here then is a small mantra for her to transform the lives of the kisan and the poor in rural areas. Just streamline the food and fertiliser subsidies by converting them to direct cash transfers to identified beneficiaries. This can be done through the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile). Such a measure would not only empower the poor and farmers but also usher in a policy shift that can save the exchequer least Rs 50,000 crore every year. The government can invest this in agri-R&D and better water management, in measures to ensure the country's food security for the next 25 years and to augment farmers' incomes.

Let us first talk about the food subsidy. The food subsidy allocation in the budget is Rs 1,84,220 crore — let us say Rs 1.84 lakh crore. How many are aware that the pending dues of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) stand at Rs 1.86 lakh crore? Year after year, there is under-provisioning of the food subsidy in the budget and the FCI is being asked to borrow from the banks so that the fiscal deficit can be shown under control. The FCI's loans from the banks have now crossed Rs 2.48 lakh crore (see figure).

Two things stand out. One, the under-provisioning of the food subsidy — including overdues — in the budget. There is more under the carpet (Rs 1.86 lakh crore) than in the budget (Rs 1.84 lakh crore). Two, the real deficit in the budget is much more than what is claimed.

But here I am more concerned about the efficiency, equity and sustainability of the food subsidy regime under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) — a legacy of UPA-2. Does the FM really think that 67 per cent of the population covered under the NFSA cannot afford basic food? There is more than 90 per cent subsidy on rice and wheat under the PDS — the economic cost of rice hovers around Rs 35 per kg and that of wheat is about Rs 25 per kg, while rice is being sold via the PDS at Rs 3 per kg and wheat at Rs 2 per kg.

Interestingly, in rural areas in a majority of states, rice (paddy) is sold at less than the minimum support price (MSP). The landless labourers and small and marginal farmers, most of whom are covered under PDS, produce these staples. The government first buys paddy and wheat from rural areas and, after adding almost 50 per cent cost for procurement, stocking and distribution on top of the MSP price, sells the back most of this grain to people in rural areas. The government can achieve its ends in a much more cost-effective way if it transfers an equivalent amount of food subsidy in the form of cash to the beneficiary's accounts. The beneficiary will have the freedom to buy anything — rice, wheat, coarse cereals, pulses or even milk and eggs, which are more nutritious. Diversified diets will signal the need for diversification in farms. The government can keep some stocks for strategic purposes but gradually reduce procurement and shrink the size and operations of FCI, especially in areas where the water table is depleting fast — the northwest of the country, for example

Further, the government has to think whether the coverage under PDS should be 67 per cent of the population or if it should be brought down to, say, 40 or even 30 per cent. Also, the NFSA allows the government to hike issue prices. Why should the price of rice be kept at Rs 3 per kg and that of wheat at Rs 2 per kg? This leads to massive diversion of PDS supplies to the open market. The Shanta Kumar Panel had estimated the leakages in PDS at 46 per cent.

The Modi government has introduced PoS machines and weeded out some fake ration cards. But leakages continue — rough estimates put it at 30-40 per cent. Fair price shop (FPS) owners are much smarter than the government. Leakages can be reduced if the issue price is linked to say 50 to 75 per cent of the MSP. If the Modi government can do this, not only will it result in massive efficiency and equity but ensure sustainability as well.

> The Modi government has introduced PoS machines and weeded out some fake ration cards. But leakages continue — rough estimates put it at 30-40 per cent. Fair price shop (FPS) owners are much smarter than the government. Leakages can be reduced if the issue price is linked to say 50 to 75 per cent of the MSP. If Modi government can do this, not only will that result in massive efficiency and equity but ensure sustainability as well.

Now, look at the fertiliser subsidy. The FM has allocated Rs 80,000 crore for fertilisers in the budget. The fertiliser industry says that there is massive under-provisioning. The industry also claims that Rs 38,000 crore of its dues are pending with the government. With this under-provisioning, the subsidy dues will cross Rs 50,000 crore. Which industry can feel upbeat if its dues from the government pile up, year after year?

The problem is that the government does not have the will to revise the urea price, which at roughly $80 per tonne, is the lowest in the world. The average cost of production of the industry is around $250 per tonne, import parity hovers around $300 per tonne and keeps fluctuating, depending on global prices. The government has revived some almost dead plants (for example at Gorakhpur and Ramgundam) that produce urea at more than $400 per tonne.

It seems there is no economic rationale either in the pricing of urea for the farmers at $80 per tonne or producing urea, at the margin, at $400 per tonne. This is leading to large leakages and inefficient use, besides polluting the groundwater table — in fact, the environment at large. Interestingly, crops do not absorb more than 25 per cent of the urea being applied in India. So, basically, we are subsidising the pollution of the environment.

Can the Modi government rationalise these subsidies by converting them into direct cash transfers on a per hectare basis? Our back-of-the-envelope calculations show that the government can save about Rs 50,000 crore every year through such measures. The money can be invested in agri-R&D and water management. That would be the biggest reform in agri-food space

The writer is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at ICRIER

When Trump meets Imran

The essence of talks: What General Bajwa can deliver on regional peace, what he wants in return

C RAJA MOHAN

TODAY'S TALKS BETWEEN US President Donald Trump and a Pakistani delegation at the White House could mark an important inflexion point in the evolution of India's north-western frontiers. As Trump seeks to end America's longest war ever in Afghanistan, Pakistan has an opportunity to reset its troubled relationship with the US, rearrange its regional policy and seek reconciliation with Kabul and Delhi.

Although Pakistan's leadership has given verbal support to these goals for some time now, Washington, Kabul and Delhi have all been sceptical about Islamabad's willingness to match words with deeds. In the recent past, Pakistan has certainly teased the US and the South Asian neighbours with some steps — like facilitating talks between Washington and the Taliban and detaining Hafiz Saeed of the LeT.

Briefing the press before the talks, senior US officials said Pakistan will have to "change its policies" towards terrorism and militancy if it wants to rebuild a productive relationship with America. While noting some of the steps that Pakistan has already taken, US officials say these must be made "irreversible and sustainable".

In Delhi, though, there is entrenched cynicism about the prospects for genuine change in Pakistan. There is also a persistent fear that the US will once again be taken in by Pakistan's political dissimulation. That is not surprising, given India's historic experience. Yet, Delhi needs to keep an open mind on the new phase of engagement between the US and Pakistan.

But first to the unusual composition of the Pakistani delegation. When he arrives at the White House, Prime Minister Imran Khan will have the army chief General Qamar Jawed Bajwa and the head of the ISI, Lt General Faiz Hameed in tow. Purists will shake their heads at an Army Chief sitting with the civilian head of government in the negotiations with a major foreign interlocutor. It is not that anyone is in doubt about the army's control of Pakistan national security policies.

Yet it is interesting that PM Khan is sharing the limelight at the White House with the army chief. He probably had no choice in the matter. For Washington, it is better to have the army and ISI chiefs sitting in the room along with the PM and committing themselves to specific deliverables than having to deal with each of them separately. (One wonders if Bajwa and Hameed will agree to tag along with Imran if and when Pakistan's premier gets a chance to sit down with Prime Minister Narendra Modi! That might make the India-Pakistan talks more credible. We are now getting ahead of ourselves.)

The Pakistani delegation has a long list of "asks" from Trump: A say in the political future of Afghanistan, American support in getting India to resume talks, restoring bilateral military assistance, facilitating international economic assistance to overcome the current macro-economic crisis, stop the imposition of additional terror-related sanctions. What does Pakistan offer in return?

On New Year's Day 2018, Trump tweeted that America had "foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies and deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools." Since then, Trump has cut off most of the military assistance and ratcheted up the financial pressure on Pakistan. By the end of 2018, Trump was ready to engage the leadership of Pakistan. In December 2018, Trump wrote a letter to Imran Khan asking Pakistan's help in negotiating a peace settlement in Afghanistan. In January 2019, Trump said he wants to have a "great relationship" with Pakistan, but insisted that Islamabad's support to US enemies is not acceptable. As it confronted the American wrath, Pakistan agreed to nudge the Taliban into talking to the US. But can Bajwa and Khan really deliver on a peace deal in Afghanistan that satisfies Trump and meets his electoral calendar?

Before getting to peace in Afghanistan, Trump has a much smaller but an important ask from Bajwa — "freedom for Shakil Afridi". Shakil Afridi was the doctor who helped locate Osama bin Laden through his door-to-door anti-polio campaign. After the US forces raided and killed bin Laden in May 2011, Pakistan locked up Afridi and is said to be treating him rather badly. Afridi's suffering and the inability to end it rankles Washington.

The second ask from Trump is about the peace talks with the Taliban. Washington wants the Pakistan Army to get the Taliban to accept a permanent ceasefire in Afghanistan. Trump's Special Envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, however, has struggled even to get the Taliban reduce the level of violence. Nothing makes America look politically diminished in Afghanistan than Washington's calls for peace amidst the Taliban's relentless attacks on the innocent civilian population. The US also wants the Taliban to talk with the Afghan government on the transition to new political arrangement. After much effort, the Taliban agreed to let Kabul's representatives participate, but only in a personal capacity, in an intra-Afghan dialogue earlier this month. The Taliban continues to trash Kabul as a "puppet regime" of Washington.

That brings us to the essence of the negotiations at the White House — about what General Bajwa can deliver on regional peace and what he wants in return. Although Bajwa badly needs to improve ties with Washington, it is by no means clear if the Pakistan army has the will and ability to deliver a seemingly insolent Taliban.

Whatever the outcome of the talks between the US and Pakistan, Delhi will have enough room to respond effectively. In the 20th century, India simply fulminated against the US-Pakistan relationship, opposing its very existence. In the 21st, Delhi has been a lot better at coping with the shifting US-Pak dynamic and occasionally turning it into an advantage for India. Delhi must now be more ambitious and actively shape the triangular relationship with the US and Pakistan.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

Infrastructure with inclusion

That's the image Sheila Dikshit built nationally for Delhi

BY SEEMA CHISHTI

SHEILA JI, MADAM CM, Mrs Dikshit, Madam ji, was so many things to so many people. At least a million lives were personally touched by her.

It was on Delhi's bus number 10, from Delhi University to Connaught Place, that Vinod Dikshit proposed to Sheila. Sheila was an educated, suave Punjabi girl from Miranda House, then doing her MA and Vinod, her classmate, the only son of Uma Shankar Dikshit, was studying for the UPSC exams and came from one of the most prominent Congress families of the time. It is almost like a plot from a Basu Chatterjee film.

Their marriage was to lay the foundation of a remarkable political figure, whose journey and active political work was coterminous with a long span of the Congress itself.

Delhi's cosmopolitanism, its sense of being "modern" and "inclusive", owes much to Sheila Dikshit's remarkable 15-year tenure as its chief minister. But she was much more than just the office.

Sheila was known in political circles as Bahu ji, during the 1960s and 1970s, when she was being groomed by her father-in-law. Uma Shankar Dikshit, Congress Treasurer and MP, was one of the key poles in the party. He was close to Jawaharlal Nehru, then Indira Gandhi and also to Rajiv Gandhi. But it was 32-year-old Sheila who became a minister in the Rajiv Gandhi government in the Prime Minister's Office. She won the Kannauj seat in 1984, taking ownership of the Uma Shankar Dikshit legacy in Uttar Pradesh.

Her time as a minister was followed by a period of estrangement with the Congress as Sheila, along with many other stalwarts, left the party when P V Narasimha Rao secured complete control. She and some others returned only when Sonia Gandhi took charge as the Congress president. Her attempts to win a seat from Delhi — East Delhi — resulted in a loss by 45,000 votes. But the Congress president decided to take a gamble on Sheila as the chief minister in 1998, and that is when things were stirred up.

Condemned as an "outsider" by the entrenched Delhi players, no one gave her a hope in hell in the capital, which was long seen as a city of the Jana Sangh. The BJP had held sway over the rest of the Hindi belt for years, but Sheila was able to secure Delhi for the Congress thrice in a row, a dramatically symbolic feat.

It was the popularity of Sheila Dikshit in the capital, Y S Rajasekhara Reddy in Andhra Pradesh, S M Krishna in Karnataka and its success in Maharashtra that allowed the Congress to showcase itself as a party that had strong regional leaders. The Congress could project a sense of the city and people that spoke of both infrastructure and inclusion, allowing it to push both terms — "United" and "Progressive" — in the alliance it led. It is in this nationally-significant signalling that the Sheila Dikshit story became much more than the story of just seven MPs from a half-state.

Delhi, in a decade, became the city of dreams, where more migrants arrived, than in Mumbai. Soon, in the second decade of the 21st century, with urban politics punching well above its numerical weight due to the exponential rise of migration, information and smartphones, what Delhi thought today became what the nation aspired to tomorrow.

It is no surprise that the Anna Hazare-driven India Against Corruption movement picked Delhi to set itself up. The city had become the centre of India. In 2013, with numerous agitations gaining traction in Delhi and beyond, the Dikshit magic wore off. Sheila Dikshit described to Karan Thapar how a week-and-a-half before the election, she crossed Arvind Kejriwal while campaigning in South Delhi and got the sense that people were now bored. Now, "badlo" or change was the mood.

She lost her seat but never a person to be pushed back or refuse a challenge, Dikshit agreed to be the CM "face" of the Congress in UP in 2017, something that fell flat once the Congress suddenly tied up with the Samajwadi Party.

Then in 2019, again, Dikshit was brought in to try and revive the Congress story in Delhi. And while she lost the North-East seat, the Congress managed to be number two in a state where its vote share had seen a dramatic fall after the 2013 loss.

But despite the losses, what Sheila stood for carried the day for her in this small but difficult state. What she represented — something for everybody, and a sense of confidence that defeat could not drown — is something, perhaps, her party should draw from as it faces its deepest crisis in a long time.

Sheila describes with some humour in her memoirs how her mother-in-law lodged her in the store-room with pots and pans when she went visiting, soon after their marriage. She always managed to emerge from the storeroom, sparkling and pleasant, and with a quiet resolve. Rest in Peace, Ma'am.

seema.chishti@expressindia.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GET REAL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'After vindication' (IE, July 19). There has been too much chest thumping after ICJ's verdict on Kulbhushan Jadhav. The Pakistani establishment, which had no qualms in protecting Osama bin Laden for years, will use Jadhav as a bargaining chip in its dealings with India. New Delhi must be pragmatic. It must not lose sight of the fact that Jadhav was in possession of two Indian passports. We need to put our own house in order if we want to avoid such situations in future.

H N Bhagwat, *Chiplun*

DATA MATTERS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Just window dressing' (IE, July 19). In order to divert public attention from its failure to deliver in its first term, the NDA government has presented the budget like an election manifesto. Without accurate data, NDA-2.0 cannot estimate the size of the country's problems.

Tarsem Singh, *Mahilpur*

FIGURES OF DOUBT

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Ex-CEA defends his growth numbers, says important to re-visit methodology' (IE, July 19). Arvind Subramanian has cited macro-economic factors such as steep fall in exports, demonetisation and severe droughts as reasons for weak economic growth. He makes a persuasive argument that the government should revisit its methodology. Revising the methodology will also help remove doubts about growth figures.

Gangadhar Karalay, *Nagpur*

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

FROM STATES REFORMS TRACKER

BIHAR

Govt buildings to absorb pollutants

The Bihar government will allow the cultivation of vegetables and other vegetation on the rooftops of office buildings. The idea behind Project Green Umbrella, which gets underway from July end, is for government buildings to absorb pollutants and improve air quality. The project will be initiated in Patna.

RAJASTHAN

A law to enforce accountability

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

In the latest Budget speech, Rajasthan's chief minister has announced that his government will soon legislate the Rajasthan Social Accountability law. The draft Bill is in the public domain. In many ways, the proposed law builds on the Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act of 2017 that made the social audit of government schemes a part of government practice. Rajasthan's proposed law is an attempt to enforce accountability of officials across social sector delivery schemes. Under it, an aggrieved individual must get a reply on her complaint (about the non-delivery of any social welfare scheme benefit) within 30 days.

WEST BENGAL

Govt expands Leather Complex to boost jobs

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced that the government has given licences to 187 new tanneries to expand the Calcutta Leather Complex at Bantala, which is Asia's largest integrated leather complex. Most of these tanneries are from Uttar Pradesh. The move is expected to generate 5 lakh jobs.

The Vande Bharat Express, India's first semi-high speed train, was flagged off by PM Modi in February. *Express Archive*

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION

Investment & upgrade: twin tracks of Railway roadmap

Centre looks at inviting private players to own, operate trains on select routes

AVISHEK DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE BIG STORY

THE NARENDRA MODI-LED government has started its second term by laying out the blueprint for a substantial boost in India's infrastructure. A key element of that is the upgrade of Indian Railways. However, during the Budget presentation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accepted that the government did not have the fiscal space to make the kind of heavy investments that are required to modernise the Railways. As such, she proposed to use Public-Private Partnerships wherever possible.

In the days since, it is becoming clear that to begin with, the government will be inviting private companies to own and operate trains on select routes. This is one of the big ideas of the government's "100-day plan" for the Railways that has been approved by the Prime Minister's Office. Another significant initiative is to "corporatise" the seven production units that build coaches, engines, and wheels.

A holding company called the Indian Railway Rolling Stock Company (IRRC) will be put in place and it will control and independently manage all these factories and take care of the bottom line. Railway officials expect the proposed holding company, IRRC, to be one of the biggest rolling stock companies in the world, beating bigwigs such as Bombardier, Siemens, GE, etc. The IRRC has been modelled along the lines of China's CRRC Corporation Limited, which was created by amalgamating around 40 big and small manufacturing units in 2015 into one corporate entity. The CRRC, a publicly-traded company, is currently the largest rolling stock company in the world.

The question is: Will the private sector play ball? Neelkanth Mishra of Credit Suisse believes it will. "In infrastructure, the cost of laying the lines, the signalling systems, and electrification, etc. are the heavy investment part. Running the train is not as expensive a proposition. So if the returns are good, private companies would be willing to come forward," he says. Kuljit Singh, Partner-Infrastructure at Ernst & Young, views the government's decision to open up to private players as an "entry point". "Start with a de-risked business model and keep passing on more and more risks [over time]," says Singh.

The powerful trade unions have raised concerns about the "privatisation" of the Railways, and its impact on their members. But Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has clarified that the government is only thinking of "corporatising" some units, and that "there is no question of privatisation".

EXPLAINED E.

Why private investment

MODERNISING RAILWAYS requires an investment of Rs 50 lakh crore between now and 2030. The capital outlays for Railways is just about Rs 1.6 lakh crore per annum, and even completing sanctioned projects would take decades. The government cannot do this all by itself. But what about the Railways' humbling record at attracting private investment? As Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said to *The Indian Express*: "One failure does not mean everybody is going to fail".

'USP of our Clean Air Programme is that it's a city-specific plan'

THE POLICY INTERVIEW

C K MISHRA
Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests

EARLIER THIS year, India launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) with a tentative national level target of 20%-30% reduction of PM2.5 and PM10 concentration in 102 Indian cities by 2024. In an interview to ABANTIKA GHOSH of *The Indian Express*, C K MISHRA, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, unpacks the programme.

Is this an overall target, or does it apply to every individual city?

This really is an overall target... some cities may do much better than this, some may not. We are looking at an overall reduction of pollutants in the ambient air quality by 20-30%. This has been the international norm as well.

How were the cities chosen?

There is a very scientific way in which they have been chosen. We have monitored the last five years' PM2.5 and PM10 levels, and whichever city has consistently shown a level higher than the normal safe level has been chosen in this... And we have chosen the worst 102 with very high levels of pollution.

Who would be in charge of reducing the particle concentrations?

The USP of this programme actually is that we have not given a standard prescription for the entire country. It is a city-specific plan. Each city has its own problems which lead to higher emissions. For example, some cities are suffering from high PM10 levels because of dust, which could come from roads, the construction sector, etc. There are cities like Kanpur where industrial emission is causing a problem. So the programme is that each city will prepare a city-specific plan and address the issue specific and particular to that city.

> "... Per capita generation of waste must reduce, generation of [the] wrong kind of waste must come down... If we can do these things we would have tackled the problem to a great extent."

The implementing agency for waste is the Ministry of Urban Development. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, they have set targets, allocated monies to the state, and [the] technology is being discussed with states. They are monitoring it also.

Who is "we"? Is it the responsibility of the state government?

We are actually building capacities of the state governments. International organisations and multinational agencies are helping state governments. Each city has been attached to a technical institution like an IIT or ITI, we have identified knowledge partners who will interact with the city to identify their problems and solutions thereof. Based on that, the city will prepare a plan for reduction of emission that will come to the CPCB, the Government of India, where we will approve and fund it to the extent that we can from our budget, and find resources for that city outside government sources like multilateral agencies, etc. Many states are also coming forward with their own resources.

Does municipal solid waste contribute to air pollution too?

Yes, it does. It contributes to both water and air pollution. Much of the municipal solid waste is burnt because many small cities across the country do not have a system of disposal. So people burn the waste. It is directly impacting air quality. Much of it is flowing into water bodies and impacting water quality. You are creating landfills, for example. Landfill is an air pollution source. The idea across the country is that recycle and convert as much waste as possible, and the minimum waste should go to landfills.

Is there an international experience in waste management that we can learn from?

Scandinavian countries have done 100% (waste recycling). There are many European countries which have done 100%. You will be surprised to know that some of them are importing waste that is treated as wealth there. It is converted into a resource. We must recognise that per capita generation of waste must reduce, [and that] the generation of [the] wrong kind of waste must come down significantly. If we can do these things we would have tackled the problem to a great extent.

Full interview on www.indianexpress.com

Using parking fine to decongest city streets

THE SOLUTION

LAXMAN SINGH
MUMBAI, JULY 21

ILLEGAL AND unauthorised parking of cars and scooters on roads and streets is endemic across Indian cities. The most common refrain of the violators is that there are no, or at least not enough, legal parking space available. On the face of it, this sounds like a reasonable excuse. After all, Mumbai already has the highest density of vehicles in the state. According to a state transport department study, Mumbai's vehicle density is 510 cars per square kilometre. The shortage of parking is a real issue. However, the fact is, as evidenced in Mumbai, even when there are public parking lots, people barely use them; the occupancy percentage never crosses into double digits.

The city's motorists, therefore, needed either an incentive to use the parking lots or a disincentive to stop parking on the road. On July 7, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) unleashed its solution: a new set of rules regulating parking, and a stiff menu of penalties ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000 for those violating the rules. The BMC even included hefty towing charges in the penalties and announced that if a vehicle impounded for wrongful parking is not claimed within a month, the BMC would auction it. The BMC's new rules essentially stipulate that if a motorist parks his vehicle on the road when there is a public parking lot available within 500 metres, they would attract these fines.

FROM JULY 7 IN MUMBAI, FINES FOR PARKING VIOLATIONS

FOR TWO-WHEELERS

Penalty	₹4,300
Towing charges	₹700
Total fine	₹5,000

■ Delay charges are ₹110 per day, and the maximum amount can go up to ₹8,300

FOR THREE-WHEELERS

Penalty	₹6,900
Towing charges	₹1,100
Total fine	₹8,000

■ Delay charges are Rs 140 per day, and the maximum amount can go up to ₹12,200

FOR LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLES

Penalty	₹7,500
Towing charges	₹2,500
Total fine	₹10,000

■ Delay charges are Rs 170 per day, and the maximum amount can go up to ₹15,100

FOR MEDIUM MOTOR VEHICLES

Penalty	₹7,700
Towing charges	₹3,300
Total fine	₹11,000

■ Delay charges are Rs 220 per day, and the maximum amount can go up to ₹17,600

The initial results are promising. In less than two weeks of its implementation, the occupancy in the 26 parking lots, which dot the area in which the BMC has implemented these rules, has gone up by 24 per cent. In the process, the BMC has earned Rs 31.56 lakh in revenues.

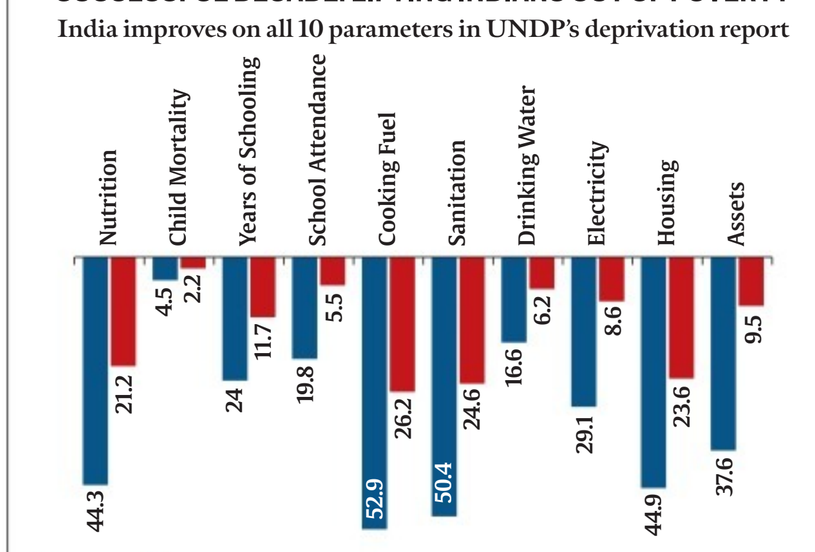
While higher revenues are welcome, the new rules are more about altering behaviour than raising revenues, reducing congestion, and making space for vehicles providing emergency services such as ambulances. A statement from Municipal Commissioner Praveen Pardeshi's office said: "Roads are public spaces and not meant for parking." The BMC hopes that a reduction in traffic congestion will make it easier for buses to ply, further incentivising public transport.

Economist Ashok Datar, who closely maps transport-related issues, especially in Mumbai, hailed the municipality's decision. "In many countries, the cost of parking is more than the cost of the car itself, but in India, when people buy a car, they think they can park anywhere." According to his calculation, in a city like Mumbai where land is expensive, the cost of a parking slot is much higher than the average cost of a car. Datar hopes that BMC's new policy makes buyers check whether they have the space to park their car before they buy it.

IN NUMBERS

SUCCESSFUL DECADE: LIFTING INDIANS OUT OF POVERTY

India improves on all 10 parameters in UNDP's deprivation report



WATER CONSERVATION

From trenches, a Telangana district goes about harvesting rainwater

SREENIVAS JANYALA
PEDDAPALLI, JULY 21

RESIDENTS AND officials of Peddapalli district in Telangana had grown accustomed to facing water shortages. Infrequent and diminishing rainfall, as well as a widespread loss of trees resulted in groundwater levels falling drastically, so much so, that even borewells were rendered useless. This was a bleak picture for a district that was otherwise essentially several hills surrounded by farmland. Farmers such as 40-year old Kondaiah of Nagulapalli village, who own four acres on average, could barely farm on half of their land due to water shortage. The reduced water availability was causing an adverse impact on the everyday life of the villagers.

But an innovative experiment begun in 2016 turned things around in Peddapalli. Officials at the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) studied the topography of the area and found that even when it rained, most of the water simply ran off the hill slopes. Their solution was as effective as it was simple: dig trenches to slow down the water run-off. The officials identified 259 out of the 299 hillocks in the district where trenches could be dug.

They decided to dig two types of trenches on the hills. First were the "staggered" trenches. These trenches were dug in a zigzag fashion, starting from the top of the hill. At the base of the hill, a long unbroken trench — known as continuous contour trench — was dug. When the water reached the contour trench at the base, it was directed towards a farm pond.

The groundwater officer of the district, B Shayam Prasad Naik, said that Peddapalli saw a 32 per cent rainfall deficit in 2017-18, which resulted in groundwater tables falling by up to 12 metres in many places barring the area where the trenches had been dug. Similarly, farmers who had farms close to the hillocks said that many dry bore wells have sprung back to life. Water is now available at depths of 100-200 feet instead of the 500-800 feet earlier. Farmers like Kondaiah have been cultivating previously unused land.

The trenches are 10 metres long, 3 metres deep, and just over a half metre wide; Each house in the village has a soak pit that facilitates water absorption.

There were other positives as well. The soil from trenches was distributed among farmers to layer their farms, and this further improved cultivation. Successful digging of trenches also gave the officials the idea to dig soak pits outside each house in the villages. Almost all households would earlier release water from their kitchens and bathrooms onto roads or into gutters. The digging of trenches and soak pits turned out to be a great way to generate local employment, as the work was funded under the rural employment guarantee scheme. The total cost so far, including wages and material, has been Rs 30.33 crore. Since 2016-17, the digging of soak pits has generated 5,23,380 man-days, that of staggered trenches has created 14,72,719 man-days, and digging of continuous contour trenches has created 1,02,885 man-days of work.

Until June 30 this year, the length of the trenches dug on the 259 hillocks was 613 km; work on another 163 km of trenches was ongoing. The work on trenches is by no means done and, going by the evidence, Peddapalli has better days ahead.

No surprises then that the district and its officials recently received praise from Param Iyer, Secretary, Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, when he tweeted about their "excellent work".

MARKET WATCH

FPIs PULL OUT ₹7.7 CR FROM STOCKS

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) withdrew around Rs 7,712 crore from Indian equities in this month so far, following the 'super-rich' tax announced in the Budget for 2019-20, according to analysts. **PTI**

GOVT PLANS TO RAISE AROUND $10 BN FROM GLOBAL MARKETS IN H2 FY20

Overseas bonds: Major advantages in raising long term funds, says NITI VC

Kumar says government fully aware of the risks, and that there could be exchange rate volatility

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

LONG TERM global retirement and pension funds will be interested in subscribing to sovereign bonds issued by the government in foreign currency in overseas markets, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said. The government is working on this proposal fully aware of the risks associated with such a move and how to manage these.

"FDI, FPI investment in equity is always better than the debt. But if there is a space provided by low external debt to GDP ratio and the cost of capital is so low abroad and the domestic investment has been declining — so where is the harm (in raising funds abroad)," Kumar said in a recent interview with *The Indian Express*.

"Fully aware of the risks, fully aware that there could be exchange rate volatility ... the government is taking a conscious decision that given our current situation, in the light of a very weak investment scenario, and low cost capital being available abroad, where is the harm in raising these bonds," he said.

Many economists, including former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan, have highlighted the risks associated with issuance of such bonds. Rajan has argued that the Budget decision to issue foreign currency debt has no real benefit for India and poses enormous risks.

For nearly three decades, successive governments in India have baulked when it came to raising funds abroad through bond offerings by the sovereign even during periods of crisis. However, in the Union Budget 2019-20, the government announced raising a portion of its borrowings in the overseas markets.

The Centre plans to raise around $10 billion from global markets in the second half of FY20. When foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) buy government bonds in Indian debt markets, they bear the risk of any untoward movement in the Indian rupee.

However, when the government raises funds in foreign currency, it has to the bear the risk of currency movements.

Kumar said the government has taken the decision being cognisant of all the associated risks. Finance Ministry officials have argued that the government will be prudent in raising funds abroad and provision will be made in accounts to account for currency volatility.

"There can be major advantages in raising long term funds because many interested players in these will be long term pension funds, retirement funds. So government can, say, launch 20-year papers and that helps in building the yield curve.

"There are so many advantages at this point of time, this proposal was discussed for a long time in the government. But at this time, given the current situation, this decision has been taken after being cognisant of all the risks," Kumar said.

This proposal, along with the government's asset monetisation plan and the move to give up majority equity shareholding in state-owned companies, are aimed at freeing up resources for private investments, the NITI Aayog Vice Chairman said.

"Asset monetisation requires lot of preparation, doing it in a right manner. The government is working on it, the assets are being identified, the modalities are being worked out. Monetisation doesn't mean outright sale.

"It could be like a TOT (toll-operate-transfer) for the highways, similarly you have given out the airports now. It could be handover of 100 railways stations and ask the private sector beautify them, modernise them, make money on them and also share some of that with the government," he added.

If private sector companies can monetise their assets such as telecom towers and lease them out, the government can also do the same and this can raise a large amount of resources for the infrastructure, Kumar said.

'IN LIGHT OF WEAK INVESTMENT SCENARIO'

- **Rajiv Kumar said that the government is taking a conscious decision, "given our current situation, in the light of a very weak investment scenario, and low cost capital being available abroad"**
- **However, many economists have highlighted the risks associated with issuance of such bonds**

Express File Photo

Regulating medical devices sector a 'priority' in Health Ministry's five-year plan

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

WHILE THE Health Ministry charts out its five-year vision for the Narendra Modi-led government's second term, finally bringing a vast majority of the medical devices sector under regulation is expected to be a "priority", *The Indian Express* has learnt. The Ministry is now planning stakeholder consultations to understand how to implement an expert advisory body's recommendations to make sure medical device companies are accountable for the safety and quality of their products here.

At the same time, some industry bodies feel the plan would be ineffective in the long run in the absence of a separate medical device law, which has been in the works for over a decade.

In May, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tasked all ministers with drawing up five-year vision plans for their ministries after taking office for a second term.

"Smoothing (issues with) medical devices is high on our agenda," said a senior Health Ministry official close to the development on condition of anonymity.

The official told *The Indian Express* there is a sense of "urgency" to address concerns related to this industry, under scrutiny over the last year after major health concerns and adverse reactions were highlighted with some high-risk devices.

"Because medical devices are largely unregulated today, we believe we need to set something like a goal for ourselves early on," the official said.

However, with the Ministry still discussing its five-year vision, a timeline has not been worked out for this, according to the official cited above. The Ministry plans inter-ministerial consultations to implement a "detailed roadmap" for devices outlined by the country's top drug advisory body, the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), earlier this year, the official said.

This includes working out how to notify all medical devices under India's Drugs and Cosmetics Act in a phased manner, which DTAB had recommended in April. While the government currently regulates only 24 notified medical devices under its existing regulations, notifying all medical devices in a phased manner as recommended by DTAB would be India's first significant step towards holistic regulation.

"There is more or less a consensus (on the recommendations), but some minute procedures may have to be ironed out," said another senior Health Ministry official, requesting anonymity.

DTAB's recommendations came almost five months after *The Indian Express* published the 'Implant Files', a series of investigative reports highlighting lapses in regulation on India's medical devices industry and the impact it has had on patients. This includes multinational firm Johnson & Johnson's use of loopholes in US laws to obtain approval for and market hip implants in India, that later had to be globally recalled in 2010.

However, with the government currently using its 1940 drug laws to regulate the devices notified so far, it may not be able to effectively address issues unique to the industry, according to Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD) forum coordinator Rajiv Nath.

"This roadmap would be incomplete if it doesn't address patient safety under a separate medical devices law and revamp CDSCO (India's top drug regulatory body) to include a separate division for medical devices," he said.

According to Nath, current regulations are a "misfit" for medical devices, which have different risk profiles that require different types of regulatory action.

"The Act needs to recognise that penalties for high risk device need to be higher than penalties for low-risk devices," he said. "The idea has to be to discipline companies instead of allowing loopholes for negligent firms to skirt penalties or scaring off investment by treating every case as a criminal offence."

Over 90 per cent of the country's estimated $15 billion medical devices industry is unregulated, according to AiMeD. This includes over 6,000 devices like pacemakers, MRI machines and even tubes that collect blood samples.

While the UPA government had drafted a separate Medical Device Regulation Bill in 2006, it was never notified into an act. The NDA government had also postponed the legislation, instead notifying rules to regulate medical devices under existing regulations. While the Health Ministry had been reworking the bill around 2016, the work has since passed on to government think tank NITI Aayog.

EXPLAINED

Old law may not address patient safety

SETTING A timeline for notifying medical devices for regulation would end years of uncertainty over if and how companies can be made accountable for safety and quality issues with their products, as the sector is currently largely unregulated.

However, regulating medical devices under current drug laws may not effectively ensure patient safety because devices have issues different from medicines that need to be accounted for in legislation.

BRIEFLY

Amid stake sale, AI freezes promotions

New Delhi: Air India (AI) has stopped giving promotions for its employees and recruiting new personnel as the government prepares for the disinvestment of the debt-laden airline, an official said Sunday. The government is expected to soon start the disinvestment process for Air India, which has a debt burden of more than Rs 50,000 crore.

IFCI aims to mobilise up to ₹2,000 crore

New Delhi: India's oldest public sector financial institution IFCI expects to mobilise Rs 1,500-2,000 crore from sale of non-core assets, including its stake in the NSE, during the current fiscal to fund business growth, the company's MD and CEO E S Rao said.

India's inflation in FY20 to be 4.1%: ADB

New Delhi: In a supplement to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2019, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered the inflation forecast for India during the current financial year to 4.1 per cent, on the back of gain in rupee and cut in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) projection. **PTI**

Cost overruns of ₹3.28 lakh cr in 345 infra projects

As many as 345 infrastructure projects have shown cost overruns to the tune of over Rs 3.28 lakh crore, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MoSPI) latest report for April 2019 said

₹18,32,579.17 cr
Total original cost of implementation of the 1453 projects

₹21,61,313.18 cr
Anticipated cost of implementation of these projects

₹3,28,734.01 cr
Overall cost overruns, i.e. 17.94 per cent of original cost

₹8,84,906.88 cr
Expenditure incurred on these projects till April, i.e. 40.94 per cent of anticipated cost

1453
Projects monitored by MoSPI, each worth Rs 150 crore and above

345: Projects that reported cost overruns

388: Projects that reported time escalation

- **121:** Projects delayed by one to 12 months
- **78:** by 13 to 24 months
- **98:** by 25 to 60 months
- **91:** Projects delayed 61 months or more

REASONS FOR REPORTING TIME OVERRUNS

- Delays in land acquisition
- Forest clearance
- Supply of equipment
- Fund constraints
- Geological surprises
- Geo-mining conditions
- Slow progress in civil works
- Shortage of labour
- Inadequate mobilisation by contractor

Tax cuts for electric vehicles, wind turbines to be on agenda at 36th GST Council meet

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

PROPOSALS FOR reduction of tax rates for electric vehicles (EVs), solar power generating systems and wind turbines will be discussed at the 36th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, to be held on July 25.

The meeting will happen through video conferencing on Thursday, the Finance Ministry said Sunday.

In its previous meeting held last month, the Council had referred the issue relating to GST rate cut on EVs, chargers and hiring of EVs to the rate fitment committee, which is an officers level committee.

The recommendations of the officers committee are likely to be placed before the Council on July 25, officials said.

To push domestic manufacturing of EVs, the Centre has proposed to the Council to slash GST rates to 5 per cent from 12 per cent, which even found mention in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget 2019-20 speech. "The government has already moved GST Council to lower the GST rate on electric vehicles from 12 per cent to 5 per cent," Sitharaman had said in her July 5 speech. She had also announced additional income tax deduction of 1.5 lakh on the interest paid on loans taken to purchase EVs.

GST rate for petrol and diesel cars and hybrid vehicles is in the highest slab of 28 per cent with cess levied over and above it.

The Council will also consider tax structure for solar power projects. The Delhi High Court had in May asked the GST Council to take a relook at the taxation structure following industry petition. The government had earlier said that for the purpose of taxing solar power projects, 70 per cent of contract value would be treated as goods, taxable at 5 per cent, and balance 30 per cent as services, taxable at 18 per cent. The solar industry has been pitching for a different ratio for splitting goods and services for levying GST.

The Council may also look at consolidation of tax rate of lotteries. In the previous meeting, after deliberations on various issues on rate of lottery, the Council had recommended that certain issues relating to taxation (rates and destination principle) would require legal opinion of Attorney General. Currently, a state-run lottery attracts 12 per cent GST, while a state-authorised lottery attracts 28 per cent tax rate under the indirect tax regime.

Govt bans use of antibiotic Colistin in animal feed, poultry, aqua farms

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE HEALTH Ministry has ordered a ban on using antibiotic Colistin in food-producing animals, poultry and aqua farms, in a move to curb the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in humans through animals here.

The Ministry, in its notification, has prohibited "with immediate effect" the manufacture, sale and distribution of Colistin and its formulations for this purpose. The Ministry has also directed manufacturers of Colistin to specify "in conspicuous manner" on the labels, package inserts and promotional literature that these products are "not to be used in food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements".

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Colistin is a "reserve" antibiotic, which means it is supposed to be considered a "last-resort" option in treatment and used only in the most severe circumstances, when all other alternatives have failed.

However, this strong antibiotic has been "highly misused" in India's livestock industry to prevent diseases and as promote growth of such animals, said a senior Health Ministry official on condition of anonymity.

"One of the reasons for anti microbial resistance in India is due to unwanted use of Colistin in the poultry industry," the official said, adding that the notification will help prevent this.

The development comes months after the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), India's apex drug advisory body, recommended that the drug's use be banned in animal farming industries.

A 2017 global study on antibiotic use in farm animals projected the consumption of antibiotics through animal sources to nearly double during 2013-2030.

This means India's AMR problem is expected to worsen due to the consumption of antibiotics through animal sources.

The study ranked India the fourth largest consumer of antibiotics in food animals globally after China, the United States and Brazil.

AMR is "jeopardising" global health security and is of particular concern in countries like India, which has a high burden of infectious disease and requires antibiotics to limit morbidity and mortality, according to WHO.

'High export potential' in 31 products, says CII

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

IN THE wake of moderated growth in India's exports this year, the government needs to push "high potential" products like women's apparel, drugs and furniture, says a new study by industry lobby group Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

CII, which represents companies from several industries in India, has identified 31 such items and submitted recommendations to boost exports in these sectors to the Commerce Ministry.

The body has suggested expanding domestic production in these areas and undertaking "targeted promotion" in top importing nations to build exports in these items. This includes suggestions to negotiate on non-tariff barriers with countries importing these products, strengthening industrial clusters to improve production and the development of an export strategy at the state level, based on the comparative advantages of states.

According to the paper 'Indian Exports: The Next Trajectory – Mapping Products and Destinations', India has scope to improve exports in products where it is already performing well, such as jewellery, women's clothing, refined copper and medicines.

India also has potential to increase its capacity to produce several products to have a competitive edge over other countries in exports, it adds. This includes products like furniture, tractor accessories and motor vehicles, cyclic hydrocarbons, flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, men's and boy's suits, jerseys and pullovers and sulphonamide.

AFFECTING SEVERAL INDUSTRIES INCLUDING SILICON VALLEY START-UPS, MANHATTAN REAL ESTATE MARKET

Chinese money in the US dries up as trade war drags on

ALAN RAPPEPORT
WASHINGTON, JULY 21

GROWING DISTRUST between the United States and China has slowed the once steady flow of Chinese cash into America, with Chinese investment plummeting by nearly 90 per cent since President Trump took office.

The falloff, which is being felt broadly across the economy, stems from tougher regulatory scrutiny in the United States and a less hospitable climate toward Chinese investment, as well Beijing's tightened limits on foreign spending. It is affecting a range of industries including Silicon Valley start-ups, the Manhattan real estate market and state governments that spent years wooing Chinese investment, underscoring how the world's two largest economies are beginning to decouple after years of increasing integration.

"The fact that the foreign direct investment has fallen so sharply is symbolic of how badly the economic relationship between the United States and China has deteriorated," said Eswar Prasad, former head of the International Monetary Fund's China division. "The US doesn't trust the Chinese, and China doesn't trust the US"

For years, Chinese investment into the United States had been accelerating, with money pouring into autos, tech, energy and agriculture and fueling new jobs in Michigan, South Carolina, Missouri, Texas and other states. As China's economy boomed, state and local governments along with American companies looked to snap up some of those Chinese funds.

But Trump's economic Cold War has helped reverse that trend.

Chinese foreign direct investment in the United States fell to $5.4 billion in 2018 from a peak of $46.5 billion in 2016, a drop of 88 per cent, according to data from Rhodium Group, an economic research firm.

Preliminary figures through April of this year, which account for investments by mainland Chinese companies, suggested only a modest uptick from last year, with transactions valued at $2.8 billion.

"I certainly hear in conversations with investors a lot of concern about whether the US market is still open," said Rod Hunter, a lawyer at Baker McKenzie who specializes in foreign investment reviews. "You have a potentially chilling effect for Chinese investors."

A confluence of forces appear to be at play. A slowing economy and stricter capital controls in China have made it more difficult for Chinese investors to buy American, according to trade and mergers and acquisitions advisers.

Trump's penchant for imposing punishing tariffs on Chinese goods and an increasingly powerful regulatory group that is heavily scrutinizing foreign investment, particularly involving Chinese investors, have also spooked businesses in both countries.

China, which has retaliated against American goods with its own tariffs, may also be turning off the investment spigot as punishment for Trump's economic crackdown.

Concerns about America's receptiveness to Chinese investment have been aggravated by a flurry of transactions that collapsed under heavy scrutiny from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

The group, which is headed by the Treasury Department, gained expanded powers in 2018 that allow it to block a broader array of transactions, including minority stakes and investments in sensitive technologies like telecommunications and computing. **NYT**

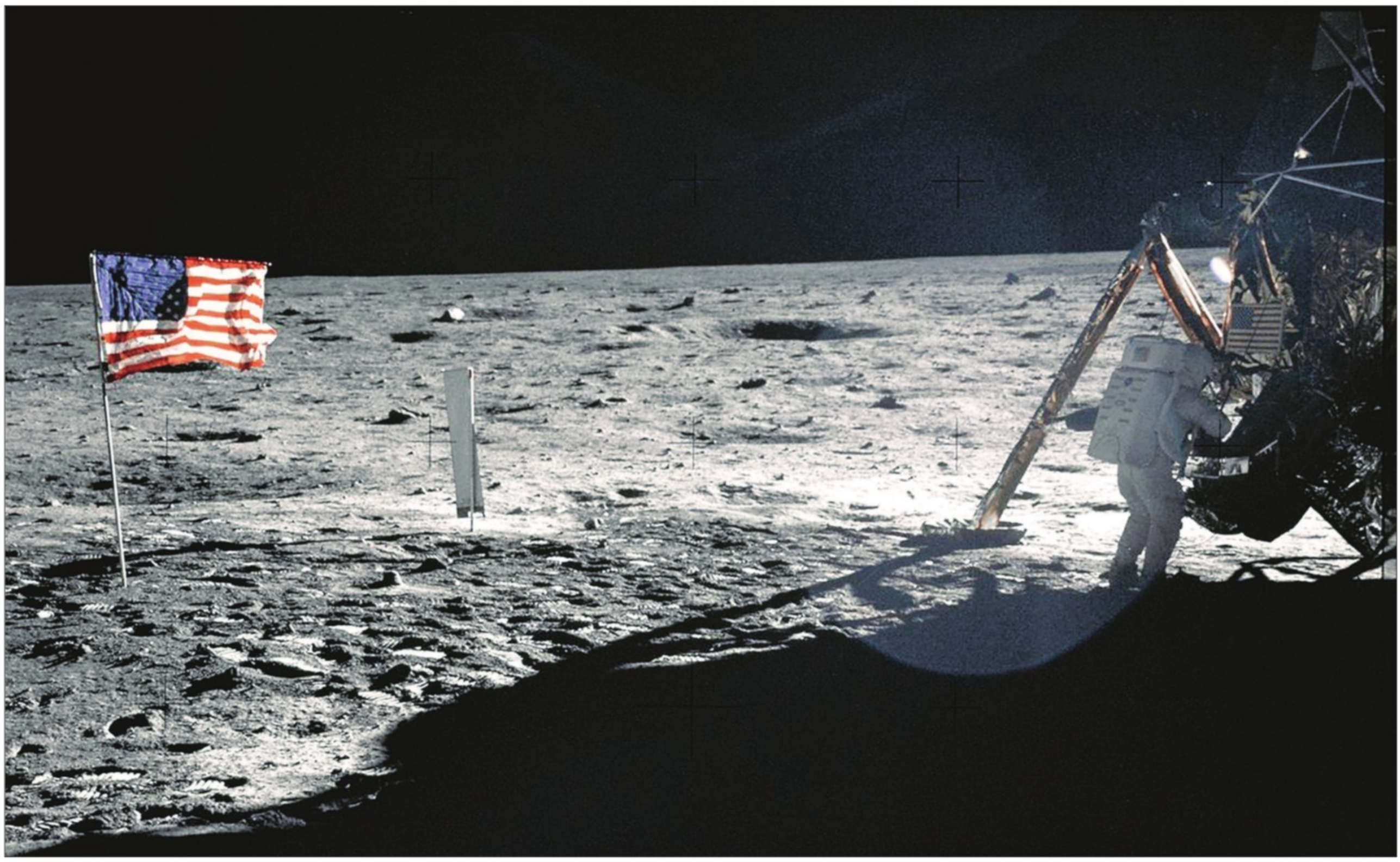
NEARLY 90% FALL IN CHINESE INVESTMENT

- **Growing distrust between the US and China has slowed the once steady flow of Chinese cash into America, with Chinese investment plummeting by nearly 90 per cent since President Donald Trump took office**
- **Other factors, such as a slowing economy and stricter capital controls in China, have made it more difficult for Chinese investors to buy American, according to trade and mergers and acquisitions advisers**

SPACE EXPLORATION

The next 50 years in space

A new age of space exploration is beginning



U S astronaut Neil Armstrong, the Apollo 11 Mission Commander, standing next to the Lunar Module 'Eagle' on the moon on July 20, 1969. *Reuters*

THE MOMENT when, 50 years ago, Neil Armstrong planted his foot on the surface of the Moon inspired awe, pride and wonder around the world. This newspaper argued that "man, from this day on, can go wheresoever in the universe his mind wills and his ingenuity contrives…to the planets, sooner rather than later, man is now certain to go." But no. The Moon landing was an aberration, a goal achieved not as an end in itself but as a means of signalling America's extraordinary capabilities. That point, once made, required no remaking. Only 571 people have been into orbit; and since 1972 no one has ventured much farther into space than Des Moines is from Chicago.

The next 50 years will look very different. Falling costs, new technologies, Chinese and Indian ambitions, and a new generation of entrepreneurs promise a bold era of space development. It will almost certainly involve tourism for the rich and better communications networks for all; in the long run it might involve mineral exploitation and even mass transportation. Space will become ever more like an extension of Earth—an arena for firms and private individuals, not just governments. But for this promise to be fulfilled the world needs to create a system of laws to govern the heavens—both in peacetime and, should it come to that, in war.

The development of space thus far has been focused on facilitating activity down below—mainly satellite communications for broadcasting and navigation. Now two things are changing. First, geopolitics is stoking a new push to send humans beyond the shallows of low-Earth orbit. China plans to land people on the Moon by 2035. President Donald Trump's administration wants Americans to be back there by 2024. Falling costs make this showing off more affordable than before. Apollo cost hundreds of billions of dollars (in today's money). Now tens of billions are the ticket price.

Second, the private sector has come of age. Between 1958 and 2009 almost all of the spending in space was by state agencies, mainly NASA and the Pentagon. In the past decade private investment has risen to an annual average of $2bn a year, or 15% of the total, and it is set to increase further. SpaceX, Elon Musk's rocket firm, made 21 successful satellite launches last year and is valued at $33bn. Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, sells off $1bn-worth of his shares in the company each year to pay for Blue Origin, a space venture. Virgin Galactic plans to go public this year at a valuation of $1.5bn. As well as capital and ideas, the private sector provides much greater efficiency. According to NASA, developing SpaceX's Falcon rockets would have cost the agency $4bn; it cost SpaceX a tenth of that.

Two new commercial models exist or are within reach: the big business of launching and maintaining swarms of communications satellites in low orbits and the niche one of tourism for the rich. The coming year will almost certainly see Virgin and Blue Origin flying passengers on sub-orbital excursions that offer the thrill of weightlessness and a view of the curved edge of Earth against the black sky of space. Virgin claims it might carry almost 1,000 wealthy adventurers a year by 2022. SpaceX is developing a reusable "Starship" larger and much more capable than its Falcons. Yusaku Maezawa, a Japanese fashion mogul, has made a down-payment for a Starship trip around the Moon; he intends to go with a crew of artists as early as 2023.

Such possibilities could see the annual revenues of the space industry double to $800bn by 2030, according to UBS, a bank. Still further in the future, space development could remake how humanity lives. Mr Musk hopes to send settlers to Mars. Mr Bezos, the richest man in the world, wants to see millions of people making a living on space stations, perhaps before Armstrong's footprint marks its centenary.

At a time when Earth faces grim news on climate change, slow growth and fraught politics, space might seem to offer a surprising reason for optimism. But it is neither a panacea nor a bolthole. And to realise its promise, a big problem has to be resolved and a dangerous risk avoided. The big problem is developing the rule of law. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 declares space to be "the province of all mankind" and forbids claims of sovereignty. That leaves lots of room for interpretation. America says private firms can develop space-based resources; international law is ambiguous.

Falling costs, new technologies, Chinese and Indian ambitions, and a new generation of entrepreneurs promise a bold era of space development. It will almost certainly involve tourism for the rich and better communications networks for all; in the long run it might involve mineral exploitation and even mass transportation

Who would have the best claim to use the ice at the poles of the Moon for life support? Should Martian settlers be allowed to do what they like to the environment? Who is liable for satellite collisions? Space is already crowded—over 2,000 satellites are in orbit and NASA tracks over 500,000 individual pieces of debris hurtling at velocities of over 27,000km an hour.

Such uncertainties magnify the dangerous risk: the use of force in space. America's unparalleled ability to project force on Earth depends on its extensive array of satellites. Other nations, knowing this, have built anti-satellite weapons, as America has itself. And military activity in space has no well-tested protocols or rules of engagement.

America, China and India are rapidly increasing their destructive capabilities: blinding military satellites with lasers, jamming their signals to Earth or even blowing them up, causing debris to scatter across the cosmos. They are also turning their armed forces spaceward. Mr Trump plans to set up a Space Force, the first new branch of the armed forces since the air force was created in 1947. On the eve of the annual Bastille Day military parade on July 14th Emmanuel Macron, France's president, also announced the formation of a new space command.

In Heaven as it is on Earth

It is a mistake to promote space as a romanticised Wild West, an anarchic frontier where humanity can throw off its fetters and rediscover its destiny. For space to fulfil its promise governance is required. At a time when the world cannot agree on rules for the terrestrial trade of steel bars and soyabeans that may seem like a big ask. But without it the potential of all that lies beyond Earth will at best wait another 50 years to be fulfilled. At worst space could add to Earth's problems.

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WOMEN IN SAUDI ARABIA

Changing the guard

Saudi Arabia weighs loosening more controls on women

NICKI MINAJ spoke, and Saudi Arabia listened. That is not quite what happened with the scantily clad feminist rapper from New York—though recent events make it a tempting theory. This month Saudi officials disclosed that they want to loosen "guardianship" rules that force women to seek a male relative's permission to marry, travel abroad or accept many jobs. The proposed change would end the travel restriction, which also applies to men under the age of 21. The idea leaked on the same day that Ms Minaj (pictured) cancelled a gig in Saudi Arabia, citing its oppression of women and gay people.

If the new rules take effect later this year, as planned, both sexes will be free to leave the country once they reach 18. Such a shift would be controversial, and raise awkward questions about the broader cultural changes desired by the crown prince, Muhammad bin Salman.

These changes would have been difficult to imagine five years ago. Last June Saudi Arabia lifted a decades-long ban on women driving. In 2017 King Salman decreed that women could seek government services, such as education and health care, without a man's consent. The rules on segregating the sexes have been unofficially relaxed, and Prince Muhammad has suggested that women need not wear flowing *abayas* (full-length gowns) in public.

This month Saudi officials disclosed that they want to loosen 'guardianship' rules that force women to seek a male relative's permission to marry, travel abroad or accept many jobs

All of this has passed without much public brouhaha, in part because anyone who might complain is in prison. Police have arrested both clerics who oppose the changes and liberal activists who want more. Though the driving decision had its detractors, hidebound husbands and fathers can still coerce their charges into staying at home. A recent YouGov poll found that of the vast majority of Saudi women who have not applied for a driving licence, 16% refrained because of objections from a male relative.

Changing the guardianship laws would prove more controversial, particularly in conservative areas outside the big cities. Some fear it could lead to more cases like that of Rahaf Mohammed, a Saudi teenager who fled to Thailand in January to escape her family. Relatives unsuccessfully tried to bring her back (she received asylum in Canada). Other young women followed her lead. Hence the cautious manner of the announcement.

Earlier this month, singer Nicki Minaj cancelled a gig in Saudi Arabia, citing its oppression of women and gay people. *Reuters*

While the driving ban was lifted by official decree, news of the guardianship change was leaked as a trial balloon—first to the Saudi newspaper *Okaz* and then to foreign outlets.

Prince Muhammad has not yet had much luck overhauling the Saudi economy. Unemployment remains high and the private sector is not creating jobs. His cultural changes have gone further, but they too have been uneven. In June a firm based in the United Arab Emirates tried to open an alcohol-free nightclub in Jeddah, the most cosmopolitan Saudi city. Officials shut it down on opening night, though it has since reopened as a "lounge" (same venue, less dancing).

Or there is the case of Ms Minaj, who was due to perform at a music festival in Jeddah this month. She seemed an odd fit for a puritanical theocracy, given her raunchy outfits and lyrics. ("He toss my salad like his name Romaine" is one of her milder lines.) Days before the concert she backed out. Hoping to save face, the Saudis claimed it was in fact they who disinvited her. The episode provoked wry commentary on social media. In one widely shared video, a young Saudi woman asked why she had to wear an *abaya* while Ms Minaj was free to come "shake her ass".

It is a fair question. The prince's behaviour is idiosyncratic: he jails reformers even as he decrees reforms. He justifies some social reforms as economic necessities (if Saudis can go to concerts at home, they won't spend their money abroad). The public have no say. Some young Saudis are enjoying this moment of relative openness; others flee into exile, for reasons both personal and political. Ironically, by letting women travel, Prince Muhammad may allow some to leave and never return.

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SUIT UP

Astronaut Neil Armstrong's spacesuit that he wore during his Apollo 11 mission to the moon 50 years ago is on display at Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington. It is being displayed for the first time in 13 years, after it raised concerns on its decay.

WEEK AHEAD

Brazilian Touch

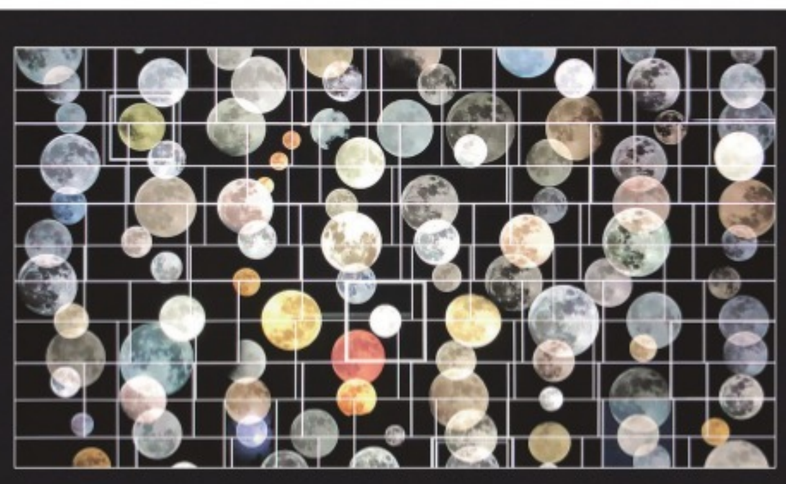
SWOON TO jazz tunes by musical band Sabor do Brasil, infused with the many sounds of Brazil, ranging from the melodies of Bossa Nova to the upbeat rhythms of Samba. Vocals by Ahona Sen, with Aditya Servaia on the bass guitar, Bihu Mukherjee on drums and Pradyumna Singh Manot on the keyboard bring alive the spirit of Brazil. At The Piano Man Jazz Club, Commercial Complex, Safdarjung Enclave, on July 24, 9 pm onwards. Tickets available on BookMyShow.

From Another Land

EXPERIENCE IRAN as captured by Indian scholar and photographer Dr Aziz Mahdi in a photo exhibition titled "Rowzaneh: Iran Through My Lens", featuring its architecture, people and landscapes, and offering a rare glimpse into the indigenous life of the country. From July 24 to 30, 11 am onwards, at India International Centre, Lodhi Estate.

Dual Tone

SHABANA AZMI will undertake a double role in late writer Girish Karnad's play *Broken Images*. The play is a tale of two sisters inhabiting different linguistic worlds, that of English and Hindi, who walk through life together and separately, constantly altering their perception of the world and each other. At Sirifort Auditorium, August Kranti Marg, on July 27, 7 pm onwards. Tickets available on BookMyShow.



Here Hangs the Moon

An exhibition at New York's MET Museum explores the impact that Apollo 11's landing on the moon 50 years ago had on artists and photographers of the time

(Clockwise from left) Harry Gordon's *Rocket Dress*; video still from Penelope Umbrico's 2015 work *Everyone's Moon*; Garry Winogrand's shot of Apollo 11 Moon Mission from Cape Kennedy, Florida, 1969; William Anders' *NASA Apollo 8, Earthrise* *Courtesy: The Metropolitan Museum of Art*

DIVYA A

ON JULY 20, 1969, half a billion viewers around the world watched as the Apollo 11 mission beamed back to earth the first television footage of American astronauts on the moon. This groundbreaking moment dramatically influenced the history of images and expanded the bounds of human perception. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York is showcasing visual representations of the moon — from the dawn of photography through the present in the exhibition titled "Apollo's Muse: The Moon in the Age of Photography". On view till September 22, the show features more than 170 photographs, along with a selection of drawings, prints, paintings, films, video art, astronomical instruments and cameras used by Apollo astronauts.

"The moon has long been a nearly universal source of fascination and inspiration," said Max Hollein, Director of the MET, adding, "The exhibition shows how photography introduced new dimensions to its documentation and interpretation, and explores the tremendous impact that the 1969 moon landing had on artists of the time — the lasting effects of which still resonate today."

The showcase traces the progress of astronomical photography and attempts to produce ever-sharper images of the moon, particularly during the 130-year period between the invention of photography in 1839 and the moon landing in 1969, as astronomers and artists capitalised on technological improvements to cameras and telescopes to create more accurate visual records of the lunar surface. It includes two newly discovered lunar daguerreotypes from the 1840s, believed to be the earliest existing photographs of the moon, and works by pioneers of lunar photography such as Warren De La Rue, Lewis Morris Rutherfurd and John Adams Whipple. A stunning photographic atlas of the moon, produced at the Paris Observatory between 1894 and 1908 by astronomers Maurice Loewy and Pierre Puiseux, is on display for the first time.

Mia Fineman, Curator in the Department of Photographs, MET, says it took them about two years to put together the show. "There are 27 lenders to the exhibition, including museums, libraries, university archives, artists' foundations and individual collectors. About one-third of the works come from the MET's collection," she says.

Alongside the scientific achievements, the show also explores the use of the camera to create fanciful depictions of space travel and life on the moon, including George Melies' original drawings for his film *A Trip to the Moon* (*Le Voyage dans la lune*, 1902) and a large selection of "paper moon" studio portraits from the early 20th century. Also featured are artists' evocations of the otherworldly effects of moonlight, including major works by German Romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich and American pictorialist photographer Edward Steichen.

Fineman adds, "Because the exhibition spans the entire history of photography, from the 1840s to the present, it includes 19th-century photographs of the moon made through telescopes, as well as more contemporary black-and-white and colour photographs. As the technology of both photography and telescopes advanced, images of the moon grew sharper and more detailed. In the space race section, there's a fascinating group of photographs of the moon captured robotically by crewless spacecraft and beamed back to earth via radio waves."

Talking about the significance of the event, she says, "The first photographs and television footage of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the surface of the moon certainly represent a landmark moment in human history. Ironically, the space-age photographs that had the most powerful impact were not of the moon itself but of our own planet earth as seen from outer space."

Advances in rocket science and the Cold War space race of the 1960s ushered in a new phase of lunar exploration. The exhibition features photographs captured by early lunar expeditions sent by the Soviet and American space programmes, culminating in the crewed missions of the Apollo programme. The final section of the show focusses on art created in the wake of the 1969 moon landing through the present day, including works by Nancy Graves, Aleksandra Mir, Nam June Paik and Robert Rauschenberg.

The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with essays by the curators and an introduction by Tom Hanks, a lifelong space enthusiast who has celebrated the legacy of Project Apollo as both an actor and documentary film producer.

ON THE LOOSE

LEHER KALA

Chasing Happiness

The flawed but essential plan to solve inner angst

RECENTLY, NEWSPAPERS were inundated with full-page ads by the Delhi government declaring the success of their happiness curriculum, launched in MCD schools exactly a year ago. One of the most publicised (and novel) education initiatives by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), kids from Class II to VIII have begun their day with a 45-minute period pondering on what goes into building a satisfying life, along with lessons on compassion.

At the outset, this focus on lofty concepts like self-fulfilment and inner engineering seems crazy since it's a well-known fact that government school students in India are floundering in a state of deep illiteracy. Study after study has shown that kids as old as 13 years of age can't do basic division, or read. So, for politicians to be fixated on defining happiness while the fundamentals of arithmetic continue to elude these children, sounds preposterous. However, if one considers that in this day and age, education must be holistic — life isn't just about chasing grades to further a career agenda — then, it's only by prioritising mindfulness that we have any real hope of attaining some measure of contentment. Introducing this topic at the student level, irrespective of how well or badly it's taught, kickstarts a thought process. If nothing else, a concerted effort to organise emotions and feelings is the first step towards clarity, which is the closest most of us will get to real happiness anyway.

For decades, the one aspiration the urban poor have held on to is to somehow drum up the funds to send their children to private schools. The state of neglect of Delhi's MCD schools, often on prime real estate within the city, is a tragedy that successive governments have been unable to fix and the AAP team deserves recognition for their attempts to overhaul the system. By all accounts, teachers are actually showing up, PTM's have become mandatory and the introduction of the CCTV, an excellent idea, enforces accountability for both students and the staff. It will take decades for the cultural emphasis on rote learning to start declining, and no doubt, the happiness idea is not only unlikely to achieve anything in the short term, but also has some serious flaws. Let's face it: in a 55-student classroom what can one teacher — most likely a hardened skeptic — really say about happiness? If kids are coming from a background where parents are struggling to make ends meet, where every meal is precious and uncertain, and to a school where the coursework is always frustratingly beyond their intellectual reach, the conditions for satisfaction are not optimum. In such a situation, the very idea of teaching happiness seems cruel.

Perhaps the best to be hoped for from the happiness curriculum is that it serves as a cautionary tale to students; to be careful while choosing a path and know that even when one chooses wisely, things can go wrong. Hopefully, it provides some tools to deal with the inevitable disappointments that follow because, in our daily lives, we experience the evidence that nothing like universal justice exists — as you sow not shall you reap. Yet, students are fed this ludicrous myth that an elusive 90 per cent will magically solve all their problems. Is it any wonder they find it intensely confusing to discover that doing well is not all that it's cut out to be. Our lives are made up of moments beautiful and otherwise, that follow each other in continuum. Any curriculum that can help cultivate an attitude to cope, despite the circumstances, can only be a good thing.

hutkayfilms@gmail.com

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Glamour Galore

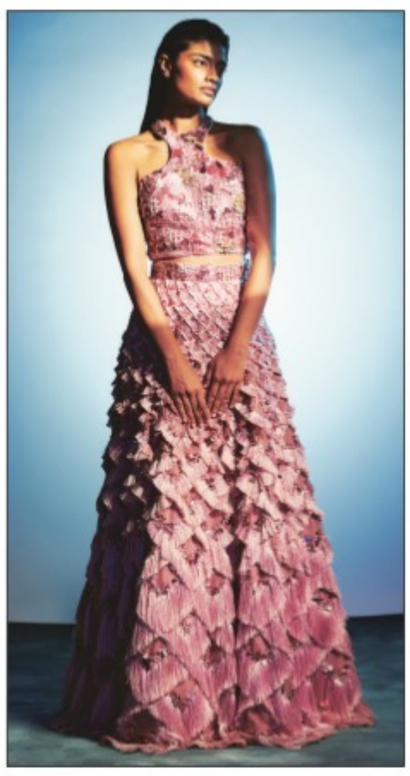
The 12th edition of India Couture Week, which begins in Delhi today, blends drama with finesse

EKTAA MALIK

ONE GETS to see vestiges of the Mediterranean and Monaco, experience virtual reality from a London art gallery, and witness an ancient form of *karigari* that could be traced to the Byzantine Empire — at the Fashion and Design Council's (FDCI) India Couture Week (ICW), which begins today at Delhi's Taj Palace Hotel. The seven-day event is a slight departure from its earlier avatars of four/five days, and on at least three days this time, there is only one designer showcasing her designs. "A couture show is extremely expensive and time-consuming, given the elaborate clothes, jewellery and sets involved. Each ensemble showcased at ICW takes months to create. FDCI makes every effort to give each designer as much time in the limelight as possible. Every venue hosts only one show a day; it's the only way to give the designers their due," says Sunil Sethi, President, FDCI. The line-up includes Rahul Mishra, Tarun Tahiliani, Suneet Varma and some new entrants in the couture game, with designer duo Pankaj and Nidhi making their couture debut.

Light and Line

Amit Aggarwal, who in the past has turned to symmetry present in nature and infused it with his sharp silhouettes, invokes the interplay of light and structure in the opening show, 'Lumen'. "I stumbled upon a virtual reality experience at Saatchi Gallery, London, called 'We live in an Ocean of Air', which illuminates the invisible but fundamental connection between the human and natural worlds," says Aggarwal, who's hosting the show at One Style Mile, Mehrauli. One can expect Aggarwal's edgy silhouettes, blended with a lot of layering — a first for Aggarwal. "We've gone with a vibrant jewel colour palette of emerald, petrol, purple and plum, and moved into neutrals of gold, blush, silver and ivory with a mix of neon tones.The garments have been enhanced by sheer drapes and layers creating an illusion of colour through a play of light," he adds.



Design Dimension

Given their stellar show earlier this year at the Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week Autumn Winter 2019, expectations are high from designer duo Pankaj and Nidhi, who are presenting their first couture show. They have created 'Mosaiq' as a tribute to the ancient eponymous art — where tiny pieces of wood, glass or ceramics are put together to form a complete design — by designing garments in satin, tulle and organza to create the perfect couture outfit. We will see a lot of 3D hand-cut applique and inlay work on metallic fabrics in shades of citrine yellows, sapphire blues, molten gold and silver.

(Clockwise from left) *Kasheeda* is the highlight of Tarun Tahiliani's line; a creation by Pankaj and Nidhi; a sketch from Amit Aggarwal's collection; a Falguni and Shane Peacock design

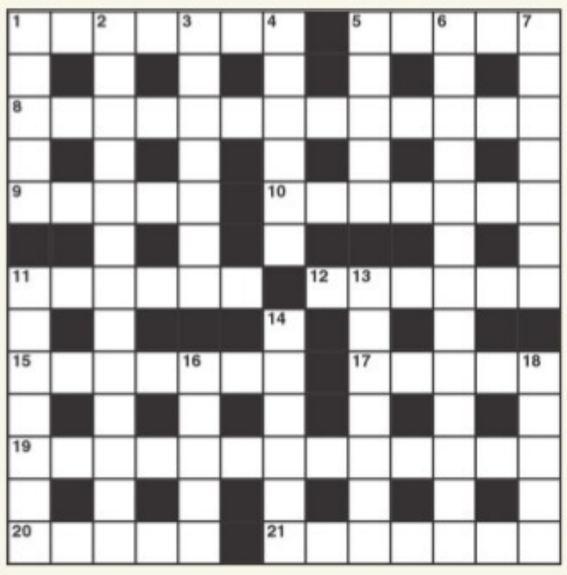
Pretty in Pink

Having dressed the ilk of Beyonce, Lady Gaga and Rita Ora in their feathery, flared creations, Falguni and Shane Peacock are geared to dress the Indian bride, "who wishes to look like Beyonce". After having made their couture debut last year, they are back second year in a row with 'Bonjour Amer', a tribute to the architecture, ornamentation and aesthetic of the Pink City. One will see their signature trains blended with lehengas and gowns that won't look out of place on the wedding day. Feathers, sequins and beads have embellished outfits in muted shades of lavender, pewter, fog green and vanilla.

Embellished and How

A 72-piece collection by Tarun Tahiliani seems like the perfect way to close the extravaganza. "I wanted my collection to be the exact representation of how the society has evolved. 'Bloom' is for the young, spirited bride, who is looking to be herself, be free and wear clothes that will help her feel beautiful as she dances the night away," shares Tahiliani. The highlight of the collection, he adds, is the *kasheeda* embroidery. "You'll see a lot of *kasheeda* or fine resham work that helps us make the garments feather light. There is classic tone-on-tone work with Swarovski crystals sprinkled through the veil, and French-knot detailing," he says. The collection — in sedate pastel shades, a departure from Tahiliani's usual colour tones — comprises lehengas, concept sarees, shararas, jackets, anarkalis and sherwanis.

CROSSWORD 3864



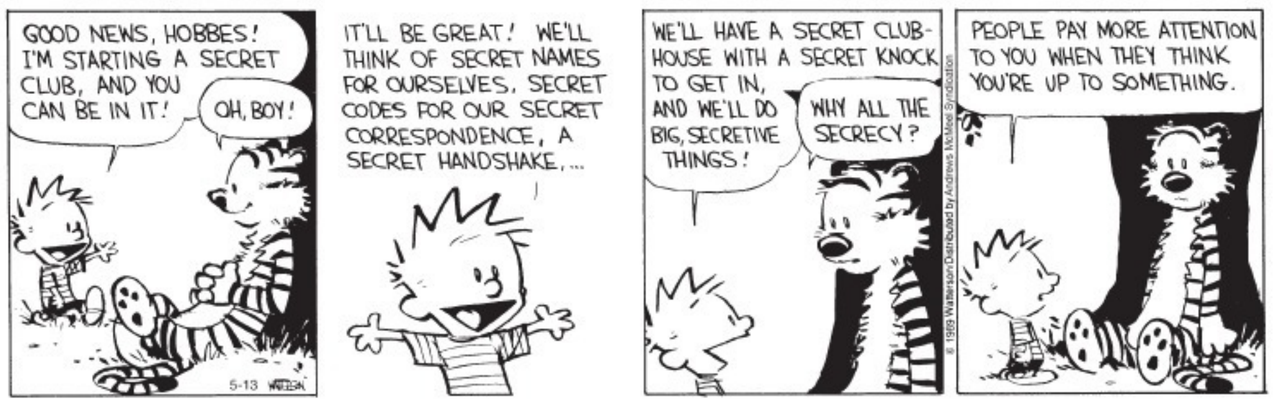
ACROSS
1 Unbeliever is at the assembly (7)
5 Having members carrying weapons (5)
8 Unimportant Arab chiefs, we hear (2,5,6)
9 Had the odour of fish (5)
10 Time taken by a secretary (7)
11 Catch ten out with a quick blow (6)
12 Indeed upset when refused (6)
15 The rain disturbed the lock-keeper (7)
17 As a guardian, he was fabulous (5)
19 Promising gardening correspondent? (7,6)
20 Fit sound project (5)
21 Imagined me in terror (7)

DOWN
1 She is a long time around the North (5)
2 He takes the lot (7,6)
3 Indolence shown in a rite, perhaps (7)
4 Carries about a thousand emblems (6)
5 Like a layer of wood (5)
6 What bees do when really busy? (4,6,3)
7 Retired from employment? (7)
11 Show part of the evidence in court (7)
13 Deliberate destruction of character, maybe (7)
14 Produced in a dramatic way (6)
16 One is disturbed by it (5)
18 She would pack a right in a scrap (5)

Solutions Crossword 3863: Across: 1 Stoat, 8 Dr Jekyll, 9 Islet, 10 Eye-teeth, 11 Faust, 12 Rep, 16 Nicole, 17 Eureka, 18 Vet, 23 Chest, 24 Hot stuff, 25 Ducal, 26 Internee, 27 Jewel. **Down:** 2 Tasmania, 3 Aversion, 4 Mr Hyde, 5 Tenth, 6 Lyres, 7 Aloha, 12 Rev, 13 Pet, 14 Archduke, 15 Skyscape, 19 Eiffel, 20 Choir, 21 State, 22 Store.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You should have a busy start to the week, so no slacking, please! This is one of those moments when the very best you can possibly do is stick to routine tasks and put sentiment and regrets to one side. There is no substitute, by the way, for a healthy dose of self-discipline.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
If you've been concentrating on pursuing your worldly ambitions in recent weeks, then don't let up now. Even if success is assured, there's still some thinking to be done and people to be convinced that you're right. It's mainly a matter of finding the best words.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You should spare no effort when it comes to improving your existence. It's quite rare that such a beneficial line-up of planets affects your emotional state as at the present time, and you would be foolish not to take advantage of this to improve the general condition of your partnerships.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The immediate future looks positive and constructive, even if you do have a few doubts. Over the long-term, there's a definite need for more space and comfort in your living conditions, although you may not make a move until the Moon begins to play a role in your home and family affairs.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
You may concentrate on your material resources. It seems better to save than spend but if money must flow out, aim it towards necessities rather than luxuries. Above all, steer clear of those who are too fond of rumour and gossip or who are out to waste your time.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
With the Moon so powerfully aligned with your sign, this is a fine day to make a greater than usual effort to get your own way and still reach sensible compromises. You'll be able to clear up niggling irritations with little difficulty, although you'd better have the facts at your fingertips.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Sometimes you can hide your head in the sand but not now. There's no getting away from your essential needs and desires today. The general planetary picture is extraordinarily helpful and there's little risk in forcing issues into the open as long as you keep a dialogue going with other concerned individuals.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
In spite of a certain shyness, you love it when other people are forced to listen to your opinions, and that's exactly what you'll be insisting on this week. The fact is that your ideas are probably the best. But will other people agree? Well, probably not.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
There should be a welcome absence of tension from most of today's personal proceedings, although excitement could boil over into animated arguments and disputes. These are lively times and you're a force to be reckoned with, as reckless individuals could soon discover.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
The sky's the limit, and there's no reason why you shouldn't achieve your ambitions in whatever your main areas of activity happen to be. Friends will be of more help than you've come to expect, although any favours you accept now might have to be paid back sooner than you hope.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
The planetary connections between your work and money are so powerful as to suggest an imminent windfall, almost certainly as a reward for all your past efforts. At least, that's one interpretation. Plus, for some reason we have yet to understand, discretion is required in personal matters.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
This is no time to be shy and withdrawn. The Sun, Mars, Venus and Saturn are just a few of the planets compelling you to face up to your needs, wants and desires and it's about time you made these your guiding priority rather than always trying to please other people.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

I love_____more than any woman I have ever known - Walt Disney (6,5)

KVEEO

SUYCMM

EGISU

AENSKY

SOLUTION: EVOKE, CUISE, SCUMMY, SNEAKY
Answer: I love Mickey Mouse more than any woman I have ever known - Walt Disney

SUDOKU 3915

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3914

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

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CONCOR invites Online E- Tender for **"Services pertaining to Sub stations and Electrical installations at ICD/DDL (Ludhiana), DCT/PHR (Phillaur), RCT/DAPPAR, ICD/PSWC (Dappar) and ICD/BADDI"** only through e-tendering mode in Single Bid System.The bid document can only be downloaded after paying Rs.1000/-through online from the website, www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL.

Tender No.	Open Tender No. CON/NR/DDL/TECH/AMC/ELECT/2019
Estimated Cost	Rs.91,41,231/- (Inclusive of GST)
Period of the contract	36 Months (24 Months+12months) As per Clause 5 of Section-II
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 1,82,825/- through e-payment.
Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 1,000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee	Rs. 5,310/-Inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment
Date & time of sale (On Line)	From 22.07.2019 at 15:30 hrs. to 13.08.2019 upto 16:00 hrs.
Date & time of submission	14.08.2019 upto15:00 hrs
Date & time of Opening	On 16.08.2019 at 15:30 hrs.

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Executive Director/NR

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Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) invites online tender on two cover system from reputed Firms for **"Dredging Plan Phase-IV (a) - Capital and Maintenance Dredging at Kamarajar Port"**

For details visit: **www.kamarajarport.in** & **www.eprocure.gov.in**

General Manager (CS & BD)

DESERT MEDICINE RESEARCH CENTRE, JODHPUR
(Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi)

DMRC is organizing National Consultation on Tribal Health Research from 8th to 10th August, 2019 in its Campus at New Pali Road, Jodhpur. Besides discussion on research work being carried out on Tribal Population by ICMR institutes, there will be a session for young and middle age Scientists from different parts of the country. Interested Scientists may please sent abstract of their original work on the tribal population in the field of bio medical science alongwith a brief resume in two pages on or before **28th July, 2019** through email: dmrcdirector@gmail.com. Travel and stay arrangements will be done by host institute for selected candidates.

Director
DMRC, Jodhpur

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NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (Open Tender Two Packet System)

No: IRCON/2046/NFR-SRRP/Outsourcing/Manpower/19/149/02 **Date: 22/07/2019**

Sub: "Works Contract for maintenance of IRCON's establishments (office & site office/site camp upkeep and Other Misc.) and assisting IRCON's Officers/Engineers in Project office/site office at various locations along the Project alignment between Sivok and Rangpo in connection with the construction of Sivok -Rangpo BG Rail Line Project, Siliguri, West Bengal".

Estimated Cost	₹ 58,06,240.00
Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 1,16,200.00
Completion Period	12 (Twelve) Months
Cost of Tender Document	₹ 5,000.00
Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid	13.08.2019 upto 15:00 hrs.

For further details and updates, please visit e-procurement website **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Amendments /Corrigendum**, if any, would be hosted on the website only.

General Manager/PH
"Sukriti", Satyajeet Roy Lane, Jyoti Nagar, P.O. Sevoke Road, Siliguri - 734001
Contact Nos. : 7604011714, 0353-2541011

Office of Chief Engineer
Information System Organization
Irrigation And Water Resources Department, Uttar Pradesh
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya Parikalp Bhawan, Telibagh, Lucknow.

Corrigendum

Tender Notice No:- 02/ISO/EE-2/UPWSRP Phase-II/Hiring of Vehicle/2019-20 / was submitted for Publication from this office vide letter No:-181/E-Unit-2/ISO/ Hiring of Vehicle / Tender Notice/ Dated: 08.07.2019 .

In the above Tender Notice changes are as given below:

Name of Event	Date & Time as per Tender Notice-02/ISO/EE-2/UPWSRP Phase-II/ Hiring of Vehicle/2019-20	Revised Date
Date and Time of Bid Opening	30.07.2019, 15:30hrs	05.08.2019 15:30hrs
Last date & Time of uploading Bid	30.07.2019, 15:00 hrs	05.08.2019, 15:00 hrs

Bidder may see and download the bid document from 26.07.2019 at 5:00 pm to 05-08-2019 upto 3:00 pm from website **http://etender.up.nic.in.**

Other conditions will remain the same.

Office of the Chief Engineer
Information System Organization
3rd Floor, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya Parikalp Bhawan,
Irrigation And Water Resources Department, Uttar Pradesh
Telibagh, Lucknow-226025(U.P)
Phone/Fax- 91-522-2441860
E-mail- eeunit-2isoiduplu-up@nic.in

UPID-142255 DATE 19/07/2019
WWW.UPGOV.NIC.IN

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Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Sanjeev Kumar Goyal S/O Amrit Lal R/O Plotno.122/B, G-Block, Amanki Kothi, Aman Colony, Narela, Delhi-110040.Changed my Name to Sanjeev Kumar. 0040504105-4

I Ram Kumar Sharma S/o Late Shri Sohan Lal R/o-41/3 Karuna Kunj Sector-3, Dwarka, New Delhi-110059, inform that Ram Kumar and Ram Kumar Sharma both one and same person. But my correct name is Ram Kumar Sharma for all future purposes. 0040504070-1

I Phamdom Sundari Devi w/o Phamdom Naobi Singh 379/D1 camero complex subroto park New Delhi-10 have changed my name to Maibam Sundari Devi vide affidavit no IN-DL22499856312081R for all future reference. 0050151900-1

I, Roma Gupta W/o Vivek Gupta R/O-457A Sector-15 Faridabad. Change His Minor Son Name Chitransh Gupta To Divyadit Gupta. 0040504105-6

I, PRIYANKA CHADHA W/o PUNEET CHADDHA R/o E- 94 Kamakshi Apartment, Plot No-28, Sector-06, Dwarka South West Delhi-110075, have changed my name from PRIYANKA CHADHA to PRIYANKA CHADDHA for all future purposes. 0040504022-1

I, Manoj Kumar S/O Manohar Lal R/O B-2/74, I-Floor, Sector-16, Nr.District Park, Rohini, Delhi-110089.Changed my Name to Manoj Kumar Kakkar. 0040504105-2

I, Mahesh S/O Mulakh Raj R/O 3981, First Floor, Flatno.4, Roshanara Road,Old Subji Mandi, Delhi-110007.Changed my Name to Mahesh Gandhi. 0040504105-1

I, Madan Mohan Pant (Army Service No -4154297; Ex-Hav) S/o Late. Sh. Lila Nand Pant R/o Village Pali PO Pokhari District -Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) presently residing at B-151A Gali -02 Sadatpur Colony,Karawal Nagar Road Delhi-94, hereby inform that my daughter Poonam Pant born on 15.02.1980. 0040504028-1

I, Madan Mohan Pant (Army Service No - 4154297; Ex- Hav) S/o Late. Sh. Lila Nand Pant R/o Village Pali PO Pokhari District - Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) presently residing at B-151A Gali -02 Sadatpur Colony, Karawal Nagar Road Delhi-94 hereby informs that correct date of birth of my wife Smt. Hema Pant is 15.09.1952 not 12.05.1954. 0040504039-1

I, Laxmi D/O Uttam Singh R/O C-21/D, Avantika Enclave, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085. Have Changed My Name To Laxmi Bhandari. 0040504105-3

I, Jatin S/o Hira Lal Makhija R/o-65/51, 2nd floor,New Rohtak Road,New Delhi have changed my name to Jasmeet Singh Makhija. 0040504051-1

I, Jatin S/o Hira Lal Makhija R/o-65/51, 2nd floor,New Rohtak Road,New Delhi have changed my name to Jasmeet Singh Makhija. 0040504041-1

I, Domnic Xalxo S/O Rudol Xalxo R/O 1-C/31, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005, in my senior school certificates record my name is wrongly mentioned as Domnic, my correct and actual name is Domnic Xalxo vide affidavit DL23357955470137R 0050151903-1

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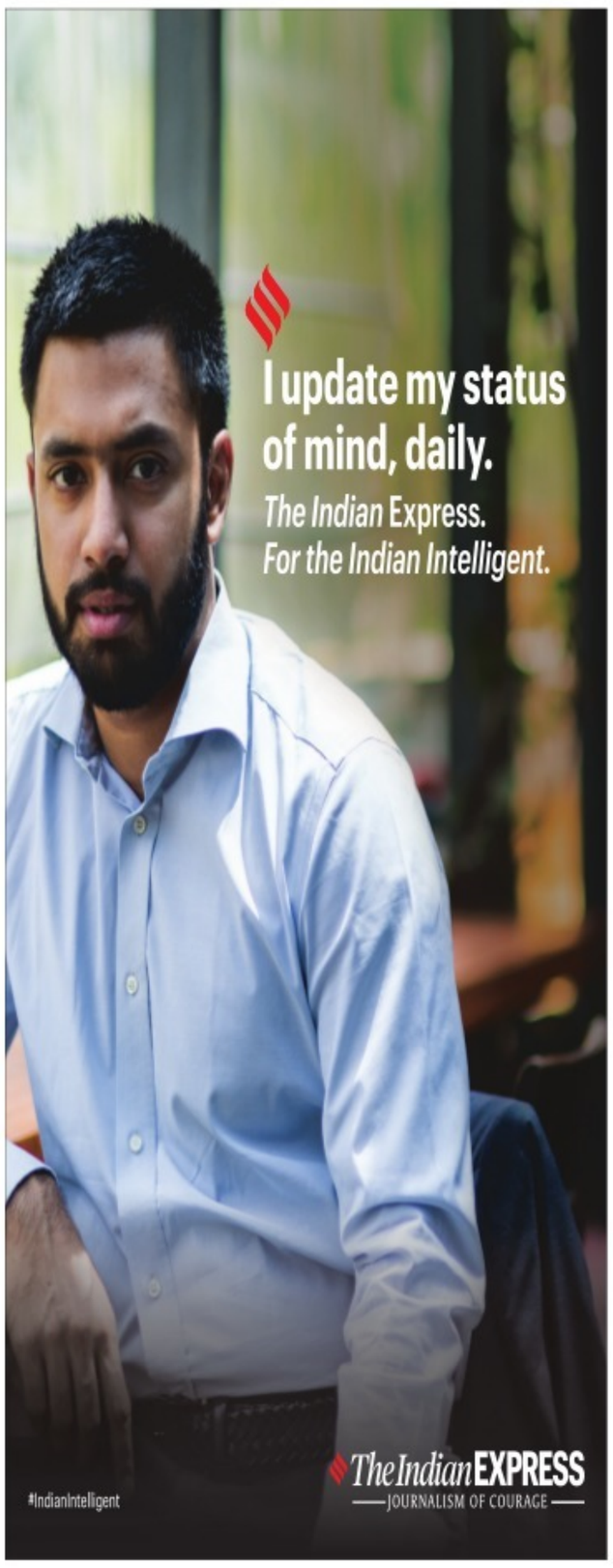
Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd.
MADC
(CIN U45203MH2002SGC136979)
8th Floor, World Trade Centre -1, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400005.
Tel No.: 022–49212121, **Fax No.**022–22163814 **Email**–vcmd@madcindia.org

CORRIGENDUM

Extension of Existing Terminal Building at Shirdi International Airport, Dist: Ahmednagar.

The qualification criteria for the above tender has been reviewed. Interested bidders are requested to refer corrigendum on e-tender portal **https://mahatenders.gov.in**. Further clarifications/ corrigendum in this regard, if any will be put only on e-tender portal.

Vice Chairman and Managing Director



"The ideal way to unravel a tied final is to consider the position of the two competing teams on the table at the end of the preliminary rounds. This provides a definitive answer."
— Ian Chappell

Plight of the backbenchers

Iyer & Pandey are back, but with an almost full strength squad set to tour WI, it's unlikely they will get much game time

SANDIP G
JULY 21

SHREYAS IYER and Manish Pandey could well be considered the lost boys of Indian cricket, as they repeatedly suffered selectorial snubs despite scoring runs across conditions, formats and oppositions. It has prompted both to develop a thick skin and become almost impervious to disappointment.

Now they are back again, for the white-ball leg of the West Indies tour, and will look to revive their stop-start international careers once again. The call-ups were expected as the selectors need to find solutions for the middle-order malaise that put paid to the World Cup dream.

But will their inclusion translate into game time? And aren't the selectors repeating the same mistakes that they committed before the World Cup as they prepare for next year's ICC World T20 in Australia? They have promised— though not guaranteed — the fringe players a sustained run in the forthcoming season, stacked as India is with limited-over fixtures in the lead-up to the 20-over world championship.

Though one of the selectors said after the meeting that "they will be given proper opportunities to stake their claims," how that pans out, at least in the West Indies series, is not quite straightforward , with KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant and Kedar Jadhav around.

Though Rahul has been included as the third opener, with the return of Shikhar Dhawan, it would be difficult (and harsh) to dislodge him after his profitable World Cup, where he was India's third-highest run-getter (361 runs at 45). Hence, the team management would be left with no other alternative but to accommodate him in the middle order. In fact, he looked more comfortable batting at No. 4 than opening the innings, where the moving-ball torment has made him a lesser force.

Rahul's free-flowing style, thus, could be better utilised at No. 4. So remarked Virat Kohli after the World Cup warm-up game against Bangladesh, in which he had scored a hundred at No. 4. "I think the biggest positive to come out was the way Rahul batted at four. He has the game, shots and temperament to be a good No. 4. It is important that he gets runs and he is a sound player to get the scoreboard ticking," the skipper had said. Rahul could, like the best number fours in history, stamp a game, unlike some of the options India were left with after his forced promotion following Dhawan's injury.

Pant couldn't be dispensed with either. After taking over from Rahul, he had looked adequate at No 4, if only fleetingly. He seemed assured against the moving ball, but the tendency to throw his wicket away had experts wondering whether he was batting a spot higher than he should.

But grooming is primary in the selectors' scheme, what with MS Dhoni ploughing through his last days. Chief selector MSK Prasad implied as much, when he said: "We had a certain roadmap and plans till the World Cup. Subsequently, we've laid down few more plans and we thought of giving as many opportunities as possible to Pant and to see he is groomed."

That leaves the team management with just the number six spot to fret over. While both Iyer and Pandey would gleefully latch onto any spot, so long as they get an opportunity, they are ideally cast in the middle-order mould. Number six or beneath would be under-selling them, as they could languish and get disillusioned.

Pandey would know it better. He was pushed down the order, often coming at No. 6 and blasting quickfire 30s, before he was jettisoned. The selectors tried to remould a middle-order enforcer into a finisher. Their misdiagnosiswas brutally exposed in the World Cup, despite a precursor in the 2017 Champions Trophy. Should it go unattended again, it could eat into India's World T20 prospects next year as well.

Then lingers Kedar Jadhav, and the team management could be tempted to afford him one last shot at redemption before discarding him altogether.

All of this would mean that both Iyer and Pandey could end up biding their time again, ferrying drinks or filling in as a substitutes than rebuilding their international careers.

A possible way out could have been resting a few mainstays so that the fringe players get adequate chances to buttress their case. But the selectors included the likes of Kohli and Sharma once they communicated their availability for the series.

Jadhav's inclusion perfectly summed up the pervading theme of the Sunday meeting — the selectors are keen to move forward, start afresh, but still can't shake off the past.

A series against as lightweight an opposition as the West Indies would have been ideal to blood in not just Pandey or Iyer, but even someone as promising as Shubman Gill. But their vision, if any, hasn't matched their ambition. The tour would have been a perfect platform to reintegrate Pandey and Iyer and strengthen the middle-order core. Instead, it seems an opportunity lost.

Like Pandey and Iyer, some of the bowlers picked for the T20s could also end up as passengers. Now that Ravindra Jadeja has re-emerged as India's favoured spin-bowling option in limited-over games, it's hard to foresee someone like Rahul Chahar, the promising leggie who rose to fame in the IPL, getting a game. Even more unlikely as he would have to bypass Krunal Pandya, who had a terrific A series in the Caribbean, and Washington Sundar, who provides runs as well.

So effectively, for all these cosmetic changes, the body could remain much the same as one saw in the World Cup. That thick skin developed by Iyer and Pandey could come handy once again.

Squads for the WI tour

T20Is (Aug 3, 4, 6) : Virat Kohli (C), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (WK), Krunal Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini

ODIs (Aug 8, 11, 14): Virat Kohli (C), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (WK), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kedar Jadhav, Mohd Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Navdeep Saini

TESTS (Aug 22 - 26, Aug 30 - Sept 3): Virat Kohli (C), Ajinkya Rahane, Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, C Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant (WK) Wriddhiman Saha (WK), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Mohd Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav.

CONTROL ALL, SELECT

Virat Kohli attended the selection committee meeting in Mumbai on Sunday. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

Manish Pandey and Shreyas Iyer have been picked for the limited-overs leg.

Army yet to decide on MS's request to train with TA

Dhoni has communicated his unavailability for two months to the selectors as he intends to serve the Territorial Army.

SUSHANT SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

MAHENDRA SINGH Dhoni's request to serve his Territorial Army battalion is still under process, Army sources said, with a decision on the application possible as early as Monday.

Only after a decision is taken by the Army authorities, can the scope, duration, venue and charter of his training with his battalion be finalised, they added. The former India skipper has communicated his unavailability for two months to the selectors as he intends to serve the Territorial Army.

The 106 Infantry Battalion, of which Dhoni was appointed a honorary lieutenant colonel in 2011, is currently deployed in Jammu and Kashmir. It is affiliated with the Parachute Regiment. Dhoni has completed five parachute jumps, as required for any qualified paratrooper in the Army.

Prasad's answers throw up more questions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JULY 21

CHIEF SELECTOR MSK Prasad's press conference on Sunday offered contradictions and an over-reliance on the team management's preferences with regards to picking the World Cup replacements. He also said the selection committee felt for Ambati Rayudu, who announced his retirement after being snubbed in favour of Mayank Agarwal when Vijay Shankar was ruled out. Excerpts from the interaction.

Contradictions: A tale of two 34-year-olds, Rahane exclusion

Dinesh Karthik was dropped for the West Indies tour because the selectors preferred to look ahead. Kedar Jadhav, another 34-year-old, however, has been retained. Jadhav lost his place in the playing XI towards the back end of the World Cup with Karthik replacing him. Ajinkya Rahane, who is 31 and far more accomplished as a batsman, continues to be ignored in the shorter formats. Several former selectors, including Dilip Vengsarkar, were baffled at Rahane's exclusion from the World Cup squad.

On Sunday, Prasad was asked about Rahane and his explanation was: "He was there in the scheme of things, but we have to reward performances of India A, that's why we haven't included him."

The selectors did pick Manish Pandey, Shreyas Iyer and Navdeep Saini based on their performances in the ongoing India A team's tour of the West Indies. But Shubman Gill, who hasn't done badly either, wasn't considered. Prasad said: "Shubman Gill went to New Zealand when KL Rahul was suspended for a few matches. Now KL Rahul has come back, so he is in the waiting list. He will definitely be considered in the future."

And why was Karthik dropped and Jadhav picked? "We had certain plans till the World Cup. And post World Cup, I think we need to give opportunities to those youngsters who will go on to play for a long time," Prasad said. As for Jadhav, he commented: "Kedar Jadhav hasn't done anything wrong for his non-selection, first of all. We considered him, we are also getting our back-ups ready."

Rubber-stamping team management's decisions?

Finally, there was an explanation for why a middle-order bat, Rishabh Pant, replaced an injured opener, Shikhar Dhawan, and an opener, Mayank Agarwal, was sent for an injured middle-order bat, Vijay Shankar. "Since KL Rahul was going to open the innings, the team management had requested for a left-hander and we had no other choice than Rishabh Pant, and we were very, very clear on that. We know what he is capable of and that is the reason why we had to bring in a left-hander, which actually confused many people that why a middle-order batsman has been brought in place of an opener," Prasad explained.

Agarwal, too, was the team management's choice. "I'm sure all of you would have seen, in the game against England, when KL Rahul was trying for a catch, he had a big fall on the boundary line and he didn't take the field for the rest of the innings.

"So there was a medical emergency at that stage whether he will continue or not (in the World Cup). There was a worry factor. At that juncture, a mail was written, a written communication was given to us that we need a back-up opener. We worked on certain permutations and looked at some of the openers. Some were not in form, others were injured, so that's when we went to Mayank Agarwal."

Prasad tried to clear up the confusion, probably oblivious to the fact that on both occasions, the selection committee just rubber-stamped the team management's choices.

'No bias against Rayudu, selectors feel for him'

Ambati Rayudu called it quits after Agarwal was preferred over him as Shankar's replacement, despite the former being a World Cup stand-by. Prasad was asked if Rayudu wasn't picked for his 3D tweet — "Just Ordered a new set of 3d glasses to watch the world cup". "Do you think we lost the game because of No. 4? Rishabh Pant played well, especially the way he batted in those conditions, " the chief selector said. "Coming back to the tweet, frankly speaking, that was a lovely tweet. I really enjoyed it. Seriously, it was a very timely one and was very sarcastic."

"When we pick any player and he does well, we feel so happy for him. Similarly, when somebody out of emotions goes out in this way, the selection committee members also feel for it."

WORLD CUP FINAL

I made error, but don't regret decision: Dharmasena on overthrow runs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, JULY 21

IT INDEED was an error in judgment to award six runs to England from an overthrow in the World Cup final, admitted umpire Kumar Dharmasena, but the Sri Lankan added that he would never "regret" the decision. Dharmasena had signalled to add six runs to England's total, instead of five, when Martin Guptill's throw from the deep raced to the boundary ropes after being deflected off a diving Ben Stokes' bat.

The match entered a Super Over, which also remained inconclusive, and eventually hosts England were declared champions on boundary count, leaving New Zealand's supporters 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 Guptill 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. 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." he said. "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."

Dharmasena awarded Ben Stokes six runs — instead of five — after a Martin Guptill throw hit his bat and raced away to the long-stop boundary.

"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."

Former international umpires Simon Taufel and K Hariharan have 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."

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

Out of syllabus

Sindhu prepared for long rallies, but Yamaguchi surprised with fast-paced attack to clinch Indonesia Open title

SHIVANI NAIK
JULY 21

THERE IS a picture frame from the 2018 World Championships with PV Sindhu, Carolina Marin, He Bingjiao and Akane Yamaguchi on the podium. It has Marin biting into her third World Championship gold medal exaggeratedly while turning towards Yamaguchi. The 21-year-old Japanese has wide-eyed shock on her equally pronounced face — as if watching that act of champions — biting into the medallion — for the first time.

Earlier this summer, Yamaguchi's usually goofy visage saw tears streaming down her cheeks, again for the first time, after Japan lost the Sudirman Cup final to China, and copping a thunderous yelling (again, a first perhaps) from coach Park Joo Bong.

Yamaguchi reappeared on the circuit after that tearful loss for the first time in Indonesia, and had added an extra gear to her game. The raging fury of her strokes – sharpened after that Sudirman setback where her game had excerpts of listlessness making her coach livid – was unleashed on Sindhu, who didn't know what hit her midway through the 21-15, 21-16 loss.

Yamaguchi, often a yo-yo-ing crazy ball, has outrageous overhead strokes and the Japanese capacity to keep retrieving till the sun rises. But on Sunday in the Indonesia Open final, on her biggest pay-day, she wasn't just bouncing on the court and diving about. She charged the net like a raging bull.

Sindhu, who had made short work of Nozomi Okuhara in the quarters, was prepared for long rallies. She wasn't prepared for fast-paced exchanges at the searing speed that Yamaguchi had gained since the Sudirman tearing up.

"Sindhu is a player who is taller than me. She also has a fast smash, so I have to increase speed to be able to return her attack and get points," Yamaguchi later told website badzine. "I'm very happy with this victory. This is the first time I've won in Indonesia and also at a Super 1000 tournament. I enjoyed playing here in Jakarta because my name is called very enthusiastically. While in my own country, it's not like that," she added.

Japan has a rich tradition in women's doubles, is cautiously excited about Kento Momota in men's singles and loves Okuhara, the world champion of 2017. Yamaguchi, younger at 22, is however a prodigy who first played for Japan at 14, but missed a Worlds despite her rankings, to appear in a school exam back then.

She's won a clutch of titles, but is yet to make the ultimate mark and the Sudirman heartbreak didn't help.

PV Sindhu lost to Japanese Akane Yamaguchi 21-15, 21-16. *PTI*

A rally at 15-11 in the second game saw the commentators analyse threadbare how Yamaguchi invited the wrath of her coach. It went on for 51 shots, but ended in a familiar sight of the Japanese, a whole 23 cms shorter than Sindhu, rampaging on a kill shot.

Net gain

Her strategy involved clears that pinned Sindhu back, putting the tailwind on sharp hard-hit strokes from one side, and a total domination at the net. Sindhu was virtually left with the only option of prolonging a rally, but that's never worked with the Japanese.

Even when Sindhu picked a few body attacks and got in a few cross-court smashes and drops, she struggled to build herself a frenzy, while Yamaguchi was in avenging mode.

She'd graze her knee in between, give the linesperson a withering look after an incorrect call, but never relent on her pace that helped her take eight straight points to race to the first game from 12-14 down. Sindhu's errors bunched up in that passage of play, and Yamaguchi gave her not a single opening in the second to grab the lead, as if making up for the 10 times she's lost to the Indian, and of course that Sudirman Cup heartbreak.

Yamaguchi has now won both the finals these two players have contested, though Sindhu leads 10-5 in career exchanges. Yamaguchi had beaten World No. 1 Tai Tzu-Ying in the semis, but had said she wasn't too chuffed given Tai Tzu was unwell. A fully-fit, towering Sindhu was a godsend for the Japanese in a mood to shred and cut down to size anyone that stood in her way. She sounded ominous ahead of Tokyo.

Sindhu believes she had it all figured – "her day", "if I had the first game", "few mistakes", "good experience, good tournament", "everybody at same level; that day who plays well". But the operative part was Yamaguchi's "long, but fast rallies."

Defeat has added a new kick to the Japanese champion's fame. She'll hope it fires her all the way till the home Games. Sindhu will hope this was the defeat that kicks up her own drive and motivation. Yamaguchi's racking up some serious firsts; she was ousted in the quarters at Rio; but her finals temperament is gaining some sort of wondrous fame.

Onto the Japan Open next week, where Sindhu and Yamaguchi might meet in the quarters again.

India in Asian junior quarters

PTI adds: 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 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 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. The doubles teams, especially, stood out for their gutsy displays in a losing cause. The mixed doubles pair of Dingku Singh Konthoujam and Ritika Thaker fought for 56 minutes before going down 21-19, 12-21, 12-21 to Dong Ju Ki and Eun Ji Lee. Goa's Tanisha Crasto and Kerala's Treesa Jolly lost 16-21, 21-16, 12-21 in girls' doubles.

Pluck of the Irish: Lowry wins emotional first major at Open

REUTERS
PORTRUSH (NORTHERN IRELAND), JULY 21

IRISHMAN SHANE Lowry staved off the biggest nerves of his golfing life and handled difficult conditions to win the British Open by six strokes amid emotional scenes at Royal Portrush on Sunday.

Fervently cheered on every shot by the sellout crowd, the 32-year-old from Clara was never seriously troubled in the final round as he carded one-over-par 72 in strong winds and intermittent rain which buffeted the late starters.

"My mum and dad, they sacrificed so much for me when I was younger and I'm so happy I can hand them this trophy tonight," Lowry said as he clutched the Claret Jug, his voice cracking with emotion.

He finished at 15-under 269, while Englishman Tommy Fleetwood, the only player to apply any semblance of pressure on Lowry, shot 74 for second place.

Lowry had teed off with a four-shot lead and as the other contenders fell away it quickly turned into a head-to-head duel between Lowry and Fleetwood.

"I got off to a very shaky start," said Lowry, who had to sink a six-foot putt to salvage bogey at the first. "I didn't feel great out there. It's probably the most uncomfortable I've ever felt on a golf course. You're trying to win an Open in your home country, it's incredibly difficult."

But once he settled down and looked at a leaderboard he noticed that nobody was making a run at him. He needed to avoid any big numbers on his card and duly did so, making nothing worse than bogey.

Even three straight bogeys around the turn hardly dented his lead, and a six-foot birdie at the 15th hole that extended his margin to six strokes allowed him to almost enjoy a processional victory march up the final three holes.

"It was just so difficult," he said. "I kept telling myself bogeys are not going to hurt you, let's just keep the ball in play and if I make the odd par it will be pretty good.

"It turned into a two-horse race between me and Tommy towards the at the end which was quite nice because I could keep an eye on him."

Lowry savoured the walk up the 18th, greeted as one of their own by the singing gallery who packed the stands.

After hitting his final approach shot he held his arms aloft in celebration and hugged his caddie, assured finally that there would be no late disaster.

Greeted by Harrington

He became the second player from south of the border, after Padraig Harrington in 2007 and 2008, to lift the Claret Jug, a fitting end to the first Open played in Northern Ireland since 1951.

Players from Ireland and Northern Ireland have won five of the past 13 Opens, with Darren Clarke (2011) and Rory McIlroy (2014) also hoisting the Claret Jug.

Harrington and 2010 U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell were among those who greeted Lowry next to the 18th green, while McIlroy, the local favourite who missed the cut, was no doubt cheering from afar, Irish eyes smiling all over.

"We're all one country when it comes to golf," Lowry said. "I said to my caddie walking down the last, 'I can't believe this is me, this is mine'. I've watched the Open since I was a little kid and to be named champion golfer of the year is just incredible."

Graeme McDowell, the 2010 U.S. Open champion who was born and raised in Portrush, was impressed with both the weather and the man who won the claret jug.

"I think the players got sunshine, they got flat calm, they got a bit of breeze from different directions and they got a little Portrush Armageddon," said McDowell, who shot a 77 and finished 4 over.

Shubhankar shoots best round at Majors on 23rd birthday

Portrush: 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 at the Open Championships in Portush.

Making his 23rd birthday memorable, Shubankar 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 to finish T-51.

"I am not used to doing much on my birthdays but the last two birthdays have been at The Open and they have been very special. I was in a restaurant last year and everyone there just stood up and sang happy birthday for me. And today, I couldn't have asked for a better finish," said the Indian. "It was quite special as the crowd, which was great through the week, sang that (birthday song) and I must admit it felt good. Hope I gave them something back with that birdie on 18th," said Sharma. **PTI**

Fervently cheered on every shot by the sellout crowd, Shane Lowry from Clara was never seriously troubled in the final round as he carded one-over-par 72. *AP*

ICC ran out of patience with Zimbabwe cricket: Flower

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

FORMER BATSMAN Grant Flower says the ICC perhaps wanted Zimbabwe Cricket to be more responsible by suspending them for government intervention but doubted if the global body interpreted the SRC action in true sense.

The ICC recently suspended Zimbabwe Cricket for violation of its constitution after the current elected members of the Zimbabwe board were suspended by the Sports and Recreation Committee (SRC).

Flower said ICC may have wanted ZC to put its house in order but actually the current board members were "good people".

"I think over time, the ICC have just been worn down by all the corruption, fraud, and the problems with Zimbabwe cricket not being able to get its house in order. Maybe they thought a jolt to their system would make some people realise what was expected of them," Flower told ESPNcricinfo.

"They would have reasoned Zimbabwe needed to understand that at some stage, you've got to put your house in order, and we can't keep propping you up like we have been doing over the years. I can understand the player's frustrations, but unfortunately with Zimbabwe cricket, it sounds like the ICC have just had enough."

"....We can go back so many years to when things were very badly run. It's pretty obvious what was happening at the time and the people responsible who were involved. And I think the current crop of players and the interim board, who are really good people, are being punished because the ICC felt they needed to take a stand."

Zimbabwean Cricket has been in turmoil for many years now. In fact, 14 members, including Flower, had walked out of the system in 2004 when then skipper Heath Streak was dismissed for disagreements on racial quotas in the squad. However, things seemed to get better after former Olympic swimmer and Zimbabwe's most famous sportsperson Kirsty Coventry was appointed Sports minister. Flower said SRC is a public body and he didn't seem to agree with the way the ICC has interpreted government intervention in this case.

Grant Flower represented Zimbabwe in 67 Tests and 221 ODIs.

"My understanding is the SRC is a public body and not exactly government. I think there's quite a big difference there and I'm surprised the media hasn't picked up on that. The SRC now is slightly more transparent," he said.

"Regarding government intervention, it's curious how the ICC have decided to interpret that. There are other countries where it's publicly stated that some of the times that certain things will be discussed and decided at government level. So I think there's quite a big contradiction there from the ICC," Flower added.

Flower believes ICC decision will prevent Zimbabwe from playing cricket altogether.

"Even when we were leaving, there were a good bunch of youngsters coming through that could get the country's cricket going. But that's not the case anymore, with even the domestic competitions unable to take place.

Flower, who is currently working as Pakistan's batting coach, sympathised with the current crop of players, and the interim board, who have strived to clean up the mess.

"The scapegoats are the players and some of the good administrators. I saw this thing on Twitter about Harare Sports club, it's a beautiful ground and at the moment it's just going to waste because no one is being paid and the staff have left," he said. "It is a sad day, and maybe some of the players are going to move on. Most of the players are still quite young, like Brendan Taylor and Kyle Jarvis, who left their county to return to Zimbabwe. They could still ply their trade elsewhere; it'd be a pity it won't be for their country of birth."

[SPORTS BAR]

Wood eyes Ashes role despite injury blow

England paceman Mark Wood has set his sights on recovering from injury in time to play a role in the Ashes against Australia. Wood will be out for up to six weeks after suffering a side strain during last Sunday's historic World Cup final victory over New Zealand. The 29-year-old won't play in next week's one-off Test against Ireland at Lord's or the first Test against Australia when the Ashes get under way at Edgbaston on August 1. But Durham star Wood still hopes he can get back to full fitness in time for the last two Tests in the five-match series. "I might make the last couple (of Tests). It all depends on selection," Wood told BBC 5 Live's Sportsweek on Sunday. "Hopefully the injury will have healed by then and I'll be back with the speed and will have played a few games for Durham."

McCollum, Gordon pull out of World Cup team

Guards CJ McCollum of the Portland Trail Blazers and Eric Gordon of the Houston Rockets have withdrawn from playing for USA Basketball in the FIBA World Cup in China, according to published reports. Their departures come after Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis and Rockets guard James Harden withdrew earlier this month. The Athletic reported Gordon's decision to remove himself from the roster. The possibility continues to loom that Toronto Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry will eventually pull out after undergoing thumb surgery earlier this week. The World Cup runs from Aug. 31 to Sept. 15. USA Basketball training camp is set to begin Aug. 5 in Las Vegas.

Nikhat advances in Thai boxing tourney

Former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) 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 Tasmyn 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.

Archana Kamath/G. Sathiyan beat Peng Yu En Koen/Goi Rui Xuan 3-0.

Sathiyan-Archana win gold, Sharath loses semi

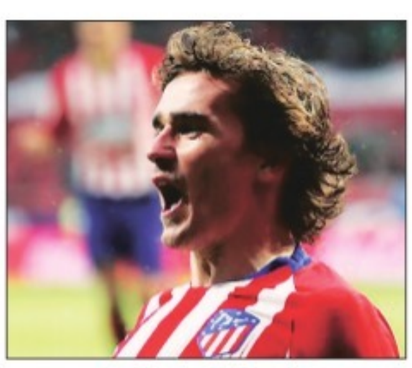
The mixed doubles pair of G. Sathiyan and Archana Kamath defeated Singapore's Peng Yu En Koen–Goi Rui Xuan 3-0 to win gold at the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in Cuttack. The gold count, on the penultimate day of the championships, stood at three. This had, in a way, avenged the earlier 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. But the second-seeded Sharath Kamal squandered three match points and then the quarterfinal match, shattering his men singles medal hope. Though Sharath failed to go past the semifinals in mixed doubles, he would definitely rue the singles loss to the younger legs of Peng in the quarters. The other Indians that made the grade included top-seeded G. Sathiyan, who beat Nigerian Bode Abiodun 4-0 and Harmeet Desai who accounted for fellow Indian Sushmit Sriram 4-1. Sanil Shetty joined Sharath when he went down to England's Thomas Jarvis 1-4. Earlier, the top-seeded Ho Tin-Tin of England beat the unseeded Archana Kamath to enter women's semifinals.

Nagal to play maiden ATP 500 event

Taking a big step forward, Indian youngster Sumit Nagal on Sunday assured himself a maiden appearance in the main draw of an ATP 500 tournament, qualifying for the Hamburg European Open. The 21-year-old pipped Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, world number 128 and seeded third here, 6-4 7-5 in the second and final qualifying round of the clay court event. He has been pitted against the former top-10 player Richard Gasquet, who is a winner of 15 ATP Tour singles titles. Before this, the 205-ranked Nagal, competed in the main draw of the ATP 250 Tata Open Maharashtra in 2018 as a qualifier.

Night racing plan at MMRT picks up speed

Confirming that night races at the MMRT circuit here are definitely on, MMSC vice-president Vicky Chandok Sunday said the club has earmarked funds to install floodlights at the FIA certified Grade 2 track. "A very professional lighting expert has given us a quote of Rs 16 crore do up the lights just like the Singapore Circuit. But we are going for a low lighting just like they have at Le Mans. "We are planning to install basic lighting that can help the marshals and Officials see the incidents on track so that they make sure that 'no one is injured. Safety is one aspect which I and everyone at the club, are very particular," he added.



Griezmann 'cried with joy' at Barca move

Antoine Griezmann admitted on Sunday that he was moved to tears of happiness when his big-money move to Barcelona finally came through after a controversial exit from former club Atletico Madrid. The World Cup winner is in Tokyo with Barca ahead of a clash with Chelsea on Tuesday after the La Liga giants shelled out 120 million euros to match his release clause amid a blistering row between the player and the two clubs. "I called my father and I started crying with joy because the transfer was all done, it all was over," Griezmann said in an interview with Marca. "I was with my friends, with my wife, with my children and it was an incredible moment." The 28-year-old added he was targeting European glory with Barcelona after two exits for the Catalans from the Champions League in the last two years -- to Roma and Liverpool.

Sun rises in the pool

Controversial swimmer wins record 400m freestyle gold; silver winner Horton refuses to share podium

Sun Yang celebrates after winning the 400m World Championship gold on Sunday with a timing of 3 minutes 42.44 seconds. *Reuters*

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GWANGJU, JULY 21

KATIE LEDECKY is usually there in the end, her endurance powering her to the wall well ahead of the competition. Someone else got there first at the world championships on Sunday night.

Ariarne Titmus of Australia chased down Ledecky over the last lap to win the 400-meter freestyle and deny the American star a record fourth straight title. It was Ledecky's first defeat in the event at a major international meet since 2013.

China's Sun Yang was able to do what Ledecky could not: win his record fourth consecutive title in the men's 400 free. As expected, it didn't come without controversy.

Sun worked his way from fifth to first and then easily kept rival Mack Horton of Australia at bay over the last lap to surpass Aussie great Ian Thorpe's record of three straight wins. "This is the greatest achievement in history for the Chinese team," Sun said through a translator. "Personally, it's a great start for myself and for the China team as well."

He touched first in 3:42.44. Horton took silver in 3:43.17, while Gabriele Detti of Italy earned bronze in 3:43.23. Sun climbed on the lane rope and waved four fingers on each hand in celebration. He pounded the water and was the last swimmer to leave the pool. Sun got out and thrust his arms in the air to screams and cheers from Chinese fans, who hung banners featuring his face from the stands. "I was so thankful for my fans," Sun said. "I am aware that I have fans and also the haters in the venue, but I was just very satisfied to win."

Sun won his other 400 free titles in 2013, 2015 and 2017. His presence at the world meet has drawn the ire of some swimmers,

On the medals podium, Sun and Horton didn't shake hands. Sun and Detti joined together on the top spot for photos but Horton didn't join them. Instead, he stood in his position a bit lower and away from the gold medalist

including Horton and American Lilly King. The Aussie is the only swimmer to beat Sun in the last eight years, taking gold in the 400 free at the Rio Olympics in 2016. That's when Horton called Sun a 'drug cheat' for his three-month doping suspension in 2014.

Asked what his overriding emotion was, Horton replied: "Frustration. I think you know in what respect." Sun said, "I am aware of the rumors that have been going around, but I try to just concentrate on my swimming and I will keep trying to put a lot of effort in my swimming."

On the medals podium, Sun and Horton didn't shake hands. Sun and Detti joined together on the top spot for photos but Horton didn't join them. Instead, he stood in his position a bit lower and away from the gold medalist. "I don't think I need to say anything," Horton said. "His actions and how it has been handled speaks louder than anything I could say." Sun said he was aware Horton has a problem with him. "Disrespecting me was OK, but disrespecting China was unfortunate," Sun said. "I feel sorry about that."

Sun is currently facing alleged doping rule violations that risk a ban from the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and he has requested a public trial at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in September to defend himself.

EXPLAINED. Sun, a GOAT or dope cheat?

SUN, 27, is regarded as the greatest freestyle swimmer of all time. He is the only man to win 200m, 400m and 1,500m freestyle Olympic gold and on Sunday, was crowned 400m freestyle champion for fourth consecutive time.

HOWEVER, HE faces a lifetime ban after a report in January claimed he rejected an out-of-competition dope test at his home in Zhejiang. It was also alleged Sun's mother ordered security guards to smash a vial of his blood sample with a hammer.

THE DISPUTE was referred to swimming's world governing body Fina. At a panel meeting in January, they ruled in favour of Sun after a 13-hour hearing, stating that the body would "never know" what had happened.

THE WORLD Anti Doping Agency was 'furious' over the ruling. They've appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against Fina's decision to not reprimand Sun. The swimmer has requested a public trial in September to defend himself. If found guilty, he will not be allowed to compete at the Tokyo Games.

THIS ISN'T the first time Sun is involved in such a controversy. In May 2014, he served a three-month suspension for testing positive for banned substance trimetazidine. The ban, however, was only announced after it was served to avoid any potential embarrassment during the Incheon Asian Games, where he won three gold medals.

THE SECRECY over his suspension led to a massive controversy, with Australian Mack Horton tearing into the Chinese star in Brazil after taking his Olympic 400m freestyle title. Horton's actions on Sunday shows there's no love lost between the two.

Mack Horton on Australia (L) refuses to share the podium with Chinese swimmer Sun Yang. *AP*

4 Number of men's 400m freestyle world titles China's Sun Yang has won, the most. On Sunday, he overtook Australia's Ian Thorpe (3).

In a thriller, Pacquiao beats Thurman by split decision

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LAS VEGAS, JULY 21

FROM HIS first-round knockdown punches to his tenacious 12th-round finish, Manny Pacquiao gave yet another one-sided thrashing to Father Time. Keith Thurman was a whole lot tougher to beat, but the 40-year-old Filipino senator managed to win that vote as well.

Pacquiao floored Thurman early and persevered late to an exciting split-decision victory Saturday night, adding a third straight win to his late-career resurgence. Pacquiao (62-7-2) dropped his previously unbeaten opponent with a combination late in the first round, and the Pac-Man dominated the opening rounds with a combination of flair and power that recalled the incredible prime of the only eight-division champion in boxing history.

Thurman (29-1) showed remarkable tenacity in rallying through the middle rounds, repeatedly testing Pacquiao's chin with big shots. Neither fighter managed another knockdown, but they pushed relentlessly in front of a sellout crowd at the MGM Grand Garden that repeatedly chanted Pacquiao's name from the moment he reached the ring. "It was fun," Pacquiao said. "My opponent is a good fighter and boxer. He was strong. ... I think he did his best, and I did my best. I think we made the fans happy tonight because it was a good fight."

Two judges scored the bout 115-112 for Pacquiao, while Glenn Feldman scored it 114-113 for Thurman. The Associated Press also scored it 115-112 for Pacquiao. "I knew it was close," Thurman said. "He had the momentum because he got the knockdown in Round 1. ... I wish I had a little bit more output to go toe to toe. My conditioning, my output was just behind Manny Pacquiao's tonight. Tonight was a blessing and a lesson." Pacquiao appeared to be declining as recently as two years ago, when he lost a listless decision to Jeff Horn. But while his political career flourished, Pacquiao also revived his ring career with solid back-to-back victories over Lucas Matthysse and Adrien Broner.

Thurman represented another major step up in competition, but Pacquiao's strong start quieted any speculation that he would suddenly look old in a matchup with an elite welterweight champion. Thurman's effort was impressive on paper: He landed slightly more punches than the famously active Pacquiao, and his 192 power punches landed were the most by any Pacquiao opponent in his 43 fights that were tracked by CompuBox. But Pacquiao had a dominant jab, and he outworked Thurman in the 12th round, throwing 56 punches to win the round on two judges' cards.

Both fighters started quickly with a series of good-looking exchanges, but Pacquiao changed the bout in an instant. He moved forward to land a left to the body and a right hook that sent Thurman to the canvas with 25 seconds left in the first round.

Thurman got up comfortably while the ecstatic crowd roared, but Pacquiao kept up his superior work for the next two rounds, repeatedly rocking Thurman with a variety of shots.

Filipino boxing fans watch the bout between Manny Pacquiao and Keith Thurman in Marikina, Phillipines. *Reuters*

Sprint queen Fraser-Pryce cruises in London

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON, JULY 21

SHELLY-ANN Fraser-Pryce fired a warning to her sprint rivals ahead of the world championships as Hellen Obiri set the fastest time of the year in the 5000 metres at the London Anniversary Games on Sunday.

Jamaica's Fraser-Pryce got away quickly in the 100m final and never looked like being caught by home favourite Dina Asher-Smith, winning in a time of 10.78 seconds. World 200m champion Dafne Schippers was disqualified after a false start at the Diamond League event.

"It's a long season and I've been training and training," said 32-year-old Fraser-Pryce, who won Olympic 100m gold in 2008 and repeated the feat on the same London track four years later. "To come out here and run 10.78 is a fabulous time. I feel good. The aim is to make sure when I get to Doha (world championships) that I'm on point."

No Americans were in the 100m field at the London Stadium because their world championship qualifiers are coming up this week. Kenya's Obiri, world champion in the women's 5000m, posted a time of 14 minutes 20.36 seconds — the best of the year so far. Dutch runner Sifan Hassan, who broke the 23-year-old women's mile record in Monaco last week, had to settle for bronze.

"I am so happy because this is my favourite track and I have done my best and I ran the way I wanted to," said Obiri. "In the last lap I was thinking, work hard and I said to myself when I went past Hassan: 'let me go and see if you can catch me'. I have been training well and this will help when I defend my title in Doha."

Britain's Lynsey Sharp was a popular winner in the women's 800m, outlasting Australia's Catriona Bisset to win in a time of 1:58.61. In other women's track events, Jamaica's Rushell Clayton won the 400m hurdles in 54.16 sec. Germany's Malaika Mihambo won the women's long jump with a leap of 7.02 metres.

Asian 200m record

China's Xie Zhenye set a new Asian record in winning the men's 200m in 19.88sec while Jamaica's Akeem Bloomfield won the 400m in 44.40sec. "It was amazing because it was my PB (personal best) and a new Asian record, so I'm very happy. I love you guys, I love this track," he said. "I just told myself to go fast. This gives me a lot of confidence for the world championships."

China's Xie Wenjun won the 110m hurdles in a time of 13.28sec. World indoor 1500m record holder Samuel Tefera of Ethiopia ran the fastest mile of the year so far in a time of 3:49.45, beating Norway's Filip Ingebrigtsen by just 0.15sec.

The mile is not an Olympic or world championship distance. Ingebrigtsen, 26, who set a new Norwegian record, is the older brother of 18-year-old Jakob Ingebrigtsen, who finished second in Saturday's 5000m.

Syria's Majd Eddin Ghazal won the men's high jump with a leap of 2.30m, beating world champion Mutaz Essa Barshim into second place, and Sweden's Daniel Stahl won the men's discus with a throw of 68.56m. Britain's men's sprinters won the 4x100m relay, clocking 37.60sec, the fastest time of the year.

There are Diamond League events to come in Birmingham, Paris, Zurich and Brussels in the lead-up to the world championships in Doha, which start on September 27.

Kane stunner earns Spurs victory over Juventus

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
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 keeper Wojciech Szczesny 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 coach'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.

Son Heung-min started the move by holding up play and feeding Troy Parrott for a clear run at Gianluigi Buffon in the Juventus goal, with the 17-year-old forward's low strike parried by the veteran keeper straight into the path of an unmarked Erik Lamela for a routine tap-in.

"It was a very good game, very competitive. To be honest, we are still short in our preparations and I wasn't planning to play this way so early in the pre-season ... we were still hoping to give some players more rest after a long campaign," Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino said. "The result was not the most important thing today, the performance was and how we continue our preparations for the upcoming season."

Juventus had more success after the break when they increased their tempo and went more direct, and halftime substitute Gonzalo Higuain levelled the score in the 56th minute with a drilled strike after exchanging neat passes with Federico Bernardeschi.

Buoyed by the equaliser, Juventus were soon ahead when Cristiano Ronaldo arrived late to drive home Mattia De Sciglio's cutback four minutes later, leaving to rapturous applause by an adoring crowd when he was substituted immediately after scoring.

Spurs were level in the 65th minute, 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.

Harry Kane celebrates after scoring a goal against Juventus on Sunday. *AP*

The England captain latched onto Lucas Moura's short pass (at half line) and launched a first-time shot high over a scrambling substitute keeper Wojciech Szczesny

Nketiah scores double in Arsenal's win over Fiorentina

Eddie Nketiah continued his fine pre-season form with two goals as Arsenal produced a 3-0 victory over Fiorentina in the International Champions Cup in Charlotte on Saturday. Arsenal fielded a young side with Nketiah, who scored the winner against Bayern Munich in Arsenal's last match, leading the line, and the 20-year-old wasted no time in finding the net again when he opened the scoring in the 15th minute.

Fiorentina pushed for an equaliser as Arsenal rang the changes in the second half, and two substitutes -- Henrik Mkhitaryan and Alexandre Lacazette -- combined to create an unmissable chance for Nketiah to make it two in the 65th minute. Defensive errors were again a common occurrence in the Arsenal backline, but Fiorentina failed to take advantage, and Joe Willock ensured the EPL side's second win from two games with a late third goal.

Bale close to leaving Real Madrid, says Zidane

REUTERS
JULY 21

FORWARD GARETH Bale's tenure with Real Madrid could come to an end in a matter of days after manager Zinedine Zidane said the club were working on offloading the Welsh international. Bale, 30, has won four Champions League titles since joining Madrid from Tottenham Hotspur in 2013 for a then world record 100 million euros ($112.20 million) but struggled to hold down his place in the starting side last season.

Amid suggestions that competition will only increase next season after the arrival of Belgian Eden Hazard, Bale was left out of Saturday's 3-1 defeat by Bayern Munich in a pre-season clash in Houston. "He wasn't included in the squad because the club is working on his departure... that's why he didn't play," Zidane told a news conference. "We'll have to see if it goes through tomorrow, if it does then all the better. Let's hope, for everyone's sake, that it happens soon."

'Zidane a disgrace'

Zidane's comments drew a stinging reply from Bale's agent Jonathan Barnett, who labelled the Frenchman "a disgrace." "Zidane is a disgrace to speak like that about someone who has done so much for Real," Barnett was quoted as saying by ESPN. "If and when Gareth goes it will be because it is in the best interest of Gareth and nothing to do with Zidane pushing."

Bale was criticised by the Spanish media last season after failing to fill the void left by Cristiano Ronaldo's departure to Juventus as Madrid came third in La Liga last season, 19 points behind champions Barcelona. Zidane, however, said there was nothing personal in his decision to deem Bale surplus to requirements. "There comes a time when things are done because they need to be done. I've not got anything against him," Zidane added. "We have to make decisions and change things, that's all there is to it. I don't know if this will happen in 24 or 48 hours... it's for the best for everyone."

Bale's high wages -- reported by British media to be 600,000 pounds ($749,880) per week -- mean few clubs would be capable of signing him permanently. Barnett last month ruled out chances of him leaving on loan saying he was happy to stay amid reports linking him with Manchester United, Bayern Munich and Spurs.

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ZINEDINE ZIDANE
MANAGER, REAL MADRID

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