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NEARBY

Drug haul: accused dead

CHANDIGARH

The key accused in the alleged smuggling of heroin from Pakistan, who was lodged in Amritsar jail, has died in judicial custody.

NORTH & EAST ▸ PAGE 5

Now and Then

The only Indian basketball player to receive a Padma Shri, Prashanti Singh says she is now happy lifting weights in the gym. ▸ PAGE 2

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EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ 4 PAGES

Solar panel vendors cash in on power demand during Assam floods

Some traders in areas that usually escape inundation invested in solar gadgets before the arrival of the monsoon in June

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The sun has created a flood of business opportunities in the monsoon-mauled Assam.

The deluge this year has so far killed 55 people – five drowned on Saturday – and washed away 521 domestic animals and fowl as 38.37 lakh people across 18 of the 33 districts continue to be affected. The tragedy for most has translated into cash for a few, even non-traders who sniffed possibilities. Among the major beneficiaries are vendors of solar panels and appliances. "The number of solar equipment vendors has increased significantly over the past few months, but the sale of solar panels jumped during the floods," said Jaideep Baruah, in charge of environment at the Assam Science Technology and Environment Council.

Timely investment

Rahul Amin of the flood-hit Bhaktadaba village in Barpeta district said some traders in areas that usually escape inundation invested in solar panels before the arrival of the monsoon in June. "We generally experience long hours of power cuts and

SPECIAL

there has been no electricity since the floods submerged most houses in these areas more than a week ago. Traders in market areas such as Mohanbazar, Bankhabazar and Manubazar have generators, but many installed solar panels to first charge batteries and let us charge our mobile phones and torches for a fee," he said.

A trader, declining to be named, insisted he was not cashing in on people's misery. "It is a service we are providing and we have a right to recover our cost and a little more," he said.

The likes of Hasanur Alam, who pays ₹10 for charging his feature phone, and Nazrul Islam, whose smartphone entails a charging fee of ₹20, are not complaining. Each charging centre, Mr. Amin said, gets 200 clients per day.

Officials dealing with non-conventional energy said the demand for solar panels had made a few vendors in flood-prone areas sell their wares at a premium. A Guwahati dealer denied the allegation.

Depending on whether it is monocrystalline and polycrystalline, a solar panel of up to 50 watts costs ₹46-73 per watt. The demand is more for panels of capacity ranging from 12 watts to 20 watts.

"Many inmates of relief camps and flood-affected people in makeshift houses on embankments are using solar panels for basic requirement," said Nayanjyoti Bhuyan, associated with an aid agency. Officials in Nalbari and Barpeta districts said non-traders had also joined retailers in ferrying essentials.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Much sought after: A mobile phone charging centre, run on generators and solar panels, in Barpeta. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Delhi bids farewell to Sheila Dikshit

Senior Congress leaders, supporters and political rivals attend cremation

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The mortal remains of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit were consigned to flames at the Nigam Bodh Ghat here on Wednesday.

Family members, friends, senior Congress leaders and political supporters and rivals attended the cremation carried out with full state honours amid heavy monsoon showers and cries of "Sheila Dikshit *Amar Rahe*".

Sources close to her family said she had told them that she wished to be cremated in the CNG-run crematorium at the ghat as it was eco-friendly.

As Chief Minister, it was Ms. Dikshit who was instrumental in introducing CNG-run public transport vehicles in the Capital to curb air pollution.

The cortege left Ms. Dikshit's home in Nizamuddin East and made its way to the All India Congress Committee headquarters on 24 Akbar Road where it halted for two hours for people to pay their last respects to her.

It then proceeded towards the ghat after making a small detour via the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) headquarters on Deen Dayal Upadhaya Marg.

Ms. Dikshit, who died of a cardiac arrest on Saturday evening, was the DPCC president.

At the AICC headquarters, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Chief Ministers Kamal Nath and Ashok Ghelot, and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were among those who paid their last respects.

A city's loss: The funeral procession of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit leaving from the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Sunday. ▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Ms. Sonia Gandhi told presspersons that Ms. Dikshit was a friend and like an elder sister.

"Her demise is a big loss to the Congress party," she said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani. former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also paid their respects during the day.

Scores of supporters paid their last respects at Ms. Dikshit's home in the morning, at the AICC headquarters and also at the crematorium.

Many of them had several stories to share about how Ms. Dikshit had had an impact on their lives and how they were shocked that someone who had only recently contested a Lok Sabha election could pass away so suddenly.

Revamp of Army Headquarters to get under way by month-end

Government has already given in-principle nod

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Army's attempt at major restructuring will begin with the draft government sanction letter for reorganisation of the Army Headquarters (AHQ) expected by the month-end, Army sources said. The AHQ restructuring is the first of the four measures being undertaken as part of the transformation of the force.

Aligning procurements

"The government has already given in-principle approval for the AHQ restructuring. We have identified how to utilise the available space. One of the main ideas is to get procurements aligned, among other things. A new Deputy Chief (Sustenance) is going to look after all procurements," a senior Army source told *The Hindu*.

Change of guard

The Army Headquarters (AHQ) will be reorganised as part of a bigger transformation of the force

How the AHQ is restructured:

At present: Two Deputy Chiefs for:
1. Information systems & training
2. Planning and systems

After change: Three Deputy Chiefs for: 1. Sustenance 2. Strategy 3. Information systems

- Director General (DG), Rashtriya Rifles, to move to Udhampur under an Additional Director General (ADG)
- New post of 'ADG Vigilance' to be created. Will report to Army Chief
- Army Training Command based in Shimla to be moved to Meerut
- New 'ADG Human Resources' will track investigations and action on HR violations
- Number of officers in AHQ to come down by over 200. Young officers to be posted out to field areas

Under the plan, the Master-General Ordnance will report to the Deputy Chief to bring all ammunition under one head, the source stated.

The Army now has two Deputy Chiefs, one for information systems and training and the other for planning and systems. These functions are being brought under one authority to avoid overlapping.

In another major change at the AHQ, the Directorates of Military Operations, Military Intelligence and Operational Logistics will report to the Deputy Chief (Strategy). The Perspective Planning Directorate will also report to this Deputy Chief. The third Deputy Chief, Information Systems, will look after all technology and cyber-related issues, the source said.

A new post of Additional Director-General (ADG), Vigilance, is being created, and he will report to the Army chief.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Govt. to roll out big push for infrastructure

Major decisions outlined as NDA completes 50 days in office in second term

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An Annual Global Investors Summit is to be organised later this year, with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) anchoring the event, to invite investment in the infrastructure segment, where spending for the next five years is projected at ₹100 crore.

The government is hoping that this massive push for infrastructure, with investors from India and abroad participating, will have a cascading effect of pushing growth.

Many of the big ticket promises were taken up at the first Cabinet meeting.

This was revealed by government sources as the Modi government completed the first 50 days of its second term and shared data on decisions taken by it.

Significantly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told close aides in his office that there will be no "settling-in" period this time around as it was a continuing government.

Giving further details, government sources said the 50-day push was important as it clearly delineated the government's priorities and where it wanted to focus resources and policy thought.

Many of the big ticket promises made in the BJP's manifesto, like the universalisation of the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi (farmers income support scheme) and pensions for small retailers and the unorganised sector, were taken up at the first Cabinet meeting.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Heavy rain leaves roads waterlogged

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Heavy rain lashed the Capital on Sunday leading to waterlogging and traffic congestion at several places.

The city received 49.2 mm of rainfall between 9 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., making it the heaviest downpour of the season so far.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 3

Little room for SC/ST scientists in biotech bodies

RTI enquiry reveals poor representation

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Scientists from the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) are grossly under-represented in scientific institutions funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), a Right To Information query by a researcher has found.

Several of these institutions just about meet the government prescribed criteria for reservation – 15% for the SCs and 7.5% for the STs. However, the RTI responses perused by *The Hindu* show that posts of scientist and technical grade staff (where reservation rules are not mandatory) see only single-digit representation from the reserved categories (excluding the Other Backward Classes).

Employee position

	Permanent staff		Scientists	
Institute	Total	SC/ST	SC	ST
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology	37	6	1	0
National Institute of Immunology	208	34	2	0
Regional Centre for Biotechnology	44	4	0	0
National Insitute of Plant Genome Research	74	9	5	0
Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics	110	19	2	0
National Centre for Cell Sciences	149	27	5	2
Centre of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing	13	2	1	0
Translational Health Science and Technology Institute	32	2	1	0
Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development	14	0	0	0

For instance, at the National Institute of Immunology (NII), funded by the DBT, 34 out of the 208 permanent employees belong to the SC/ST category. However, only two from the SC category were scientists (Group A scientists in the pay grade level 10 and above, where the SC/ST reservations don't apply). There was no scientist from the ST category.

At the Regional Centre for Biotechnology, another DBT institute, set up under the auspices of UNESCO, four of the 44 permanent posts were held by the SC/ST candidates. But none was in the scientist grade.

The Pune-based National Centre for Cell Sciences had the highest representation of SCs and STs among scientists – five in the SC category and two from the STs.

Of the 16 DBT institutions, only nine responded to a request for information on representation of scientists, said Ashok Kumar, the RTI applicant. Mr Kumar is a doctoral candidate at the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad, also an autonomous DBT institute. The THSTI records just two of its 32 permanent employees from the SC/ST category of whom one was in the scientist grade.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

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NOW AND THEN

‘I am happy lifting weights in the gym’

PRASHANTI SINGH, 35, SHOOTING GUARD

CAREER SPAN: 1997 to 2016

PLAYED: Two Asian Games, 7 Asian Championships, 1 Commonwealth Games, Asian Indoor Games, Asian Beach Games

HONOURS: Padma Shri, Arjuna Award, Rani Lakshmibai Bravery Award

KNOWN FOR: Being a match-winner at the crunch, especially in international events

FOR THE RECORD: Led the national team to the Asian Games in Guangzhou in 2010, the first time an Indian women’s team participated after 1982; played the Commonwealth Games in 2006; powered the team to its best ever placing of sixth in the 2014 Asian Games; helped Delhi win 22 national-level medals

(Clockwise from top left) Prashanti Singh in action against Mozambique in the 2006 CWG; receiving the Padma Shri from President Ram Nath Kovind; with family: (from left) Divya, Vikrant (brother) Akanksha, Prashanti, Pratima, Priyanka; (sitting) Urmila (mother), Gauri Shankar Singh (father).

▪ GETTY IMAGES, PTI AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Prashanti Singh, the only basketball player to be awarded the Padma Shri, is now a talent spotter for the Khelo India programme, and still enjoys hanging out with her sports buddies

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Prashanti Singh’s parents have watched her play basketball only once, very early in her career. Her father, a bank employee, found it too much like combat sport, and simply couldn’t watch his daughter go through the ‘torture’. Her mother, on the other hand, enjoyed the experience, but insisted on cheering for the opposing team too. “I asked her what she was doing, and she said, well, ‘They’re working equally hard’,” says Prashanti. It’s where this national-level basketball player says she got the spirit of sportsmanship: “It taught me always to respect the other team.”

It’s probably one of the reasons she is India’s only basketball player to get a Padma Shri. The other could be her determination. “Coming from Varanasi [in 2002] and trying to make a career in the sport – it gave me the foundation and confidence to stick to the game,” she says.

After school, the now 35-year-old had offers to study at St. Stephen’s College, Jesus and Mary and Banaras Hindu University, but she picked sport, going on to become the captain of the Indian women’s team. She chose the Open School system of Delhi University instead. “I was good at studies. People used to say that I had the potential to make it to the civil services. They saw leadership qualities in me,” she recalls.

After all, she was 11 when she began, and she was determined to make it, the middle sister amongst five basketball players who would later be known as “The Singh Sisters”. “In Varanasi, where most girls are told to be home before sunset, we were allowed to pursue our love for sports,” she says, thankful for parental support.

In the moment

“I joined MTNL [Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited] when I was 17,” says Prashanti. Today, she lives in a flat on Janpath, simple two-bedroom accommodation from MTNL. “I have an executive post, and am eligible for better accommodation, but I am happy to stay here, as a lot of good things have happened to me, and it’s so convenient,” she says, especially since all her friends live around. A bunch of sportspeople, who are from different disciplines, gather together often in the evening, hopping into a car, hanging out in Connaught Place. They’ll do dinner, rotating each one’s favourite cuisine.

Even today, what keeps her happiest is when she’s doing what she was trained for: “I am happy lifting weights in the gym. On many days we play at the Indira Gandhi stadium with coaches and friends in the evening, just to chill,” she says. “Once a player, always a player.”

On the road

She’s one of the few who enjoy driving on Delhi roads. “My sisters and I share three cars in the house,” she says, referring to Divya and Akanksha, who with third sister Pratima, all played for India and Delhi. “But I prefer to drive the [Hyundai] i10 because it is easier to manoeuvre in Delhi’s traffic. I have been to most cities [in India], and Delhi has better roads than all the other metros. We can actually drive here. I drive a lot in NCR for basketball,” she says, referring to her current role as a talent scout for the government’s Khelo India programme. She’s never had a bad experience on the road or felt a sense of personal insecurity.

In fact, Prashanti says she’s never felt unsafe while training either. “I can’t speak for individual sports, but with a team sport, we are a group of girls, so nothing untoward is likely to happen,” she says.

It was Harish Sharma, the late secretary general of the Basketball Federation of India, who ensured that a bunch of sporting girls got jobs. This strengthened the Delhi team over the years.

“Harish was a visionary and a kind soul. The best thing about him was that he was not a man of shallow ego, a rarity among top-seat holders. He reached out to the players, coaches and others for the betterment of sport. I wish he could see his players being recognised with top sporting and civilian awards,” she says of the mentor of Indian basketball.

In the early 2000s, the Railways had all the national players, and a pool of 200. “We used to be two or three good players. We used to plead with the college girls to train with us and prepare for the national championship,” she remembers.

In 2003, Delhi won the national championship, wresting the title from the all-powerful Railways in Hyderabad. It was a real victory. Despite being a top-notch scorer and a player who turned matches, Prashanti had to play the full 40 minutes in almost every match. “We did not have quality players to substitute during matches.”

Future perfect

The NBA from the U.S. has been in India for more than a decade, and Prashanti stresses on the importance of capitalising on it to take Indian basketball forward.

“We need a professional league to help the game grow. Women players need more jobs. There is not enough competition, apart from about 20 days for the national championship and the Federation Cup. Basketball players work hard all through the year and hardly get a chance to compete,” she says.

“This journey has not been that easy,” she says, recalling how accolades are hard-won. In order for things to change though, she feels we must re-examine mindsets if we are to build a sports culture over a long-term period. “Some of our achievements went unrecognised. We missed a lot of celebrations, because people understand only medals. Basketball is played by 215 countries, and the standards are very high,” she says of her counterparts abroad who have better infrastructure, competitions, and investment.

As for her own future, she sees herself enjoying her life and unfolding without micro-planning -- not even marriage. “It is our national pastime, even more than Bollywood and cricket,” she says, not mincing words. “It’ll happen when it has to.”

IN BRIEF

DUTA to conduct elections in August

NEW DELHI

The Delhi University Teacher’s Association (DUTA) will hold its elections for the post of president and 15 members to it’s executive in late August. In a statement, the union said that about 10,000 teachers are expected to participate in the process. The election schedule was released on Sunday by election officer Ujjwal Singh after the DUTA executive meeting.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	108	Gurugram	73
Ghaziabad	118	Faridabad	70
Noida	116	Greater Noida	138

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

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

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Panel discussion on “An Assessment of Nepal China Relations”. Panelists: Nilamber Acharya, Ambassador of Nepal to India; Ranjit Rae, former Indian Ambassador to Hungary, Vietnam and Nepal; and Prof. S.D. Muni, Professor Emeritus, JNU Chair; Prof. Sangeeta Thapliyal, School of International Studies, JNU, at India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

Talk: Justice Prabha Sridevan, former Judge of the Madras HC will deliver a lecture titled, “The Other’s Shoes”, as part of Women in Law in India series at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC, 6.30 p.m.

Dance: India International Rural Cultural Centre (IRCEN) presents an Odissi dance recital by Paulami Guha at Govt. Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Khera Khurd, 9 a.m. and Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Khera Kalan, 11 a.m.

Music: Mehfil-E-Ghazal by Jamil Ahmed Khan at Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: “Delhi Evolution through Flora and Time”, a solo show by Vidur Sodhani at Delhi O Delhi Foyer, India Habitat Centre, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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

High Court refuses to interfere in MCI decision

Council revoked registration of additional qualification of doctor

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has declined to interfere with the decision of the Medical Council of India (MCI) to revoke the registration of additional qualification of a UK-based doctor, who acquired the qualification by offshore training at a medical college in Bangalore.

Yamsani Srinivas had in his plea said that he was an Indian citizen and had completed his MBBS degree programme from Ukraine. He said he is practising as an MD in Scotland, United Kingdom.

After completing the course from the Membership of Royal College of Emergency Medicine (MRCEM), United Kingdom, he had applied for registration of the qualification as an additional qualification under the Indian Medical Council Act.

MCI had granted the registration in April 2016, but later it was revoked on the ground that he is not entitled to registration in the United Kingdom in the speciality concerned on the basis of the additional qualification.

Offshore training

The court was informed that Dr. Srinivas has acquired the qualification by offshore training at St. Johns Medical College in Bangalore. MCI stated that since he had acquired the qualification in a country other than the United Kingdom, the same would not be recognised in the United Kingdom.

Taking note of the facts of the case, the Bench said, “Since it is not disputed that the petitioner is not registered in the United Kingdom in respect of the additional qualification of MRCEM, this court does not find any infirmity with the decision of MCI”.

It, however, clarified that if Dr. Srinivas submits sufficient proof to establish that the additional qualification of MRCEM is sufficient to entitle him for being registered as a practitioner in the speciality concerned in the United Kingdom on the strength of the said qualification, MCI shall recognise the same.

Avoid challenging arbitral awards casually, NHAI told

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The NHAI should avoid challenging arbitral awards against it “mechanically and casually” as it derails infrastructural projects and raises the amount to be paid to contractors.

Justice Prathiba M Singh said there is an urgent need for the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to take a policy decision on the way to resolve its disputes with contractors.

“There is a need for the NHAI not to challenge arbitral awards mechanically and casually, specially where objections to the award are not strong or substantial,” said Justice Singh, adding “challenges being raised to awards in this manner also results in derailment of infrastructural projects“.

Justice Singh said by casually challenging the arbitral awards against it, the NHAI deprives both the contractor of timely payments as well as adds to that additional amounts payable on account of interest to the contractor.

The Judge also directed the court’s registry to communicate the order to the NHAI chairman.

The court’s order came on two separate petitions, one by the NHAI and other by contractor Gammon India Ltd, both challenging parts of the same arbitral awards passed against them.

Gammon had entered into a contract with the NHAI for widening a nearly 140-km stretch NH-5 in Odisha from two lane to four/six lane and strengthening bridges and flyovers on it between Chandikhole and Baleshwar.

The court, in its 56-page judgment, said the entire mechanism of Dispute Resolution Board and Arbitral Tribunal would be set at naught if the DRB’s every recommendation and every award of the tribunal is challenged.

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

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI (ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1956 AND IN THE MATTER OF SHREE BAHUBALI CASTINGS PVT. LTD. (IN LIQN.) IN C. P. NO. 94/08

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3. The tender should reach the Asstt. Registrar (Company), Room No. 8-A, Basement, Delh High Court, Sher Shah Marg, New Delhi. However, in terms of court order dated 29-4-2019, the tender also be submitted before the Office of Official Liquidator, High Court of Delhi, before the date of auction on or before 21-8-2019 during the working hours of the Hon’ble Court in sealed cover marked **“OFFER IN THE MATTER OF SHREE BAHUBALI CASTINGS PVT. LTD. (IN LIQN.)”** for Land mentioning C.P. number and date of auction accompanied with Demand Draft or Pay Order drawn in favour of the Official Liquidator, Delhi payable at New Delhi towards earnest money as under :-

Name of Company	Details of Assets	Location	Reserve Price (In Lacs)	EMD (In Lacs)	Date of Inspection	Date for Opening Tender
Shree Bahubali Castings Pvt. Ltd. (In Liqn.) in C.P. No.94/08	Land/ Factory Plot (Lease Hold) 0.93 Acres	Plot No. A-15N, SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Gummidipoondi, Chennai, Tamilnadu - 601201	Rs. 74.40	Rs. 7.44	29-7-19 & 30-7-19	22-8-19

Note :- The above information as indicated in the table is based on the Valuation Report dated 7-1-19 of M/s. ITCOT Consultancy and Services Ltd. valuer appointed by the Hon’ble High Court.

4. The tender will be opened on 22-8-2019 before the Hon’ble Judge in (Court No. 47) Delhi High Court, New Delhi in the presence of such tenderers who may like to be present at that time.
5. The bidder shall enclose the photocopies of their PAN card along with the bid/tender.
6. That in case the Court deems appropriate, open bidding shall be held on the date of auction or so soon thereafter as the Court may deem fit.
7. The detailed information and copy of “TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE” can be downloaded from the website of the Official Liquidator and the same can also be collected from the office of the undersigned on any working day between 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
8. It shall open to any party to submit its bids even before Court, provided a bank draft for the amount of earnest money is also submitted to the Court at that time. The above said information is also available on Website :- **www.delhihighcourt.nic.in and www.mca.gov.in**

Sd/-
PLACE : NEW DELHI
DATE : 16-5-2019
(D. K. SINGH)
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR, HIGH COURT OF DELHI
8TH FLOOR, A & B WING, LOK NAYAK BHAWAN, KHAN MARKET, NEW DELHI - 110003. PH. NO. 011-24693393, 24693394, FAX NO. 24693314.

Ex-Delhi BJP chief Mange Ram Garg dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former Delhi BJP president Mange Ram Garg passed away at a city hospital here on Sunday morning. The demise of Garg, 83, was mourned by senior party leaders.

He died around 7.30 a.m. at Action Balaji Hospital in Paschim Vihar, north Delhi.

Garg’s mortal remains were taken to his residence in Ashok Vihar from where it was taken to Delhi BJP office at Pant Marg, said party leaders. Garg had pledged his organs to *Dadhichi Deh Dan Samiti* for which his body will be taken to Lady Hardinge Medical College hospital.

No relief to police constable who was robbed of service pistol

Was under the influence of liquor at the time of incident

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has upheld the forfeiture of two-year service of a Delhi police constable who was robbed of his service pistol with five live cartridges while returning home from duty.

The disciplinary action against the constable was taken as he did not deposit a 9 MM pistol with 5 cartridges issued to him to the Police Station ‘Malkhana’ after his duty hours.

While he was returning home in the intervening night of September 3 and 4, 2008, constable Virender was robbed of his service pistol with live cartridges and his purse. He was medically examined on the same night in which it was found that he was under the influence of liquor. A detailed departmental inquiry was held against him, in which he was found guilty by the inquiry officer.

Forfeiture of service

He was awarded punishment of forfeiture of two years approved service permanently entailing proportionate reduction in his pay in two stages. Following this, he challenged the punishment before the High Court.

A Bench of Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar and Justice Vipin Sanghi noted that the act of Virender in consuming liquor while carrying the service pistol with him “speaks volumes about his conduct”.

“While he was in the possession of the service pistol with five live cartridges, very heavy burden lay on him to safeguard his weapon but instead, the petitioner consumed liquor while carrying the service revolver with him and lost the same,” the Bench remarked.

“The petitioner is a member of a disciplined force and it was least expected of him to have indulged in such an act of sheer negligence,” it said.

Rain floods roads and underpass in Gurugram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Heavy rainfall in Gurugram on Sunday led to waterlogging at several points across the Millennium City, including the newly constructed right turn underpass on Mehrauli-Gurugram Road. However, no traffic jams were reported.

M.G. Road was the worst hit with water flowing to the area from Ghata village and neighbouring areas. NHAI Project Director Ashok Sharma said the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority was carrying out milling near Sikanderpur which led to the flood. "The underpass was flooded for the same reason, but the water was pumped out soon," said Mr. Sharma.

Waterlogging was also reported at IFFCO Chowk, Basai village, Sikanderpur Power House, Jwala Mill Road, M.G. Road metro station and AIT Chowk on Golf Course Road. Traffic policemen could be seen directing the vehicles standing on the middle of the waterlogged roads.

People took to Twitter to complain about waterlogging. "We are marooned by the rains. No drainage system in A block Sushantlok-1, Gurgaon. Authorities please take note. Help us to move out without water logging. [sic]," said one of the tweets. Another posted a video of driving through a road inundated with water.

Waterlogged roads choke traffic as rain lashes city

City received 49.2 mm rainfall between 9 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

Motorists drive through a waterlogged road near IGI stadium on Sunday. ▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Several incidents of waterlogging were reported from across the city and traffic came to a standstill after heavy rain lashed the Capital on Sunday afternoon.

Commuters were seen wading though waist-deep water on several stretches along the Ring Road between Kashmere Gate and the Pragati Maidan crossing, with many roads resembling gushing streams.

The city received 49.2 mm of rainfall between 9 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. on Sunday that makes it the heaviest downpour this monsoon so far. In the first half of July, due to a delay in the arrival of monsoon, the Capital had witnessed a rainfall deficit. However, with forecast of rain for the next week, the city could make up for the dry spell in the first half of the month.

The Met office has forecast generally cloudy skies for Monday with the possibility of light rain/thundershowers. Generally cloudy sky and light rain has also been forecast for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Although the showers on Sunday brought down temperatures in the evening, it was hot and humid during the day with a maximum of 36.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 26.8 degrees Celsius.

The Delhi traffic police said it received 25 calls related to waterlogging. Most of these calls were reported from areas like Madhuban Chowk, W-Point to Mandi House, Moti Nagar, the department said. A call regarding a road cave-in at Vasant Kunj was also received, following which a traffic policeman was deployed and necessary diversion was put in place to avoid any untoward incident.

A traffic police officer said that they have an emergency response team to be deployed at traffic lights which gets dysfunctional when it rains. "We have promptly posted traffic-related updates on the social media for the convenience of motorists. We coordinated with civic agencies to clear waterlogging at the earliest to ensure smooth flow of traffic," said the officer.

Caretaker kills minor after failed rape bid

Accused held within hours of crime; incident reported in east Delhi on July 19

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old caretaker of a paying guest hostel in east Delhi's Shakarpur was arrested for allegedly attempting to rape and strangulating a nine-year-old girl, the police said on Sunday.

The police said that the incident was reported around 12.30 p.m. on July 19 in the basement of a building in Shakarpur. The PCR received a call about a girl lying unconscious in the basement. A police team reached the location and the girl was rushed to a hospital where doctors declared her brought dead. While examining the body, the doctors found a ligature mark on her neck and injury marks near her private parts.

A police officer said that the girl used to stay with her parents and siblings in the basement of the building. Her parents work as domestic helps in a PG hostel in the building. During the incident, her father had gone out for some work and her mother was working in the building.

"We have examined the footage of the CCTV installed in the building. Nobody was seen entering or leaving the premises when the incident took place. We knew the suspect was someone from the building and later found that the caretaker was missing ever since the incident came to light," said the officer.

The police said that the victim's family is from Nepal. They had come to Delhi around four years ago and have been living in the basement of the building since a year.

The caretaker, who belongs to Hapur in U.P., was held within a few hours.

Shouted for help

During interrogation, he confessed to have killed the girl after he failed to rape her. The girl was alone in the basement with her 11-month-old sister when the accused attempted rape on her but she got herself freed and started shouting for help. In fear of getting caught, the caretaker strangulated her with a rope and left the building immediately.

An FIR has been registered at Shakarpur police station.

"A detailed post-mortem report is awaited. The body was handed over to the family. The accused has been arrested under IPC Section 302 [murder] and Sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act," said the officer.

Govt. yet to act on HSIC order to disclose property returns details

Reply to RTI application says matter under consideration

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Almost four months after the April 1 deadline set by the Haryana State Information Commission (HSIC) to make public the details of property returns of all its State Civil Service Officers and gazetted officers (Group A and B), the Haryana government is yet to act on the order. In reply to an RTI application, the government said the matter is still under consideration.

Hearing a complaint by RTI activist P.P. Kapoor, the HSIC had directed the National Informatics Commission in October last to develop and test the portal for the display of immovable property returns in hundred days and make it functional by February 15, 2019. Granting more time to the government to fully upload the immovable property returns of the officers, the commission had directed that "the detailed annual property return reports should be available on online portal from April 1, 2019".

It further ruled that the declaration of property returns may be made "mandatory for all the officers without exception" adding that strict system should be in place to act against those not filing their returns.

The commission also observed that the government should ensure that the Annual Confidential Reports of the officers may have a column wherein they would declare as to whether they have submitted their annual property returns in time or not as is one in case of IAS/IPS officers.

When Mr. Kapoor, a resident of Panipat, sought to know from the commission through an RTI application about the progress made in this regard, he was told earlier this month that the commission had not received any document from the secretariat regarding the implementation of its order. A similar RTI to the secretariat revealed that the "matter was under the consideration of the government".

Nine-year-long battle

Mr. Kapoor said he fought a legal battle for nine years before the full Bench of the commission eventually passed the order, but the Haryana government seemed to be least bothered in implementing it. He said the indifference of the government was more shocking in light of the fact that its own panel comprising four senior officers had agreed to it in principle.

Minor boy electrocuted, case filed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A minor boy allegedly died of electrocution in east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar, the police said on Sunday.

The two-and-a-half-year-old victim had gone to play near a plastic factory on July 20, the police said. He had allegedly put his leg on a live wire and got electrocuted, they said. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared brought dead, a senior police officer said.

The family buried his body around 4 p.m. The police were informed about the incident around 9 p.m. They dug out the body and sent it for post-mortem, which was conducted on Sunday.

The body has been handed over to the family, the police said, adding that they have ruled out foul play.

Man involved in murder of BSP leader's brother held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
FARIDABAD

A notorious criminal, wanted in connection with the murder of a BSP leader's brother in Ghaziabad's Loni, was arrested by the Faridabad police on Sunday in an encounter. The accused sustained a bullet injury in his leg and is admitted to a hospital.

He carried a cash reward of ₹25,000 on his head announced by Uttar Pradesh Police.

A team of Sector 85 Crime Branch of the Faridabad police, led by Sub-Inspector Sumer Singh, had erected barricades in Greater Faridabad to carry out a routine check of vehicles in the early hours of Sunday. When they signalled a motorcyclist to stop, he accelerated and tried to escape. The team followed him. The motorcyclist, later identified as Pradeep Kumar, turned onto a road that came to a dead end. He then left his motorcycle and allegedly opened fire at the police while trying to flee on foot.

Pradeep Kumar
▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Assistant Sub-Inspector Surender and Head Constable Sushil fired in retaliation and a bullet hit Pradeep on the right leg. He was then arrested and sent to a hospital for treatment.

Pradeep had allegedly shot BSP leader Vijay Pal's brother Dev Pal seven months ago and a case was registered at Loni police station in this connection.

Eight cases of heinous crime, including murder, attempt to murder, robbery, theft and dacoity, were registered against him and his accomplices at Loni and one each in Kavi Nagar, Tronica City Ghaziabad and Modi Nagar. A case of attempt to murder was also registered at Timapur police station in Delhi, the police said.

A case under the charge of attempt to murder has been registered against him for opening fire at the police, at Sector 75 police station in Faridabad.

'Point out law prohibiting vendors from selling meat without licence'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

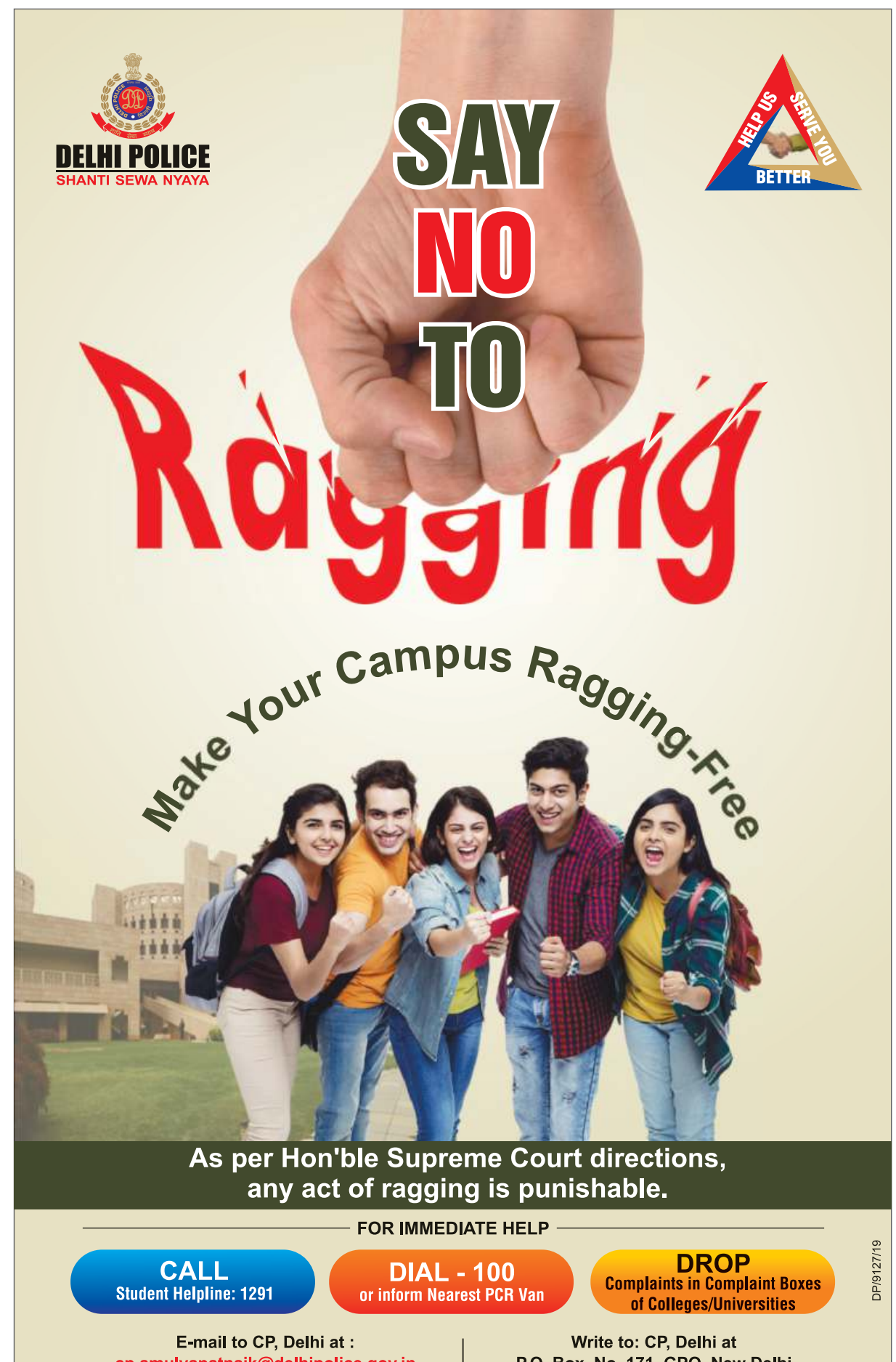
The Delhi High Court has asked the North Delhi Municipal Corporation to bring before it the law that prohibits a street vendor from selling meat without a licence.

"Where is the law that prohibits a street vendor from selling meat without a licence? Which law entitles you [North Delhi Municipal Corporation] to prohibit it? Saying you have a policy is neither here nor there," Justice Vibhu Bakhru said.

The counsel for the civic body thereafter sought time to place before the court the law, if any, which requires street vendors to get a license for selling meat. The court granted the North corporation time till Monday to indicate the said law.

The court was hearing a plea by an association of street vendors seeking directions to the civic body not to displace them from their squatting sites at Mahendra Park here, till they are granted a vending certificate under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.

The association, in its petition, contended that according to provisions of the Act they cannot be evicted unless a survey is conducted and a scheme is framed.



The fall of India's first supermarket

Super Bazar in Connaught Place closed in 2002. Where once all roads led to the NDMC building that housed the cooperative store, the six-storey structure is now a decrepit shadow of its old self

In ruins: The defunct Super Bazar in Connaught Place, New Delhi. ▪ V.V. KRISHNAN, SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

CITY MATTERS

In 1966, Super Bazar in Connaught Place opened its doors to Delhiites offering reasonably priced products ranging from vegetables to transistors.

But in less than 40 years, 'India's first supermarket', which was started as a panacea for price rise, shut down owing to losses and alleged mismanagement and corruption.

The New Delhi Municipal Council building that housed Super Bazar till 2002 stands decrepit. Once host to thousands of consumers daily, the six-storey structure now houses a banyan tree with its branches jutting out of rusted and broken windows.

Nearly two decades of neglect have taken a toll on the building. Parts of it have fallen in, exposing iron rods. The sun-burnt white paint has peeled off at some areas leaving behind red patches. At the entrance, a board reads 'Super Bazar'.

The sprawling structure lies waste except for a portion on the ground floor where an office has been set up to carry out liquidation of Super Bazar following court orders. There is also a small room that is used by beat officers as a resting house.

In its heyday

In his book *Civil Disobedience*, the late L.C. Jain, who was then working for the India Cooperative Union, wrote about how the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was worried about rising prices, and how the concern led to the establishment of Super Bazar.

Talking about opening day, Mr. Jain wrote: "As the doors opened, hundreds poured in smashing counters and windows."

"To carry the price influence of Super Bazar over retail trade in Delhi, All India Radio would put out a daily price bulletin in the morning comparing market rates versus Super Bazar rates. This had the impact of dampening prices in Delhi. The message got out – we were the watchdog," he wrote.

Explaining the sale of low-priced transistors at Super Bazar, Mr. Jain wrote: "In the first year, Super Bazar sold two lakh transistors. Such was the rush that the sales counter had to be shifted from the fourth floor to the ground floor [near the vegetables] to avert the collapse of the fifth floor."

Pigeons and puppies

Since Super Bazar closed in 2002, the building has become home to grey pigeons and white puppies. At multiple places, signboards read: "*Peshab karna sakt mana hai* [Urination here is prohibited]". Plastic waste and garbage litter the area.

A man who worked in Super Bazar from the 1980s till it closed down is now employed as an attendant at the liquidation office.

"We used to sell everything from sewing needles to computers. Then in the '90s we ran into losses," said the worker, who did not wish to be named.

"There was a lot of corruption," he added in a hushed voice. The worker said that though a private company ran Super Bazar in the late 2000s, it did not work out.

Generation gap

Though defunct for nearly two decades, Super Bazar is still fresh in the memory of many Delhiites.

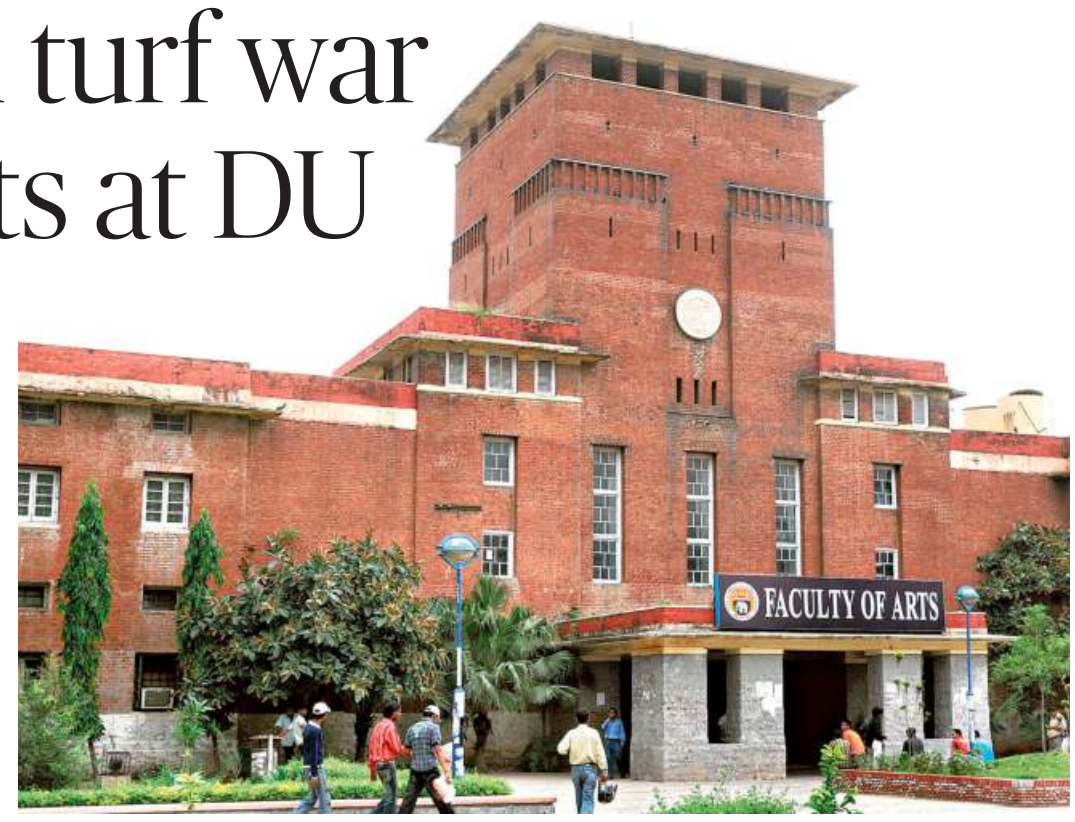
"It was a famous market and people across Delhi came here and there would always be a rush," said 65-year-old Ramesh Lakhman Pawar, who hails from Maharashtra and used to sell balloons in Connaught Place.

Raju Shukla, 48, from Gonda in Uttar Pradesh, has been selling tea next to Super Bazar since 1984. "It closed down due to corruption. I used to buy palm oil from here for ₹22 in the 1980s. Otherwise, the oil was only available in the black market. The quality of the products at Super Bazar was 'A one'. Its closure affected my business too," he said.

About 50 metres from the building, the bus stop is still named Super Bazar, but not many know what it means. Kailash Rawat, 19, who attends animation classes at Connaught Place, shook his head when asked about Super Bazar and said: "Never heard of it."

An ideological turf war over liberal arts at DU

Academics claim an attempt to break university's 'intellectual autonomy' as executive council sends syllabus of four departments for 'revision' once again



SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

On the night of July 16, about seven professors were secretly escorted out of a back exit of Viceregal Lodge, the office of the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, following a meeting of the university's Academic Council, and told to leave the premises immediately.

Student activists of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) had managed to break into the compound of the lodge, and were rumoured to be asking for three professors, including the Heads of English and history department, to be handed over to them.

The offence of the professors? They had included certain material, deemed "objectionable by the group, in the revised syllabus for the undergraduate classes which began on Saturday.

The meeting ended in a hurry, with syllabus of all departments being cleared except for English, history, political science and sociology, which were sent back for "review".

'Complicated' revision

Four months ago, Delhi University formed a committee to undertake the revision of all undergraduate courses on the basis of the Central government-notified "Learning Outcome Curriculum Framework" approach.

The process was fraught with complications with regard to the specific guidelines to follow in undertaking the revision. Sources involved said several guidelines were vague and lent themselves to multiple interpretations which caused confusion.

Departments across the university appointed multiple professors, including subject experts, to review the syllabus of core papers, electives, general electives and others.

After several rounds of consultation, the revised syllabus was uploaded on the website of the respective departments in May and feedback from the public was invited before it was presented before the university's statutory bodies. None of the objections being raised now came up at that time.

An exercise that was meant to be academic in nature took a distinctly political turn at a meeting of the standing committee on academic matters, where the syllabus was presented on July 11. Rasal Singh, an elected representative of the National Democratic Teachers' Front (NDTF) which he says "is aligned with the ideology of the RSS", took issue with parts of the English syllabus he wanted removed and some of the history syllabus he wanted to be added.

'Negative' portrayal

Mr. Singh's primary objection was against a short story – "Manibein alias Bibijan" – set in the Gujarat riots of 2002. The story was introduced in the syllabus 15 years ago and taught in the third year of B.A. Programme.

He took issue with the portrayal of a character who takes part in riots and looting in Ahmedabad as a member of "Yuvak Bajrang Dal" who teaches at "Shishugriha Vidhalaya", which, Mr. Singh said, was run by the RSS. It casts these groups in a "bad light", making them out to be killers, and is part of a "propaganda run against an ideology, a Sangh, and an individual", he said, referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the "Sangh Parivar".

While the English department subsequently removed the story from the syllabus, the Head of the Department, Raj Kumar, dismissed the objection as an attempt at gaining political mileage. "There are multiple ways to interpret and teach a story," he said.

"In my view, the two names of the protagonist, Manibein and Bibijan, and the broader story talk about how an individual shouldn't be put in a box and must be treated only as a human being, nothing more, nothing less."

On the decision to remove the story, he said, "We don't want to hurt the sentiments of any group."

A similar justification was given for alterations made in the course on 'Interrogating Queerness', where Mr. Singh complained: "It will now be taught that Lord Vishnu, Shiva, Kartikey and Ganesh were also LGBT." In particular, he had problems with the use of Ruth Vanita's "Same Sex Love in India", which mentioned certain texts, references that he wanted expunged. Defending the course material, English department Professor Saikat Ghosh called Mr. Singh's objection a "crude caricaturing".

He said that the course "encourages engagement with the concept of gender as a fluid spectrum rather than a fixed binary" through alternative narratives of sexuality from across historical and cultural periods including instances such as the "Ardhanarishwara", an androgynous form of Shiva and references to certain Puranic texts among other sources.

But Mr. Singh was of the opinion that such references should not be made in DU's syllabus. "Things need to be taught in a certain context," he said, adding that he doesn't mind if it is taught in another country. "But in a Hindu samaj [society] this won't be accepted." Similar arguments were mooted for additions he and the NDTF wanted in the syllabus of other liberal arts courses.

'Missing' text

In the history syllabus, Mr. Singh claimed that Rajput history, B.R. Ambedkar and Amir Khusrau were either reduced in importance or were "gayab [vanished]". However, a comparison of the department's syllabus from 2016-17 and the revised syllabus, uploaded on the university's website challenges this.

"Ambedkar and Dalit Movements" taught as a core course on "History of India" remains unchanged. So do at least five sections taught on Rajput history, including "Rajput and other warrior lineages", "Establishment of political authority: Mughals, Rajputs and Nayaks", Rajput political culture and state formation: Eastern Rajasthan; Rajput paintings; representation of women and men in Indo-Persian, Sanskrit and Rajput traditions. In fact, the number of reference to "Rajput" have increased in the syllabus. And Khusrau was not taught in the syllabus to begin with.

Mr. Singh, a professor of Hindi literature, however, believes that Khusrau is of great importance to medieval time period and must be taught.

Experts in the history department, however, said that the Sufi poet was a very complicated personality with multiple strands of thought, who does not belong in that rubric.

In sociology, he complained that "Vedic culture, joint family system, gram samaj" had vanished. However, the syllabus does contain a core paper on "Sociology of India" which has a chapter on "Kinship: Principle and Pattern" which does deal with joint family systems among a myriad of other familial networks.

In political science, he had an issue with the inclusion of Maoism in social movements and said that "Indian social movements" had vanished. The political science department too had to capitulate. The professors of these departments were not given an opportunity to present their case at the AC meeting.

Instead, over the last week, department-level revision committees have been in hectic negotiations with the university administration to address the NDTF's objections. Those involved complained that carrying out this process in private meetings instead of the wider academic council was unfair. But they had to give in and accept several objections in order to ensure they had a syllabus to teach in time for the new classes.

Final syllabus by July 31

On Sunday, the revised undergraduate syllabus was put before the Executive Council of the university for final approval. With only two elected members, the final decision fell primarily upon Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Tyagi and the syllabus revision committee. Giving in to the demands of the Right-wing groups, the council sent the syllabus of the four departments for revision once again. Now, an oversight committee is slated to finalise the syllabus by July 31.

After having responded to all of NDTF's objections, Professor Ghosh said that the English department was presented with another list of objections to address. "The required modifications are all absurd and listed in order to make a mockery of the efforts of teachers who have worked hard for two years with the hope that DU will eventually be able to give its English students a syllabus that is genuinely on par with the best in the world," he said.

Mr. Ghosh condemned the university administration complaining that academic arguments were not being heard and said that the Vice-Chancellor was in connivance with the NDTF-ABVP combine, "bullies" who wish to run the university on diktats.

In a letter to the Vice-Chancellor, the NDTF wrote that "piecemeal" changes would not be accepted and demanded a comprehensive revision of syllabus with the inclusion of "nationalist teachers", as Mr. Singh put it. The ABVP, meanwhile, claimed "victory", having successfully opposed a "Left conspiracy".

Professor Ghosh, however, disagreed. "Sure there are some people who may be labelled as Left, myself included, but the process involved several teachers, most of whom participated voluntarily and are non-ideological," he said.

The English department for its part has been carrying out the exercise since before the university's notification in March. And its HoD said that up to 120 teachers were involved in it.

"Academics is not meant to be a turf war for ideologies," said Professor Ghosh. However, he also argued that the liberal arts were generally antithetical to the "Right wing".

They were positioned on humanistic and critical values such as free speech and were typically the opposite of what the Right-wing's conception of society is, he said.

Finally, commenting on the outcome of the Executive Committee meeting, Professor Ghosh said, "Despite our collective efforts at syllabus revision being lauded by academicians across the world, a section of our colleagues within the system are pushing us to the wall and spreading filth against our syllabus, giving it a partisan colour that it does not have."

While in 2012, DU's English department was ranked as one of the top hundred academic departments in the QS World University Rankings, he said, "We lost that place due to subsequent interference from people within and outside the university, who could not appreciate our accomplishments. We courageously tried to recreate excellence through the opportunity for syllabus revision, while carefully adhering to the UGC's LOCF template... No other English department in India has proposed a syllabus in which more than 140 Indian authors from various *bhashas* and historical periods are proudly featured. People must remember that this English department was never beholden to other models. We have been a model for others."

For the record | Some of the objections raised by National Democratic Teachers' Front

ENGLISH
- Remove story referring to Bajrang Dal
- Remove references to Puranic texts referring to queerness
- Remove case study on Muzaffarnagar riots

HISTORY
- Text on Rajputs, B.R. Ambedkar "missing"

(Comparison with previous syllabus shows this is not true)
- Remove Naxalism from course on Democracy
- Add Amir Khusrau

SOCIOLOGY
- Vedic Indian culture, joint family system, gram samaj "missing"

(Course on kinship systems touches on joint family)

POLITICAL SCIENCE
- Remove Maoism from course on social movements
- Indian social movements "missing"

DELHI Timings

MONDAY, JULY 22				
RISE	05:37	SET	19:18	
RISE	22:50	SET	10:08	
TUESDAY, JULY 23				
RISE	05:38	SET	19:18	
RISE	23:21	SET	11:00	
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24				
RISE	05:38	SET	19:17	
RISE	23:53	SET	11:52	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	36	27
Safdarjang	36	27
Palam	37	26

Delhi Palam Today
37°C A humid and hazy morning is likely. Day will be warm and cloudy. There are chances of light rain.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
37°C Dry and warm weather with humid conditions will prevail. Spell of rain or thundershower may occur.

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THE HINDU
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Key accused in drug smuggling case dead

Punjab CM asks ADM to conduct a thorough probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The key accused in the alleged smuggling of heroin and other narcotics worth ₹2,700 crore from Pakistan, who was lodged in Amritsar jail, died in judicial custody, a government spokesperson said on Sunday.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident and asked the Additional District Magistrate, Himanshu Aggarwal, to conduct a detailed probe into the death of accused Gurpinder Singh in hospital, said the spokesperson.

Gurpinder, a rock salt importer, was arrested last month by the customs department for allegedly smuggling suspected narcotics in a truck through the trade route at the Attari border from Pakistan.

The Customs Preventive Commissionerate had seized 532 kg of suspected heroin, valued to be around ₹2,700 crore in the international market

"The magisterial inquiry will be in addition to the post-mortem, which will be conducted by a high-level board of doctors," said the spokesperson.

Admitted to jail hospital

Gurprinder was admitted to the central jail hospital in Amritsar on July 18. Due to his serious health condition he was referred to Guru Nanak Dev Hospital for treatment on Sunday. He was declared brought dead at the hospital.

The Chief Minister has directed the ADM to undertake a thorough investigation into the matter and identify the lapses that led to the death of the undertrial.

Gurpinder was lodged in central jail in connection with a custom case under Section 135 of the Custom Act. He was arrested by the customs department and was sent to judicial custody.

The Customs Preventive Commissionerate had, during a raid on June 30, seized 532 kg of suspected heroin, valued to be around ₹2,700 crore in the international market. The consignments of 532 kg of suspected heroin and another 52 kg of suspected mixed narcotics were seized in the import consignment at the Integrated Check Post, Attari.

The consignment was hidden in bags of salt in the truck, which had come from Pakistan.

18 injured in clash over land in M.P.

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Eighteen people were injured when members of two tribal communities clashed on Sunday over a land dispute in Rajgarh district, the police said.

When a family from the Dhangar tribe was using an earthmover over a six-acre land at Sameli village in the afternoon, members of the Kanjar tribe objected to it and staked claim over the land. An altercation ensued followed by a clash in which members of the Kanjar community used firearms, said Superintendent of Police, Rajgarh, Pradeep Sharma.

Fifteen people were injured from the Dhangar community and three women from the other side. Seven of the injured were moved to Bhopal, while eight to Biaora for treatment, he added. The police have registered a case of attempt to murder and rioting against the accused.

Mamata asks TMC workers to hold 'return black money' protests

To counter the allegedly BJP-backed 'return cut money' rallies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday directed Trinamool supporters to hold "return black money" demonstrations as a counter to the allegedly BJP-backed "return cut money" protests raging across the State.

She was addressing the annual July 21 mega martyrs' rally.

"I am asking you to raise slogans demanding return of black money. There will be meeting in blocks and at booths demanding that the BJP return black money," Ms. Banerjee said.

Mamata Bannerjee at a rally in Kolkata on Sunday. ▪ RAJEEV BHATT

During her hour-long speech, she raised several issues, including allegations of Central agencies threatening her party leaders over chit fund scams and the attack on the Vidyasagar statue during the Lok Sabha election.

'Shun EVMs'

She proposed shunning electronic voting machines and holding polls for all civic bodies and panchayats using ballot papers.

However, the BJP State unit called the rally a "flop show".

BJP State president Dilip Ghosh said his party was not involved in the "return cut money" protests. "It is her party people who are gheraoing their own leaders," he said.

Accused in Sambhal case shot dead in encounter

Search on for other two accused involved in killing two constables

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
AMROHA (U.P.)

Kamal, one of the three undertrials who shot dead two constables and escaped from police custody in Sambhal on July 17, has been shot dead in a police encounter in Amroha district.

ADG Avinash Chandra confirmed that one of the absconding accused, Kamal, was shot dead late on Saturday in an encounter which took place under the Adampur police station limits.

"Kamal opened fire at an Amroha police team and injured constable Praveen Kumar. The police team also retaliated in which Kamal sustained bullet injuries. He was caught alive and rushed to district hospital in Amroha where he succumbed to his injuries," Mr. Chandra said.

"We have cordoned off the area and will launch a combing operation to get the other two fugitives, Shakeel and Dharampal," he said.

The ADG said late on Saturday evening, the police got a tip-off that all three absconding accused – Kamal, Shakeel and Dharmpal – were hiding in the jungle area of Shergarh village on the border of Sambhal and Amroha districts.

Police force from Adampur and Hasanpur police stations of Amroha immediately cordoned off the area.

Seeing the cops, the three miscreants opened fire at the police teams. In retaliatory firing, Kamal suffered bullet injuries while the other two managed to escape.

Tribal woman killed over land dispute

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SINGRAULI

A 30-year-old tribal woman was killed after three men, including a father-son duo, allegedly ran a tractor over her as a result of a land dispute in Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Friday at Dhilari village, and the woman, Kiran Kol, succumbed to her injuries a day later, they said.

The accused have been identified as Bandhu Bais (55), his son Lalpati Bais (30) and their close relative Prabhakar Bais (25). Bandhu and Prabhakar have been arrested, police said.

"An argument broke out between Kiran and the accused after the latter on Friday started ploughing a farmland, claiming it to be theirs. Kiran objected to it and the accused knocked her down with the tractor," Jiyawan police station inspector Nehru Singh said. The trio also attacked her father-in-law, Visheshar Kol (60), with wooden sticks, he added. Kiran was rushed to a nearby hospital. However, she died on Saturday while being transferred to another hospital, he said.

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Fadnavis: BJP, Sena to fight polls together, but I will return as CM

BJP's month-long Maha Janadesh Yatra from Aug. 1; 'good days' have arrived: Nadda

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday put an end to confusion over whether the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena will contest the Assembly polls together, and said the allies would announce a seat-sharing arrangement soon.

The party also unveiled its ambitious election campaign plan, with Mr. Fadnavis launching a month-long Maha Janadesh Yatra on August 1. "Let there be no confusion. This election will be fought as an alliance. We will declare the seat sharing at the earliest. Any of the 288 seats would come to us," Mr. Fadnavis said, addressing the BJP's State executive meeting in Goregaon.

Commenting on Sena leaders' comments that Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray would be the next Chief Minister, Mr. Fadnavis said, "I have already said that I will be coming back as the Chief Minister. And I am not the CM of only the BJP, but of the Sena, RPI and the RSP as well."

Setting the stage: Devendra Fadnavis, J.P. Nadda and Chadrakant Patil at the BJP's State executive meeting in Mumbai on Sunday. ▪ TRUPTI AREKAR

Campaign plan

Earlier, the party unveiled its election campaign plan in the presence of BJP working president J.P. Nadda and newly appointed State chief Chandrakant Patil.

Mr. Fadnavis will start his tour of the State from Mozri village in Amaravati district of Vidarbha. The first phase will be from Mozri to Nandurbar, while the second will be from Akole to Nashik.

The Maha Janadesh Yatra will cover 152 Assembly segments and 4,500 km across all districts, except Mumbai. The BJP will hold around 300 rallies, and a 'Vijay Sankalp' rally in every district. A chariot with LED screens will showcase the government's achievements through the tour.

Meanwhile, the party will hold Assemble segment-wise training for party workers from August 10 to 25. To target new voters, it will organise interaction programmes with new voters from August 15 to September 1. The party has also planned to celebrate Rakshabandhan and Ganeshotsav on large scale to spread its message to voters.

"Despite our yatra, the government will not fall short in relief work in areas affected by drought," Mr. Fadnavis said.

Mr. Patil, meanwhile, told party workers that the BJP-Sena alliance has set a target of winning at least 220 of the 288 seats in Maharashtra.

"Let's leave the alliance and seat-sharing talks to Mr. Fadnavis and Amit Shah. Let's strengthen the BJP at the booth level. Even if our allies contest certain seats, our booth structure will ensure their victory," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Nadda said, "'*Achhe din aayenge* (good days will come)' and '*Desh badal raha hai* (the country is changing)' were the BJP's slogans in the 2014 campaign. We would like to remind the people that good days have arrived, and the country has already changed in the last five years."

He highlighted the Narendra Modi government's achievements in the health sector, poverty alleviation, infrastructure, agriculture and rural development.

Mr. Nadda said when the BJP says it aims for a 'Congress-*mukt* Bharat (India free of Congress)', it means it wants a country free of corruption. "'BJP-*yukt*' means development-oriented. It indicates a focus on service and development and work at the grass roots, and not work for self-promotion."

Gadkari skips meeting, rumour mills set abuzz

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's absence from the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) State executive meeting, which was attended by the party's working president, J.P. Nadda, raised eyebrows.

Sources close to Mr. Gadkari said he had a programme to attend in Nagpur, which could not be cancelled, and the party was informed about his inability to attend the meeting in Mumbai.

Along with Mr. Gadkari, Women and Child Welfare Minister Pankaja Munde, too, was not present as she is out of the country for personal reasons. Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar was absent in the first session of the meeting since he was said to be unwell, but eventually turned up in the second session.

Mr. Gadkari's absence from the State executive meeting and that too on the occasion of Mr. Nadda's first visit after taking charge as the working president, has brewed rumours of possible infighting between the camps of Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Gadkari, both from Nagpur.

However, sources in the BJP rubbished any such rumours. "Reasons have been given. There is no base for such speculation," a BJP leader said.

Centre's decision to bring amendments to RTI Act draws criticism from activists

They call the Bill a move to undermine independence of information commissions

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Activists and former information commissioners have hit out at the Centre's move to amend the Right to Information (RTI) Act, saying it would dilute the Act and curtail the independence of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and other information officers.

The Right to Information Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which was introduced in Parliament on Friday, proposes to empower the government to fix the term of service of information commissioners among other things.

Former CIC Shailesh Gandhi told *The Hindu* that the NDA government has offered no plausible reason as to why it is making these changes nor was there any pre-legislative consultation.

"The proposed changes to the RTI Act were introduced in complete secrecy without any public disclosure and consultation on draft legislations. The implication is the Centre wants to control the CIC and downgrade the function of State information commissioners (SICs), and that appointments of information commissioners are to be henceforth dictated by political patronage," Mr. Gandhi said.

He said if the amendments were effected, it would weaken democratic institutions as the RTI Act thus far has proved to be the strongest and most effective tool ordinary citizens possess to hold accountable the powers that be.

Pune-based RTI activist Vijay Kumbhar said if the amendments came into effect, the Centre could simply transfer any authority – be it the CIC or any of the SICs – in the event a case was thought to be directed against the interests of the government or merely keep it hanging fire.

"The information commissions were created to function independently and free of any governmental pressure," said Mr. Kumbhar, adding the status of information commissioners, including the question of the salaries of the CIC and the SICs, was discussed and fixed at the time of the formulation of the law.

"If this government indeed has a problem with their salaries and designation, it must be remembered that in 2017, the salary structures of 19 quasi-judicial administrative commissions were brought on par with that of the Supreme Court and High Court judges," he said.

Shailesh Gandhi

Meanwhile, in a release rejecting the amendments introduced by the NDA government, the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information (NCPRI) demanded that they be withdrawn with immediate effect. "The contents of the draft amendments were not known to MPs, citizens, and the media till the Bill was circulated to members of the Lok Sabha on the eve of its introduction. The Bill seeks to amend the RTI Act to empower the Centre to unilaterally decide the tenure, salary, allowances and other terms of service of information commissioners at the Centre and in the States. The NDA government has done so by wilfully misrepresenting an amendment to a basic feature of the law, as a function of rule-making," the release said.

It further said the RTI Act provides for a fixed tenure of five years for information commissioners (subject to the age limit of 65 years). "The salaries, allowances, and other terms of service of the chief of the Central Information Commission are the same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner. This is part of the basic structure of the existing law and therefore any amendment to these provisions undermines the basic structure of the RTI."

Accusing the Central government of usurping the power to decide the tenure, salaries and allowances of SICs, it said the move indicates "the current government's centralised, and undemocratic decision making."

The NCPRI accused the Centre of instead sidelining a "wide array of pressing issues" that require the urgent government attention to ensure effective implementation of the RTI Act.

Give preference to local companies: Centre

Suppliers in State believe joint ventures get more work orders

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

The Central government has asked the State to ensure Indian companies are not left out of the procurement of goods and services for big-ticket projects.

In a memorandum sent to the State on May 22, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said the harsh eligibility criteria set by the Centre should not be used to leave out local companies. "It may be ensured that Indian companies are not left out on account of the eligibility criteria in procurement," the ministry said in its letter address to Chief Secretary Ajoy Mehta.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) at the Centre had, in 2017, issued orders to apply fresh guidelines for procurement of goods and services by the State. The ministry had also directed indigenisation in large projects, including Metro, Mono and multimodal corridors, while imposing standard specification of civil engineering structures.

The 2017 order had said that only local suppliers be considered eligible for the procurement of goods, services or works costing less than ₹50 lakh, with respect to which there was sufficient local capacity and competition. "The ministry had even clarified the necessary specification on rolling stock, signalling system, electrical and electro mechanical Metro rail components along with the eligibility criteria," a bureaucrat said.

Sources in the government confirmed the ministry is aware of complaints from industry leaders and suppliers on preference being given in awarding of work to joint ventures (JV) with foreign participation.

"There is a feeling among various industry leaders that it is imperative to have a JV with foreign firms to win a contract in Maharashtra. While this is not entirely true, the sentiment does exist and we are keen to correct it by taking some measures" an official from the industries department said. The latest directive from the ministry also recommended that the government give work contracts only after 90% of the land acquisition is complete, and when all necessary environment and forest clearances are taken.

"We are aware of the complaints raised by some local suppliers and industry leaders with the ministry. We assure them that all work orders are being issued as per the policy framework of the DIPP," the official said.

Toppling over

Out of control: A labourer was killed and 18 others injured when a tempo carrying contract workers to Mumbai overturned on Saket bridge in Thane on Sunday. According to the police, the driver was allegedly under the influence of alcohol. ▪ VIBHAV BIRWATKAR

20 lakh children to get rotavirus vaccine

Every infant will be given vaccine in sixth, 10th, 14th week: Minister

YUKTI JOSHI
MUMBAI

In an initiative to prevent early childhood deaths, around 20 lakh children in the State will be vaccinated against rotavirus.

Inaugurating the State-level initiative in Kasara on Saturday, Health Minister Eknath Shinde said the rotavirus vaccine will now be part of the regular vaccination programme.

Rotavirus is the leading cause of diarrhoea in children under five years.

Annually, 3.34 lakh children succumb to diarrhoeal diseases in India, of which close to one lakh die of rotavirus diarrhoea.

"The children up to one year will be given this vaccine in the sixth, 10th, and 14th week," Mr. Shinde said in a statement.

Incidents of dysentery are high among children in Kasara, a tribal-dominated region. "Starting the vaccination programme in this area is a positive and welcome step," said Mr. Shinde, who administered the vaccine to five children.

According to Mr. Shinde, training will be provided to health workers in 34 districts and 27 municipal corporations. Around 1.86 lakh officers, employees, ASHA workers, and Anganwadi sevikas have been imparted training at taluka, district, and State level. The minister also inaugurated a new building of the primary health centre at Kasara.

On strengthening of health care, Mr. Shinde said filling of 840 posts of MBBS and specialists is on. "Similarly, BAMS doctors working in remote and tribal areas are made permanent. Facility of dialysis will be made available in rural areas in sub-district dispensaries." Currently, the process to transform sub-centres into Arogya Vardhini Kendras is going on and 100 such kendras have been activated so far. Mr. Shinde inaugurated the new buildings of the kendras at Kasara and Vaireshwari.

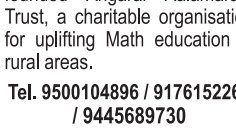
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Respectful Homage
18th Anniversary
The Visionary and Karmayogi is no more.
But his ideals will continue to guide us.

Shri. S.Viswanathan
(21.12.1915 - 22.07.2001)
Founder Chairman SPB - ESVIN Group
Directors & Employees of
SESHASAYEE PAPER AND BOARDS LIMITED
PONNI SUGARS (ERODE) LIMITED
HIGH ENERGY BATTERIES (INDIA) LIMITED
SPB PROJECTS AND CONSULTANCY LIMITED
ESVIN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED

DEATH



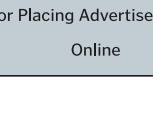
Capt R. Krishnan, (Retd. DEN, Southern Railways, Trichy) alias Kannan (s/o. R. Rangaswamy, Srirangam, Trichy) attained heavenly abode on 16th July 2019 at KK Nagar, Chennai-78 (Ph 044-23663430). Dasasthu will be held on 25th July at 10:30 am at Gnanavapi, Kannammapet, CIT Nagar, Chennai-17

SAD DEMISE

A passionate teacher who breathed Mathematics every moment of his life,
A.N. Krishnamoorthy (Kicha), 71 Years
breathed his last on 21st July 2019. He was a Lecturer at Higher College of Technology, Muscat and Math teacher at Indian School Muscat. He founded Angarai Aalamaram Trust, a charitable organisation for uplifting Math education in rural areas.
Tel. 9500104896 / 9176152267 / 9445689730

REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE
(10th Death Anniversary on 22.07.2019)



SMT CHANDRAKANTA
(W/o Late Sh. Jai Ram Singh), Ex Director, D/o Education, M/o HRD, GOI, New Delhi
Mommy, you still live in hearts & minds of us all
Mr. S. P. SINGH & Ms. MEENA SINGH
Family and Friends

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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

IN BRIEF

6 held for demolishing Vyasaraja Tirtha's tomb

KOPPAL

The Koppal police arrested six "treasure hunters" from Andhra Pradesh on Saturday night for demolishing the Brindavana (tomb) of Vyasaraja Tirtha, at Anegondi, near Hampi in Karnataka. The desecration of the tomb of the 16th century saint of the Madhwa tradition had sent shock waves across the country. Devotees rebuilt it (in the photo) with help of architects from Mumbai, Vellore, and the Archaeological Survey of India.

Two-year-old elephant electrocuted

CHITTOOR

A two-year-old baby elephant was electrocuted in a sugarcane field at Gobbilla Kotur village, 60 km from here in Andhra Pradesh early on Sunday. The village abuts the Koundinya wildlife sanctuary. Divisional Forest Officer (Chittoor-West) Sunil Kumar Reddy said the calf and its mother left the sanctuary around midnight on Saturday. A few hours later, the duo reached the field, where the male calf came in contact with an uninsulated cable near a transformer.

Sabarimala closed after monthly rituals

PATHANAMTHITTA

The Sabarimala Ayyappa temple was closed on Sunday after the completion of the five-day rituals in the Malayalam month of Karkidakom. A large number of devotees witnessed the Padipuja performed by the Tantri, Kandararu Rajeevararu. to the holy 18 steps (*Pathinettampady*). Meanwhile, a woman pilgrim and a dollyman sustained minor injuries when a tractor carrying goods on Swami Ayyappa Road fell into a wayside ditch on Sunday.

Independent Karnataka MLAs seek SC deadline for trust vote

Raise concerns over 'frenzied' executive decisions, transfer of IAS, IPS officers

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Two independent Karnataka MLAs urgently approached the Supreme Court on Sunday seeking a direction to conclude the ongoing trust vote in the State Assembly on or before 5 p.m. on July 22.

The legislators, R. Shankar and H. Nagesh, represented by advocate Diksha Rai, said the "minority" Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) coalition government, led by Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, is taking frenzied executive decisions including the transfer of police officers, IAS officers and other key officials.

The legislators also said they have reliable information that Mr. Kumaraswamy intends to "make himself scarce from the proceedings on 22.7.19 (Monday)."

"It has been reliably learnt that in a desperate attempt to avoid the trust vote, the Chief Minister may also rake up an emergent situation and use medical emergencies," the application said.

The application would be mentioned for urgent hearing before the Chief Justice of India on Monday.

The court may also simultaneously see the Congress and JD(S) party leaders mention their separate applications seeking clarification on how the court, last week, had allowed 15 rebel legislators to opt out of the trust vote, and thus, cripple the parties' constitutional right to initiate disqualification proceedings under the Tenth Schedule or anti-defection law. The Congress has also accused the Governor of interfering in the confidence motion by pushing for a deadline.

Anxious wait: Congress MLAs attending a meeting called by CLP leader Siddaramaiah at a hotel in Bengaluru on Sunday. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

JD(S), Congress leaders discuss leadership change

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Amid speculation over a possible change of leadership in the JD(S)-Congress coalition government to stave off the ongoing crisis, JD(S) leaders met coordination committee chairman and Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Sunday.

JD(S) Ministers C.S. Puttaraju, G.T. Deve Gowda, and S.R. Mahesh, and party legislator Shivalinge Gowda met the former Chief Minister for nearly an hour to discuss the possibility of him taking charge.

Later, they also met Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar and explained the circumstances under which they had put forth the idea to save the coalition ahead of the trust vote scheduled for Monday.

Sources said though the issue of a change of leadership had been discussed within the JD(S) camp as well as with senior Congress leaders over the last one week after more legislators joined the rebel camp, the offer was a last-ditch attempt to woo back rebels.

"At least four rebel legislators are identified as followers of Mr. Siddaramaiah. If he is able to convince them to come back in a scenario where coalition leadership changes, the government could scrape through the trust vote," sources said.

However, according to sources, Mr. Siddaramaiah did not commit to decision and told the JD(S) leaders that the priority was to save the coalition government.

Congress sources also confirmed that though the issue came up for discussion, it was decided to focus on saving the government and take up the issue of leadership change later.

Please return, Kumaraswamy tells rebels

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

On a day the 12 rebel legislators of Karnataka, holed up in a Mumbai hotel, reiterated that they would not return to Bengaluru to attend the legislature session, Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday appealed to them to come back to save the government from "evil forces".

However, the MLAs said there was no question of them attending the Assembly. In a video message, they said they were forced to rebel to protect their "self-respect" and that they were not after either money or power.

Meanwhile, bringing some relief to the beleaguered government, BSP supremo Mayawati said the party's lone MLA N. Mahesh would vote in favour of the confidence motion.

S. Sowmya chosen for Sangita Kalanidhi award

Music Academy honour will be conferred on January 1

B. KOLAPPAN
CHENNAI

Noted vocalist S. Sowmya has been chosen for the Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy this year. She will preside over the 93rd annual conference of the Academy to be held between December 12, 2019 and January 1, 2020.

"She is a high-calibre vocalist who has an intellectual approach towards Carnatic music," said N. Murali, president of the Academy, on Sunday.

A student of Dr. S. Ramanathan and T. Mukta, Ms. Sowmya equally excelled in her academic pursuit. She holds a Master's degree in Chemistry and Indian music and obtained a doctorate from the University of Madras for a work that combined music and science.

"I am overwhelmed because the Music Academy is an inspirational institution and I have seen great musicians, including my teacher S. Ramanathan, receiving the Sangita Kalanidhi award, performing regularly and giving lectures. While I am happy, the award – not just the Sangita Kalanidhi but every award – leaves me with the responsibility of carrying further the great tradition of Carnatic music and the Academy," she told *The Hindu*.

S. Sowmya

Her father M. Srinivasan, a chemical engineer with a great passion for music, instilled in her the love for music and studies. She was the top-ranked scholar at the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras). "My father ensured that I came under the tutelage of Ramanathan and Mukta. He is very strict and insists that music is a continuous journey in pursuit of excellence. It is because of him I am able to strike a balance between my studies and music," she said.

Mr. Murali said Ms. Sowmya was the youngest musician to receive the coveted award in recent times after Sanjay Subramaniam. "We either select a veteran or a young talent. We do not stick to any particular norm in selecting the artist," he explained.

The Sangita Kala Acharya awards will be given to vocalists Seetha Narayanan and M.S. Sheela.

Nagaswaram player Vyasarpadi Kothandaraman and vocalist Rajkumar Bharathi will get the TTK awards while Aarti N. Rao will get the Musicologist award.

All awards will be conferred on the Sadas of the Academy on January 1.

The Nritya Kalanidhi award for dance will be conferred on Priyadarshini Govind at the inauguration of the dance festival on January 3, 2020.

Nine Keralites stranded in UAE after accepting fake job offers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Nine Indians have been stranded in the UAE after accepting fake job offers through social media, according to a media report on Sunday.

The men from Kerala, who are currently stranded in Al Ain and Ajman, claim they met the agent, Shafeeq, on WhatsApp and paid up to ₹70,000 for visit visas to the UAE, *Khaleej Times* reported.

Consulate alert

The incident comes months after the Consulate General of India in Dubai asked job seekers to stay away from fraudulent job advertisements luring Indians to the UAE. The Consulate said "job seekers should not fall prey to such bogus job offers and in case of any doubt, may seek clarification from the Consulate."

Fazil, one of the victims from Malappuram district in Kerala, said he received the job offer on WhatsApp.

The Indian embassy in Abu Dhabi has stepped in and has offered to assist in sending the men back home.

Mr. Rafeeq said he and his friends were surviving on the allowance given by the embassy.

Centre revoked aid request for Amaravati project: WB

However, Chief Minister's office blames it on corruption

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Three days after it emerged that the World Bank (WB) "dropped without reasons" its plans to finance the Amaravati Sustainable Infrastructure and Institutional Development Project, the bank has stated that the government of India (GoI) withdrew its request regarding the project.

In a statement on Sunday, the bank said the GoI withdrew its request on July 15. The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has been informed that the proposed project is no longer under preparation following the government's decision.

"The WB continues to support the State of Andhra Pradesh with over $1 billion programme that covers the health, agriculture, energy and disaster management sectors. This includes a new $328 million support to the State's health sector signed with the Government of Andhra Pradesh on June 27, 2019. As the new government sets its development priorities, we stand ready to provide whatever support the State and the Government of India might request," the statement said.

'Many norms violated'

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister's Office, in a statement, said the main reasons behind the World Bank backing out of the Amaravati Capital City project were rampant corruption, besides flouting of various socio-economic norms. The TDP government invited tenders for infrastructure development even before the World Bank loan.

The WB Team (Independent Accountability Mechanism), that toured the proposed city area region from September 13 to 17, 2017, found many irregularities in the tender process, which were heavily loaded in favour of contractors. The Capital Region Development Authority was asked to give an explanation by the World Bank team which conducted a field-level investigation.

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

Ruins rise

With the Gorakallu reservoir in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh drying up completely, the once-submerged houses of Gorakallu Tanda are visible again. Once rain resumes, the ruins will be submerged again. ▪ U. SUBRAMANYAM

LHB coaches for Chennai weekly superfast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Offering enhanced safety and travelling comfort to passengers, train 12698 Thiruvananthapuram Central-Chennai Central weekly superfast express has started running with Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches.

Train 12697 Chennai Central-Thiruvananthapuram Central weekly express that commenced journey from Chennai on Sunday would be using the anti-telescopic LHB coaches.

With the introduction of LHB coaches, the coach composition of the weekly express has also been changed by the Railways. The new coach composition is AC 2-Tier Coach-1, AC-3 Tier Coaches-5, Sleeper Class Coaches-11, General Second Class Coaches-2, Pantry Car-1 and Luggage Cum Brake van Coaches-2.

More to be replaced

The introduction of LHB coaches is part of the decision to introduce them in mail and express trains in a phased manner.

LHB coaches based on German technology were initially confined to Rajdhani express, Shatabdi express and Duronto trains.

The Railways have decided to replace all old coaches of mail and express trains by LHB coaches by the end of 2019-2020.

Compared to the ₹1.5 crore needed to manufacture a conventional coach, an LHB coach will cost the Railways around ₹2.5 crore.

Divisional Railway Manager, Thiruvananthapuram, Sirish Kumar Sinha said three more LHB rakes would be introduced in the long distance mail/express trains handled by the division.

Heavy rain continues in Kerala

Body of missing T.N. fisherman washes ashore; red alert issued in four districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KERALA BUREAU

Heavy rain lashed most districts of Kerala on Sunday with the southwest monsoon continuing to be active over Kerala. The central and northern districts can expect widespread rainfall for at least two more days before the fury abates, an IMD forecast indicated.

Since Friday, 260 families have been shifted to 17 relief camps across the state.

Red alerts warning of extremely heavy rainfall have been issued for Kozhikode, Kannur and Wayanad for Monday and Kannur and Kasaragod for Tuesday.

Orange alerts indicating very heavy rainfall have been issued for Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Malappuram and Kasaragod for Monday; Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad for Tuesday; and Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod for Wednesday.

The rough sea has claimed many houses at Valiyathura in Thiruvananthapuram. ▪ S. MAHINSHA

The body of one of the three fishermen from Tamil Nadu who went missing in the sea off Kollam on Friday was recovered on Sunday. The body of Sahayaraju, hailing from Kanyakumari district, washed ashore on Sunday morning, the Coastal Police said.

Search would resume for the two others, Raju and John Bosco, on Monday, the police said. They were part of a five-member crew which left Neendakara on Friday. After their boat was wrecked by the waves, two of the men, Nicholas and Stalin, had managed to swim ashore.

Mullaperiyar level rises

In Thiruvananthapuram, 143 families have been shifted to six relief camps till Sunday.

Idukki reported heavy rain fall and isolated landslips on Sunday also. The water level in Mullaperiyar dam rose to 113.1 ft on Sunday.

Eyewitnesses link Gauri case accused to Kalburgi murder

He was part of the team who did a recce of the house

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU

Two eyewitnesses have reportedly identified Amol Kale – the prime accused in the Gauri Lankesh case – as one of the men who did a reconnaissance of scholar M.M. Kalburgi's house in Dharwad a fortnight before he was murdered on August 30, 2015.

According to sources in the Special Investigation Team that had recently taken over the probe, eyewitnesses have also linked Gauri Lankesh case accused Praveen Chatur to the hit, as well as Ganesh Miskin as the shooter.

Kalburgi's wife Uma Kalburgi who answered the door to the shooter that day nearly four years ago, has now identified Ganesh Miskin, 28, as the man who shot her husband.

Miskin hails from Hubballi and has been a key accused in the Gauri Lankesh murder case: he is allegedly the biker who ferried the hitman Parashuram Waghmore to Gauri Lankesh's house the night she was killed on September 5, 2017.

Chargesheet soon

Two other eyewitnesses in Kalburgi case – a paan shop owner and a supervisor working at an under-construction building – have identified Chatur, 28, as the biker who ferried Miskin. "Both are positive of the identification. The supervisor who was watering the building for curing, turned his head instinctively as he heard the gun shots and saw Miskin walk up to the bike on which Chatur was seated," a senior official said.

Significantly, these two eyewitnesses helped the SIT link the alleged kingpin of the gang Kale to the scene of the crime. The SIT is now working on a war-footing to file the chargesheet in the case by mid-August.

IN BRIEF

Indian comedian dies performing on stage

DUBAI

A 36-year-old Indian stand-up comedian in the UAE collapsed and died on stage in Dubai while performing in front of a packed audience, who thought it was part of his act, according to a media report. Manjunath Naidu, 36, suffered cardiac arrest while performing his routine on stage on July 19. PTI

Sidhu vacates his ministerial bungalow

CHANDIGARH

Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu on Sunday vacated the official bungalow allotted to him by the Punjab government, a day after his resignation from the state cabinet was accepted by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. "Have vacated the ministerial bungalow," Sidhu tweeted. PTI

AI freezes promotions, new appointments

NEW DELHI

Air India has stopped giving promotions to its employees and recruiting new personnel as the government prepares for the disinvesment of the debt-laden airline, an official said. The airline's books of accounts till July 15 have been closed and those financials would be used while seeking bids. PTI

Two students rescued from drowning

SHIMLA

Two engineering students were rescued from drowning in Neugal Khad in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday evening, an official said. The two youth had come to visit Palampur's Saurabh Van Vihar but suddenly water gushed from the hills, engulfed them and swept them away into Neugal Khad, a tributary of river Beas. PTI

UGC may allow multiple degrees simultaneously

NEW DELHI

Students might soon be able to pursue multiple degrees simultaneously from different universities or the same university, with the University Grants Commission (UGC) studying the feasibility of the idea. The UGC has set up a panel headed by its Vice Chairman Bhushan Patwardhan for the same. PTI

Moon mission to try landing on Sept. 7

Targeted date just a day later than the earlier schedule; module's twin phases tweaked, says official

T.K. ROHIT
CHENNAI

The loss of a week due to the aborted launch of India's second moon mission, Chandrayaan-2, on July 15 has not hampered the mission's targeted landing date on the moon's South Pole with ISRO aiming to make up for the lost time by adjusting the module's Earth and Moon-bound phases.

The space agency is still aiming to put the Lander (Vikram) and Rover (Pragyan) on the lunar surface on September 7, just one day behind the earlier schedule, to ensure that the duo get their planned full schedule of operating for nearly 14 Earth Days by tweaking the Chandrayaan-2's timelines in space when it travels from one phase to another.

ISRO Chairman K. Sivan confirmed to *The Hindu* that the landing will be attempted on September 7.

Scientists of the Indian Space Research Organisation working on the orbiter vehicle and lander of 'Chandrayaan-2', in Bengaluru. ▪ FILE PHOTO

One of the major challenges ISRO faced when the launch was aborted was to ensure that they got the current window of September 6-7 to land on the moon.

This meant the team had to work backwards to make modifications to the mission, or as one ISRO official said do some reverse engineering. "Plus, there is always flexibility over the Earth-bound and Lunar-bound phases," the official said.

Under the old plan, the soft-landing of Vikram and Pragyan was planned to be executed on Day 54 from the lift-off date.

But with a 'technical snag' wrecking the plans, ISRO had to improvise or risk losing precious time for the mission.

The launch is now scheduled for 2.43 p.m. on Monday and the countdown began at 6.43 p.m. on Sunday.

As per the new timeline, the Earth-bound phase has increased by six days to 23 days; earlier it was 17.

Change of plan

Under the old schedule, the Lunar Orbit Insertion was supposed to have happened on Day 22, but now it will be on Day 30.

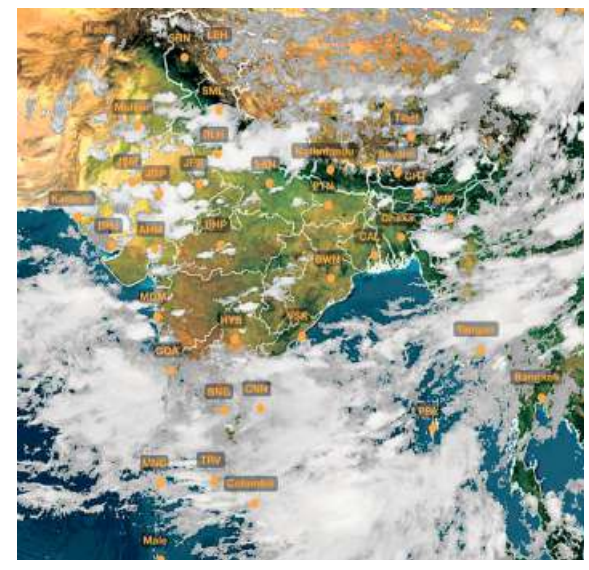
The Lunar Bound Phase which under the previous launch schedule was to have taken 28 days has now shrunk to just 13, between Day 30 and Day 42 after lift-off.

The Lander-Orbiter Separation will be executed on Day 43, while deboosting will be initiated on Day 44, with the powered descent of the Lander and Rover on Day 48 to the lunar surface.

The mission will not face any more glitches as all faults have been rectified, and tests carried out, Mr. Sivan told reporters at the Chennai airport on Sunday afternoon.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Kerala, Mahe, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Gujarat, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Goa and Arunachal Pradesh.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	35.5	27.5	Kozhikode	39.0	29.0	22.6
Ahmedabad	–	37.4	29.4	Kurnool	2.2	34.1	25.2
Aizawl	8.0	29.2	–	Lucknow	–	37.4	28.6
Allahabad	–	40.0	28.5	Madurai	–	37.8	26.4
Bengaluru	–	27.7	20.6	Mangaluru	43.1	27.2	23.4
Bhopal	1.0	34.8	25.9	Mumbai	0.2	32.7	26.7
Bhubaneswar	–	35.5	26.9	Mysuru	–	27.2	19.9
Chandigarh	–	35.0	26.6	New Delhi	9.4	36.5	26.8
Chennai	–	35.3	28.1	Patna	–	39.0	29.0
Coimbatore	0.2	33.2	22.6	Port Blair	4.1	30.7	23.8
Dehradun	1.3	31.4	23.9	Puducherry	–	32.4	26.6
Gangtok	64.8	20.6	17.9	Pune	4.5	33.1	23.3
Goa	35.1	28.8	25.1	Raipur	2.2	35.7	27.0
Guwahati	–	34.6	26.9	Ranchi	–	33.8	24.0
Hubballi	–	27.0	22.0	Shillong	–	27.1	17.9
Hyderabad	–	31.6	24.4	Shimla	1.6	23.6	16.5
Imphal	8.0	29.3	12.6	Srinagar	–	32.7	19.7
Jaipur	–	37.6	27.8	Thiruvananthapuram	3.4	30.6	23.0
Kochi	47.4	28.4	23.8	Tiruchi	–	36.9	27.0
Kohima	0.8	27.6	16.5	Vijayawada	4.4	34.1	26.4
Kolkata	7.1	35.5	27.6	Visakhapatnam	–	34.7	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	102	188	.91	84	–	
Bengaluru	9	.71	.84	–	.120	
Chennai	7	.27	.56	75	–	
Delhi	.12	.67	.38	90	.147	
Hyderabad	.18	.27	.13	49	69	
Kolkata	6	.33	9	68	.72	
Lucknow	4	.29	.48	105	–	
Mumbai	.21	.17	104	30	.58	
Pune	.68	8	.67	39	.39	
Visakhapatnam	.18	.16	.19	37	.52	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Alwar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 204 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Gulbarga, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

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

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

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

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

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

4 lynched on suspicion of witchcraft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUMLA

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

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

Superintendent of Police Anjani Kumar Jha said a group of 10 masked men dragged them out of their houses and beat them to death with sticks.

"It appears to be a witchcraft-related incident and the matter is being investigated," he said.

Suna Oraon (65), Champa Oraon (79), Fagni Oraine (60) and Piro Oraine (74) were killed, Mr. Jha said.

The SP said all efforts were being taken to track down and arrest the accused involved in the killings.

Fire at Mumbai building kills one, injures another

Fire Brigade rescues 13 others from the residential building

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

One person died and another was injured while 13 others had to be rescued when a fire broke out in Colaba's Churchill Chambers on Sunday morning. The deceased had gone to the innermost room of an apartment to protect himself from the fire. One of his neighbours inhaled a lot of smoke and had to be moved to an Intensive Care Unit. The Fire Brigade rescued 13 others using ladders and other methods.

Some of the residents took refuge on the terrace of the three-storey building. ▪ EMMANUAL YOGINI

The incident occurred around noon on Sunday at Colaba's Churchill Chambers, a ground-plus-three-storey residential building located behind Taj Mahal Hotel. The building is largely a wooden structure with reinforcements.

The fire broke out in one of the apartments on the third floor but its source could not be exactly ascertained. It was confined to the third floor flat and the staircase leading to the second floor. The Fire Brigade, which categorised the fire as Level II (minor), sent four fire engines and four tankers to the spot.

Smoke and heat

The smoke and heat made it difficult for most residents to run out. Residents were trapped on the third floor, and some of them took refuge on the terrace. Five people were rescued and administered first aid on the spot. It took the firemen four hours to douse the fire.

"We will have to inspect whether the building had any irregularities," said Nitin Arte, Assistant Municipal Commissioner of A Ward.

No Red Notice yet against Sandesara

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Interpol is yet to issue Red Notices against Chetan and Nitin Sandesara, promoters of the Vadodara-based Sterling Biotech Limited group which faces allegations of bank loan fraud involving ₹8,100 crore.

The Enforcement Directorate, which is pursuing a money-laundering probe against the accused persons, has requested the Interpol to issue the notices to facilitate their detention abroad. They went underground after the CBI had registered the first case against Sterling Biotech in August 2017.

The second case pertaining to bank loans was lodged in October the same year.

The case against the accused is that they took loans from an Andhra Bank-led consortium and diverted the money for undeclared purposes.

ITI students in Berhampur build a giant guitar with metal scrap

Students have installed the 70 ft guitar made out of scrap metal in front of the institute.

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Using the metal waste material left by the Titli and Fani cyclones, students of the government-managed Berhampur Industrial Training Institute (ITI) have built a giant 70-ft. guitar.

"The institution is planning to approach the *Guinness Book of World Records* to get it entered in the record book as the largest guitar made from scrap" said Rajat Kumar Panigrahy, Principal, ITI.

Damaged roof

The guitar has been built with metal sheets from the roof of a damaged structure on the ITI campus. All metal sheets and beams damaged by cyclones had to be replaced. Instead of selling off the damaged sheets as scrap, the students decided to reuse it as an artefact.

Around 150 students, including girls, from the fitter, welding, plumbing, electrical and painting trades, worked after 4 p.m for around four months to build the guitar.

The giant guitar is now a part of an open air museum of 'art from waste' being developed on the Berhampur ITI campus.

In January, students of the institution had built a 32.3-ft. high giraffe made of iron rods to their museum. The iron rods were collected from a 50-year-old dilapidated building on the campus that was demolished. The 'art from waste' museum of this institute now has eight major artefacts.

A.P.-origin NRI reconnects with sister after four decades through Facebook

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A Facebook group has helped an Andhra Pradesh-origin NRI reconnect with her long-lost sister after almost four decades.

Jyothi Edla Rudrapathi, now based in the U.S., never met or heard from her sister Kamala after the latter married a CRPF constable in 1980 and moved to Mizoram. She was then five years old.

On July 15, she posted a request on Mizoram News, a Facebook group, seeking help from its members in locating her sister.

She also attached her photo with Kamala and her husband Hmingliana.

Ms. Kamala was located at Lawipu on the outskirts of Aizawl hours after the post was widely shared on social media.

Kamala married a CRPF constable in 1980 and moved to Mizoram.

Ms. Rudrapathi told local publications that her brother-in-law, from Mizoram's Sialsuk village, married her sister when he was posted in Andhra Pradesh.

The family lost contact after the couple moved to Mizoram. Efforts to locate them for 39 years did not succeed.

In 1993, her parents Edla Joseph and Edla Karunamma went to a CRPF camp near their village but were told that their son-in-law had left the service.

Ms. Rudrapathi said her father died in 2010. Her mother, now 86, has been beside herself after speaking to Ms. Kamala.

Ms. Kamala said her husband died of cancer in 2013. They had four children, the eldest of whom died in infancy. The other three are now married.

"I made several attempts to reconnect with my parents and sister but could not do so because of financial constraints," she told reporters in Aizawl a couple of days ago.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR APPOINTMENT OF STATE CHIEF INFORMATION COMMISSIONER OF TAMIL NADU STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Applications are invited to the post of State Chief Information Commissioner, Tamil Nadu State Information Commission upto **05.00 PM on 13.08.2019.** Further details are available at **www.tn.gov.in/department/22.**

Chairperson
Search Committee

DIPR/ 769 /DISPLAY/ 2019

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (JIPMER)
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान), धन्वंतरि नगर, पुदुच्चेरी
(An institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare), Dhanvantri Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006
Phone: 0413 – 2296022 Website: www.jipmer.edu.in Fax: 0413 – 2272067 - 2272735

Advt. No. Admn.I. 1(27)/2019 **Date: 22.07.2019**

Applications are invited by the Director, JIPMER from the eligible candidates for filling up of the following faculty posts in the disciplines mentioned below on regular basis.

Sl.No.	Name of Posts	Total Posts	No. of Posts & Reservation UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS
1	Professor of Anatomy	1	-	-	1	-	-
2	Professor of Anaesthesiology	3	1	1	1	-	-
3	Professor of Cardiology	1	1	-	-	-	-
4	Professor of EMS(Emergency Medical Services)	1	1	-	-	-	-
5	Professor of Medical Education & Telemedicine	1	1	-	-	-	-
6	Professor of Medicine	1	-	1	-	-	-
7	Professor of Gastroenterology (Medical)	1	1	-	-	-	-
8	Professor of Nephrology	1	1	-	-	-	-
9	Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology	1	-	1	-	-	-
10	Professor of Orthopedic Surgery	3	2	1	-	-	-
11	Professor of Pharmacology	1	1	-	-	-	-
12	Professor of Radio-Diagnosis	1	-	1	-	-	-
13	Professor of Radiotherapy	1	-	1	-	-	-
14	Professor of Surgery	1	-	-	1	-	-
15	Professor of Urology	1	1	-	-	-	-
16	Assistant Professor of Endocrinology	1	1	-	-	-	-
17	Assistant Professor of EMS (Emergency Medical Services)	2	1	1	-	-	-
18	Assistant Professor of ENT	2	1	-	1	-	-
19	Assistant Professor of Forensic Medicine	1	1	-	-	-	-
20	Assistant Professor of Geriatric Medicine	2	2	-	-	-	-
21	Assistant Professor of Medical Education & Telemedicine	1	1	-	-	-	-
22	Assistant Professor of Medicine	2	-	2	-	-	-
23	Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery	1	-	1	-	-	-
24	Assistant Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology	2	2	-	-	-	-
25	Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology	1	-	1	-	-	-
26	Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery	1	-	-	-	-	1
27	Assistant Professor of Pharmacology	2	2	-	-	-	-
28	Assistant Professor of Pediatrics	1	1	-	-	-	-
29	Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery	1	-	-	1	-	-
30	Assistant Professor of Radiotherapy	1	-	-	1	-	-
31	Assistant Professor of Surgery	2	1	-	-	1	-
32	Assistant Professor of Transfusion Medicine	1	-	1	-	-	-
	TOTAL	43	23	12	6	1	1

The numbers of vacancies are subject to variation.
Five (5) posts (Backlog Vacancies) have been reserved for Person with Disabilities (PwDs) – OPH category on horizontal reservation.
The application format and other details regarding pay scale, age, qualification, experience, etc. for the above mentioned posts is available in the JIPMER website: **www.jipmer.edu.in**
The last date for receipt of filled-in application is **30.08.2019 (Friday) till 04.30 P.M.**

DIRECTOR

MADRAS FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Manali, Chennai 600 068
e-TENDER NOTICE

Name of Tender	Estimated Value	Last date for submission
STAFF CANTEEN SERVICE CONTRACT 2019-20	Rs.3.67 Cr. Incl.GST	12.08.2019 upto 0900 Hrs.

For further details, please visit our website:
www.madrasfert.co.in or
https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
Corrigendum if any, will be issued in the above websites only.

ADMISSION COMMITTEE FOR PROFESSIONAL COURSES
L. D. College of Engg. Campus, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380015.

Online Admission Programme for Bachelor of Architecture (B. ARCH) for Academic Year 2019-20

For the admission to first year of Bachelor of Architecture (B. ARCH) in Grant in aid & Self Financed Institutes in Gujarat State on state quota , out state quota of all Institutes and management quota surrendered seats of Self Finance Institutes, Government of Gujarat has decided to carry out web based online admission process for the academic year 2019-20. Eligible candidates have to register online though internet. The Online registration through internet is mandatory for participating in the admission process.

- **Eligibility :** The aspiring candidate shall have passed Std-XIIth with at least 50% aggregate marks in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics and also at least 50% marks in aggregate of Std-XIIth examination (45% for Reserved Category) or Diploma (10+3 pattern) of any stream with Mathematics as compulsory subject with at least 50% marks in aggregate (45% for Reserved Category) and shall have qualified in NATA 2019.
- As per the provision in the prevailing rules two seats are reserved in Department of Architecture, Faculty of technology & Engineering, M. S. University for candidates who have passed F.Y.B.Sc. from Gujarat in current academic year at first trial with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics. The eligible candidates in this category shall visit www.jacpcldce.in website for further details.
- PIN for admission registration will be available from 23-7-2019 to 30-07-2019 from designated branches of ICICI Bank by paying registration fees of Rs.350/- in cash (non-refundable) during normal banking hours (except bank holidays).
- Online Registration will begin from 23-07-2019- 11.00 am till 30-07-2019- 5.00 pm on website www.gujacpc.nic.in.Please note that after 30-07-2019 (5.00pm), the candidate shall not be allowed to register online.
- After online registration, the candidate has to submit print-out of registration form and self-attested photo copies (Not Originals) of the required documents at nearby Help Centre from 23-07-2019 to 30-07-2019 up to 5:00 pm. The requisite acknowledgement slip after submission of registration form is to be collected from Help Centre. After successful completion of registration, the eligible candidates can participate in choice filling and further admission process as per schedule. List of help centers is also available on website www.jacpcldce.ac.in.
- Detailed information regarding online admission, e-booklet, list of institutes, designated bank branches, List of Help Centres, Key dates etc. is available on website www.jacpcldce.ac.in.

Date : 20-07-2019 **- Member Secretary**

Help Line No. : 079-26566000

No.INF/ABD/580/2019-20

Sucking up surplus

SEBI needs financial autonomy to remain effective as the chief markets regulator

The Centre's decision to clip the wings of the Securities and Exchange Board of India has not gone down too well with its members. Yet, the Centre is refusing to budge. In a letter dated July 10, SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi said the Centre's decision to suck out SEBI's surplus funds will affect its autonomy. SEBI employees had also written to the government with the same concern. As part of the Finance Bill introduced in Parliament, the Centre had proposed amendments to the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 that were seen as affecting SEBI's financial autonomy. To be specific, the amendments required that after 25% of its surplus cash in any year is transferred to its reserve fund, SEBI will have to transfer the remaining 75% to the government. On Friday, the government rejected the plea from SEBI's officials asking the government to reconsider its decision, thus paving the way for further conflict. *Prima facie*, there seems to be very little rationale in the government's decision to confiscate funds from the chief markets regulator. For one, it is highly unlikely that the quantum of funds that the government is likely to receive from SEBI will make much of a difference to the government's overall fiscal situation. So the amendment to the SEBI Act seems to be clearly motivated by the desire to increase control over the regulator rather than by financial considerations. This is particularly so given that the recent amendments require SEBI to seek approval from the government to go ahead with its capital expenditure plans.

A regulatory agency that is at the government's mercy to run its financial and administrative operations cannot be expected to be independent. Further, the lack of financial autonomy can affect SEBI's plans to improve the quality of its operations by investing in new technologies and other requirements to upgrade market infrastructure. This can affect the health of India's financial markets in the long run. In the larger picture, this is not the first time that the government at the Centre has gone after independent agencies. The Reserve Bank of India and the National Sample Survey Office have come under pressure in recent months, and the latest move on SEBI adds to this worrisome trend of independent agencies being subordinated by the government. The Centre perhaps believes it can do a better job of regulating the economy by consolidating all existing powers under the Finance Ministry. But such centralisation of powers will be risky. Regulatory agencies such as SEBI need to be given full powers over their assets and be made accountable to Parliament. Stripping them of their powers by subsuming them under the wings of the government will affect their credibility.

A new beginning

The pact between the military and civilian protesters may help Sudan turn a democracy

Sudan's ruling military council and representatives of the pro-democracy movement have signed a power-sharing agreement, signalling that its disputed transition to civilian rule is on track. Ever since President Omar al-Bashir's fall in April amid anti-regime protests, the military leaders who seized power and the protesters have been on a confrontational path. The protesters' demand for an immediate transfer of power to a civilian transitional government to be followed by free and fair elections was resisted by the powerful, deeply entrenched military. As the stand-off continued, a paramilitary unit attacked protesters in Khartoum on June 3, killing at least 128 people. But protesters still didn't give up. This, along with pressure from the African Union and foreign countries, appears to have convinced the generals they could not anymore amass absolute power, as they did under Mr. Bashir's three-decade-long rule. Ethiopian and African Union mediators brought both sides for talks and they reached the power-sharing agreement. Under the deal, a sovereign council of 11 members – five military and five civilian members and one to be selected based on consensus – will rule for over three years. A general will lead it for the first 21 months and a civilian leader for 18 months. The security apparatus will be controlled by the military; the ministries will get civilian leaders.

While this agreement clearly charts a new course for the crisis-hit country, it doesn't guarantee a smooth transition from military to civilian rule. There still exists deep distrust between the generals and the pro-democracy movement. When protests erupted in December over soaring food prices, Mr. Bashir used multiple tactics, from oppression to introducing changes in the Cabinet, to control the situation. But he had to go as the generals turned against him in April. The military council then had an opportunity, like the military in Tunisia after the fall of the dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in January 2011, to return to the barracks and let the civilian leadership assume power and shape the country's future. But Sudan's military not only refused to give up its powers but also massacred the protesters who challenged them. Even though both sides have now agreed to share power, the finer details of the agreement are yet to be hammered out. It is to be seen how the transitional government would find a balance between the military's quest to retain its privileges and the revolutionaries' demand for change. It is still not clear whether the military is ready to support a full democratic transition. The framing of a new Constitution will be another challenge as there are different power centres with conflicting interests. More important, there has to be an independent investigation into the June 3 violence, and whoever is responsible should be brought to justice. Then it will at least be a good beginning for a long journey to democracy and accountability.

The tremor of unwelcome amendments

The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill is a twin attack on accountability and the idea of federalism

ARUNA ROY & NIKHIL DEY

"Amendments" have haunted the Right to Information (RTI) community ever since the RTI Act came into effect almost 14 years ago. Rarely has a law been so stoutly defended by activists. It is not possible to pass a perfect law. But it was a popular opinion strongly held by most RTI activists that a demand for progressive amendments could be used as a smokescreen by the establishment to usher in regressive changes.

Nevertheless, the sword of Damocles of regressive amendments has hung over the RTI with successive governments. Amendments have been proposed since 2006, just six months after the law was implemented and many times thereafter. Peoples' campaigns, through reasoned protest and popular appeal, have managed to have them withdrawn.

The proposed amendments tabled in Parliament on July 19, 2019 have been in the offing for some time now. In the form of the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019, they seek to amend Sections 13, 16, and 27 of the RTI Act which carefully links, and thereby equates, the status of the Central Information Commissioners (CICs) with the Election Commissioners and the State Information Commissioners with the Chief Secretary in the States, so that they can function in an independent and effective manner. The deliberate dismantling of this architecture empowers the Central government to unilaterally decide the tenure, salary, allowances and other terms of service of Information Commissioners, both at the Centre and the States. Introducing the Bill in the Lok Sabha, the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Jitendra Singh, asserted that this was a benevolent and minor mechanism of rule-making rather than a basic amendment to the RTI law.

Agent of change

Why is there unseemly haste and determination to amend the law? Some feel that it is because the RTI helped with the cross-verification of the affidavits of powerful electoral candidates with official documents and certain Information Commissioners having ruled in favour of disclosure. It is unlikely to be a set of instances but more the fact that the RTI is a constant challenge to the misuse of power. In a country where the rule of law hangs by a slender thread and corruption and the arbitrary use of power is a daily norm, the RTI has resulted in a fundamental shift – empowering a citizen's access to power and decision-making. It has been a lifeline for many of the 40 to 60 lakh ordinary users, many of them for survival. It has also been a threat to arbitrariness, privilege, and corrupt governance. More than 80 RTI users have been murdered because their courage and determination using the RTI was a challenge to unaccountable power.

The RTI has been used brilliantly and persistently to ask a million questions across the spectrum – from the village ration shop, the Reserve Bank of India, the Finance Ministry, on demonetisation, non-performing assets, the Rafale fighter aircraft deal, electoral bonds, unemployment figures, the appointment of the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), Election Commissioners, and the (non)-appointment of the Information Commissioners themselves. The information related to decision-making at the highest level has in most cases eventually been accessed because of the independence and high status of the Information Commission. That is what the government is trying to amend.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The RTI movement has struggled to access information and through it, a share of governance and democratic power. The Indian RTI law has been a breakthrough in creating mechanisms and platforms for the practice of continual public vigilance that are fundamental to democratic citizenship. The mostly unequal struggle to extract information from vested interests in government needed an institutional and legal mechanism which would not only be independent but also function with a transparency mandate and be empowered to over-ride the traditional structures of secrecy and exclusive control. An independent Information Commission which is the highest authority on information along with the powers to penalise errant officials has been a cornerstone of India's celebrated RTI legislation.

Part of checks and balances

The task of the Information Commission is therefore different but no less important than that of the Election Commission of India. Independent structures set up to regulate and monitor the government are vital to a democratic state committed to deliver justice and constitutional guarantees. The separation of powers is a concept which underscores this independence and is vital to our democratic checks and balances. When power is centralised and the freedom of expression threatened no matter what the context, democracy is definitely in peril. That is perhaps why these set of amendments have to be understood as a deliberate architectural change to affect, in a regressive manner, power equations, the freedom of expression and democracy. The Commission which is vested by law with status, independence and authority, will now function like a department of the Central government, and be subject to the same hierarchy and demand for obeisance. The decision of the government to usurp the powers to set the terms and conditions of service and salaries of an independent body must be understood as an obvious attempt to weaken the independence and authority granted by the law.

Apart from Section 13 which deals with the terms and conditions for the Central information Commission, in amending Section 16, the Central government will also control through rules, the terms and conditions of appointment of Commissioners in the States. This is an assault on the idea of federalism.

Opaque moves

All the provisions related to appointment were carefully examined by a parliamentary standing committee and the law was passed unanimously. It has been acknowledged that one of the most important structural constituents of any independent oversight institution, i.e. the CVC, the Chief Election Commission (CEC), the Lokpal, and the CIC is a basic guarantee of tenure. In the case of the Information Commissioners they are appointed for five years subject to the age limit of 65 years. It was on the recommendation of the parliamentary standing committee that the Information Commissioner and CIC were made on a par with the Election Commissioner and the CEC, respectively. The manner in which the amendments are being pushed through without any citizen consultation, bypassing examination by the standing committee demonstrates the desperation to pass the amendments without even proper parliamentary scrutiny. The mandatory pre-legislative consultative policy of the government has been ignored. Previous governments eventually introduced a measure of public consultation before proceeding with the amendments. In fact, both the United Progressive Alliance and the National Democratic Alliance put out proposed amendments to the RTI rules on the website for public deliberation. But the present regime seems determined to pass these amendments to the law itself without any consultation.

The reason is not far to seek. If the amendments are discussed by citizens and RTI activists in the public domain, it would be apparent that these amendments fundamentally weaken an important part of the RTI architecture. They violate the constitutional principles of federalism, undermine the independence of Information Commissions, and thereby significantly dilute the widely used framework for transparency in India.

The RTI community is worried. But the sword of Damocles is double-edged. It is an idiom originally used to define the hidden insecurity of an autocrat. Questions are threats to unaccountable power. The RTI has unshackled millions of users who will continue to use this democratic right creatively and to dismantle exclusive power. The RTI has been and will be used to withstand attacks on itself and strengthen the movement for transparency and accountability in India. Eventually, the Narendra Modi government will realise that while it might be able to amend a law, it cannot stop a movement.

Aruna Roy and Nikhil Dey are social activists who work with the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan and the National Campaign for People's Right to Information

An ally, a partner and American unilateralism

There are major differences but also similarities in the U.S.'s response to Russia's S-400 deals with Turkey and India

MOHAMMED AYOOB

The decision by the United States to terminate Turkey's participation in the F-35 joint strike fighter project and its threat to impose economic sanctions on Ankara under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) in response to the Turkish decision to buy Russian S-400 air defence systems has close parallels to the predicament facing India on the same issue. There are major differences in the two cases, but there are also remarkable similarities.

Turkey has been a long-standing member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and an integral part of the American-led alliance whose principal goal was and continues to be to prevent the expansion of Russian influence and power. It was also seen as the principal gateway for the projection of American power in West Asia, especially in Syria and Iraq, through the Incirlik airbase. The U.S. and other members of NATO are worried that a Russian military relationship with Turkey could provide Moscow access to the technological secrets underpinning NATO's most sophisticated weapon systems. In a statement, the White House said, "The F-35 cannot coexist with a Russian intelligence collection platform that will be used to learn about its advanced capabilities." Ankara has remained defiant and the first deliveries of components of the S-400 systems arrived in Turkey earlier this month.

Largely counter-productive

Turkey's decision to acquire the Russian systems emanated in part from the American refusal under the Barack Obama administration to sell it the Patriot anti-missile system that Ankara considered essential for its air defence in the context of the Syrian civil war. Turkey's forced ejection from the F-35 project now could also turn out to be counterproductive. Reports suggest that Turkey is planning to buy advanced Sukhoi fighter jets (the Su-35 and/or the Su-57) from Russia to compensate for the loss of the F-35 planes, thus further complicating the issue of NATO interoperability.

Although tensions in the relations between the U.S. and Turkey had become increasingly evident in the past couple of years, especially over the American support to the Syrian Kurdish force fighting the Islamic State, the YPG, which Turkey considers an extension of the secessionist PKK, Ankara and Washington are formal allies as members of NATO.

REUTERS/VITALY NEVAR/FILE PHOTO

The Indian deal

The Indian case is very different. While it is true that the U.S. now considers India a "strategic partner", principally because it views New Delhi as a counterweight to expanding Chinese influence in the Asia-Pacific region, India has never been a formal ally of Washington. From Jawaharlal Nehru's time New Delhi has attempted to maintain its strategic autonomy and indeed has had a close defence relationship with Russia, which continues to be India's largest arms supplier. Therefore, there is far less reason for the U.S. to take umbrage at India's decision to buy the S-400 air defence system.

However, the current American administration seems incapable of understanding these glaring differences between the two cases. In part this is the result of the fact that in 2017, the U.S. Congress passed CAATSA that makes it mandatory that the U.S. impose economic sanctions on countries engaging in significant business transactions with the Russian defence sector. India's purchase of the S-400 falls squarely within this definition.

The threat of CAATSA sanctions comes at a very inopportune time for India as it has been considering major multi-billion dollar arms acquisition deals with the U.S. The U.S. is also India's largest trading partner and is intimately engaged in India's civil nuclear programme. While there is a provision for waivers in the CAATSA legislation, these are not automatic and are tied principally to Russian behaviour and therefore almost impossible to implement.

The whole affair leaves India in a catch-22 situation. It cannot renege on the S-400 deal, which was signed on October 5, 2018, for deliveries to be made by April 2023, without alienating its largest and most reliable defence supplier. On the other hand, going ahead with the deal is likely to invite American economic sanctions and throw a wrench into India's developing strategic relationship with the U.S. On its part, the U.S. is caught in a bind because it cannot give a waiver to India while sanctioning its NATO ally Turkey for the same "crime".

The root of the problem lies in America's twin proclivities of acting unilaterally without regard to the interests of its international interlocutors and of enforcing provisions of pieces of its domestic legislation on foreign countries that have no say in the drafting of these laws and little recourse to appeals against them. It has done so in the case of sanctioning countries, including India and Turkey, importing Iranian oil regardless of their dependence on this source of supply or their traditional relations with Iran. Such unilateralism seems to have become an integral part of the current American administration's DNA.

Mohammed Ayoob is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University and Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Center for Global Policy, Washington DC

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Sheila Dikshit

In the passing of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit (Page 1, July 21), the political world has lost a leader who will be remembered for her stellar role as a politician and administrator. She showed India that the word 'politics' had greater meaning: of serving and supporting the common man in all ways possible. Her role as law maker shall always be remembered for the great contribution she made to the poor and the downtrodden. She gave life to Delhi by transforming it into a vibrant, well-developed city. Always affable, she was almost like a mother figure who was respected across the political spectrum. Sheila Dikshit will remain etched as one of India's tall leaders in the hall of Indian politics.

M. PRADYU,
Thalikavu, Kannur, Kerala

■ Ms. Dikshit will be specially remembered for her copybook planning and implementation of different development projects in Delhi. It would not be an exaggeration to say that she changed the face of Delhi in the truest sense. There are a lot of things to learn from her personality, style of administration and her interactions in public life. Her demise is an irreparable loss for Congress now undergoing a crisis.

MD. AZIM,
Sheohar, Bihar

■ The country has lost a stateswoman par excellence and a great role model for all women. She was grace, humility and sincerity all rolled into one. With her unassuming, direct and open approach, she transformed Delhi beyond recognition. Unassuming and always open to new ideas, she epitomised all the qualities of a true leader. Her enthusiasm and energy will be missed by all Delhiites. Ms. Dikshit was the epitome of what the Japanese define and worship – "quiet efficiency". Political leaders of all hues have a lot to learn from Mrs Dixit on what true and transformational leadership is all about.

G. VENKATARAMAN,
New Delhi

Ambassador on RSS

If the German Ambassador to India, Walter Lindner, has deduced from his interactions with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat – as part of Mr. Lindner's attempt to comprehend the "Indian mosaic" – that the "RSS is a mass movement" it must be understandable given his make-up, background and compulsions (Page 1, July 21). The RSS is more than what he has described it to be. The significant question to ask is whether it is a benign or virulent organisation. The RSS's espousal of Hindutva or Hindu nationalism is what defines its core. Even though the RSS always harps on Mother India to instil patriotic feelings in the citizenry, it has difficulty in accepting that Mother India is essentially all the people of India.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ The ideology of the RSS has gained ascendancy not so much because it has a magic wand to protect Mother India from all evils but more from the point that it has been associated with power uninterruptedly since 2014. In this context, the attempt being made across the country by vested interests to whitewash it and pass it off as a mass movement rooted in voluntary services and cultural nationalism must be seen for what it actually is. The RSS is anything but a movement for a united India where people professing all religions live in harmony.

ABDUL ASSIS P.A.,
Thrissur, Kerala

Temple visit

It has not been easy for hundreds of devotees visiting the Sri Devarajaswamy temple in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu for the Athi Varadar Vaibhavam. Earlier this month, my wife (62) and I (68) visited the temple. We feel there is urgent need for the authorities to set things right if a major disaster is to be averted. The heat is expected and as a medical practitioner I was able to avoid the risk of dehydration, but there are more serious issues that need looking into. There is much indecorous behaviour in form of jostling and pushing at every stage. Every point is seen by many as either an entry or an exit door. The result is that there is a grave risk of a stampede even in the "senior citizen queue". Like most aspects of life of India, there are no rules and timings for the VIPs. The metal barricades are impediments with many trying to find short cuts. The result is that almost everyone faces the risk of being shoved to the ground or crushed. At the end of it, we did not leave but were unceremoniously "ejected" by the crowd. We realise that considerable effort has gone into making the arrangements but the number of devotees is much more than what the system can handle. There need to be restrictions and more thought given to crowd management and dealing with senior citizens and the disabled.

DR. A. NANDAKUMAR,
Bengaluru

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Ignoring the proportionality principle

The High Court's verdict in the *Shakti Mills* rape case disregards several judicial standards & precedents

NINNI SUSAN THOMAS

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The Bombay High Court last month handed down a judgment upholding the validity of Section 376E of the Indian Penal Code, which authorises the award of either a life sentence or the death penalty to perpetrators upon a second rape conviction.

The Section had been challenged by three of the accused in the *Shakti Mills* rape case, who had been sentenced to death by a trial court in 2014. Section 376E is among a slew of recent laws that have expanded the scope of death penalty to beyond cases of homicide, and primarily to incidents of rape. Its constitutionality has been challenged on multiple grounds, primarily due to disproportionality of the punishment.

The High Court's reasoning in upholding the law, however, is open to criticism. The constitutional standard that courts must apply when testing laws on the touchstone of Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (right to life) of the Constitution is that of "proportionality". In the context of criminal law and sentencing, proportionality asks whether a particular punishment strikes an adequate balance between the gravity of the crime, the interests of the victim and of society, and the purposes of criminal law. Further, the principle of proportionality calls for a striking down of laws that are excessively harsh or disproportionate.

Violation of rights

In 2015, the Supreme Court in the *Vikram Singh* case limited the application of the proportionality standard to situations where the punishment was "outrageously barbaric". Subsequent judgments of larger benches – such as in the *Modern Dental College* case and the *Aadhaar* case – have made it clear that where the question of rights violations is concerned, the proportionality test has to be more detailed, and has four prongs: first, there must be a legitimate state aim being pursued by the provision; second, there needs to be a rational nexus between the impugned provision and the aim; third, the impugned measure must be the least restrictive method of achieving the aim; and fourth, there must be a balance between the extent to which rights are infringed, and public benefit to be attained from the legislation. In particular, the third prong asks whether there exists an alternative method of achieving the same goal that does not infringe rights to the same degree.

In the *Shakti Mills* case, given the permanent and irrevocable nature of the death penalty, there arose a fundamental question. This pertained to whether the legislative objective, of increasing the punishment for a certain category of offences to demonstrate social abhorrence towards such offenders, and to create deterrence, could be adequately fulfilled by a sentence of life imprisonment. However, instead of addressing this issue, the Court relied entirely on the fact that the law had been passed with the intention of deterring rapes.

While it is true, in general, that in questions of criminal sentencing, there is a broad presumption in favour of the state, simply stopping at that is not adequate for a court. Proportionality by its very nature precludes a complete deference to the state when it comes to adjudicating on the violations of fundamental rights. However, the Court did not at any point scrutinise the reasons that would have potentially justified the state's decision to go for death penalty in the case of a non-homicidal crime. Had it applied the proportionality standard in this way, the outcome may have been different.

Another striking aspect of the judgment is the Court's discussion of the severe effect of rape on women and society. The court declaimed that rape is far worse than murder, and used that notion to hold that the death penalty was proportionate.

A regressive paradigm

Such reasoning is steeped in regressive stereotypes of shame and stigma. This represents vestiges of the notion that a woman is a man's property, as argued by American jurist Ruth Bader Ginsburg in her *amicus* brief before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Coker v. Georgia* case (1977).

The Justice Verma Committee, which was set up to suggest amendments to criminal law after the Delhi gang-rape incident, specifically argued that the state and civil society need to deconstruct and change the 'shame-honour paradigm' with relation to rapes, and treat them as an offence against the body. It is troubling that the Bombay High Court conceded to this regressive paradigm.

While non-homicidal crimes might be devastating in the harm that they cause, they cannot, as stated by the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Kennedy v. Louisiana* case (2008), compare to murder in their "severity and irrevocability". The petitioner in the *Shakti Mills* case had also relied on judgments of the United States Supreme Court such as *Coker v. Georgia* and *Kennedy v. Louisiana*, in which provisions that stipulated death penalty for non-homicidal offences were struck down. However, the Bombay High Court refused to even engage with the arguments on the basis that "the U.S. Courts treat crimes of rape as crimes against individuals, unlike Indian law, which treats an offence of rape not only as a crime against the victim but, as a crime against the entire society."

The Court, however, provided no source for this odd claim. It is in the very nature of 'criminalising' an offence, instead of treating it as a civil wrong, that the act is deemed to be an offence against society, whether in India, or in the U.S.

Ignoring the American parallels

The American judgments specifically dealt with intricate issues, such as proportionality and harm principle, and the manner in which a court must probe the aims and objectives achieved by such a provision. It would have been a beneficial exercise for the Bombay High Court to deal with those arguments.

As courts around the world, including the Indian Supreme Court, have recognised, death penalty is a form of punishment qualitatively different from any other. It is permanent and irrevocable, rules out any possibility of correcting an error if found later, and denies the possibility of reform and rehabilitation. It is for this reason that the Supreme Court has repeated many times that the death penalty must only be imposed in the "rarest of rare" cases, and this is also why the recent proliferation of statutes expanding the scope of the death penalty, often as knee-jerk responses to public outrage, is a cause for concern.

In this situation, it is of utmost importance for courts to scrutinise such laws carefully, and on the touchstone of constitutional standards. In this regard, the Bombay High Court's judgment falls short. It engages in excessive deference to the 'will' of the state and does not enter into any judicial analysis of whether the death penalty in these circumstances was at all justified under the doctrine of proportionality, and whether any other lesser form of punishment would have sufficed. The judgment also repeats gendered stereotypes about the nature of rape to substantiate the Court's conclusions, and dismisses, without engagement, insights from other courts grappling with similar issues.

Ninni Susan Thomas is with Project 39A at National Law University, Delhi. Views expressed are personal

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Pride and melancholy

To save the hard-won press freedoms, there is a need to form a vibrant covenant between journalism and citizens

A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

Commemorative columns can be an occasion to celebrate a body of work. They have a tone of pride and professional satisfaction. But, I reside in a borderless terrain between personal satisfaction and a profound sense of melancholy as I write this 350th column.

As the Readers' Editor of *The Hindu*, the seven-year long journey has been gratifying and the constant engagement with the readers, which included periodic 'open houses', was not only rewarding but also stimulating. But, the fortune of the news media industry is a cause for concern for any one who cherishes democracy.

The threat comes from multiple nodes: governmental manipulation; digital disruption; the greed of the Silicon Valley platforms; falling advertising revenues; paywalls not generating adequate resources to fund quality journalism; the dual menace of disinformation and misinformation; and finally, the growing news avoidance among the citizens.

With the threat for independent journalism coming from not just authoritarian countries but also from democratic regimes, early this month, Canada and the U.K. jointly hosted a global conference on media freedom in London. Amal Clooney, the human rights lawyer who defended the two Reuters journalists detained in Myanmar for their reportage on the Rohingya crisis and who is defending the Philippines journalist Maria Ressa in her legal battle with President Rodrigo Duterte, made a forceful presentation.

Ms. Clooney said that only one in 10 people in the world live in a country with a free press and that share will shrink further unless democracies protect the freedom of their own media with deeds as well as words and stand up to abuses elsewhere. In her reflections about the conference, Roula Khalaf, Deputy Editor at the *Financial Times*, said we either need to fight for press freedom or watch it wither away.

A trailblazing magazine

There are many articles to mark the 50th anniversaries of man's landing on the moon and the redefining act of bank nationalisation in India. However, very few are aware of the fact that, if it had been permitted to survive for another five months, *Herald*, a magazine published from Karachi and one of the finest magazines of South Asia, would have observed its 50th anniversary this year. This trailblazing magazine was shut down this month. In my three-and-a-half decades of experience in journalism, I have been a magazine journalist for two decades and it is disturbing to see the crisis that is engulfing magazine journalism.

My predecessor at Panos South Asia and one of the editors of the *Dawn* group of publications, Saneeya Hussain, introduced *Herald* and its journalism to me. It was she who pointed out how, in a sense, *Herald* exemplified Tom Wolfe's 1972 canon of "new journalism". Wolfe had written: "The kind of reporting we were doing struck us as far more ambitious, too. It was more intense, more detailed, and certainly more time-consuming than anything that newspaper or magazine reporters, including investigative reporters, were accustomed to... We had to gather all the material the conventional journalist was after – and then keep going. It seemed all-important to be there when dramatic scenes took place, to get the dialogue, the gestures, the facial expressions, the details of the environment. The idea was to give the full objective description, plus something that readers had always had to go to novels and short stories for: namely, the subjective or emotional life of the characters."

A voice of dissent

Azhar Abbas, a distinguished print and television journalist from Karachi, wrote a moving piece about the closure of *Herald* in *The News*. His obituary for *Herald* read: "*Herald* has been a voice of dissent for decades. Despite the pressure of daily newspaper coverage, the magazine kept itself relevant by doing investigative stories and detailed political analyses. As a young reporter in the 90s, working with accomplished journalists like Zaffar Abbas, Idrees Bakhtiar and Talat Aslam, it was at *Herald* that I learned why writing in public interest is more important than any other interest."

The searing editorial, 'Sword against pen' (July 18) in this newspaper brought out the challenges in India. It said: "In India, the Centre and several State governments have not merely shown extreme intolerance towards objective and critical reporting but also taken unprecedented measures to restrict journalism." There is a need to form a vibrant covenant between journalism and citizens to strengthen our democratic credentials and to save the hard-won freedoms.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

An invasive and inefficient tool

Use of facial recognition technology in law enforcement can have disastrous consequences

VIDUSHI MARDA

The Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS) recently proposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs is geared towards modernising the police force, identifying criminals, and enhancing information sharing between police units across the country. The AFRS will use images from sources like CCTV cameras, newspapers, and raids to identify criminals against existing records in the Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and System (CCTNS) database.

The Home Ministry has clarified that this will not violate privacy, as it will only track criminals and be accessed only by law enforcement. However, a closer look at facial recognition systems and India's legal framework reveals that a system like the AFRS will not only create a biometric map of our faces, but also track, classify, and possibly anticipate our every move.

Technically speaking, it is impossible for the AFRS to be truly used only to identify, track and verify criminals, despite the best of intentions. Recording, classifying and querying every individual is a prerequisite for the system to work.

Assumed guilty

The system will treat each person captured in images from CCTV cameras and other sources as a potential criminal, creating a map of her face, with measurements and biometrics, and match the features against the CCTNS database. This means that we are all treated as potential criminals when we walk past a CCTV camera – turning the assumption of "innocent until proven guilty" on its head.

It is assumed that facial recognition will introduce efficiency and speed in enforcing law and order. However, the evidence suggests otherwise. In August 2018, a facial recognition system used by the Delhi police was reported to have an accuracy rate of only 2%. This is a trend worldwide, with similar levels of accuracy reported in the U.K. and the U.S.

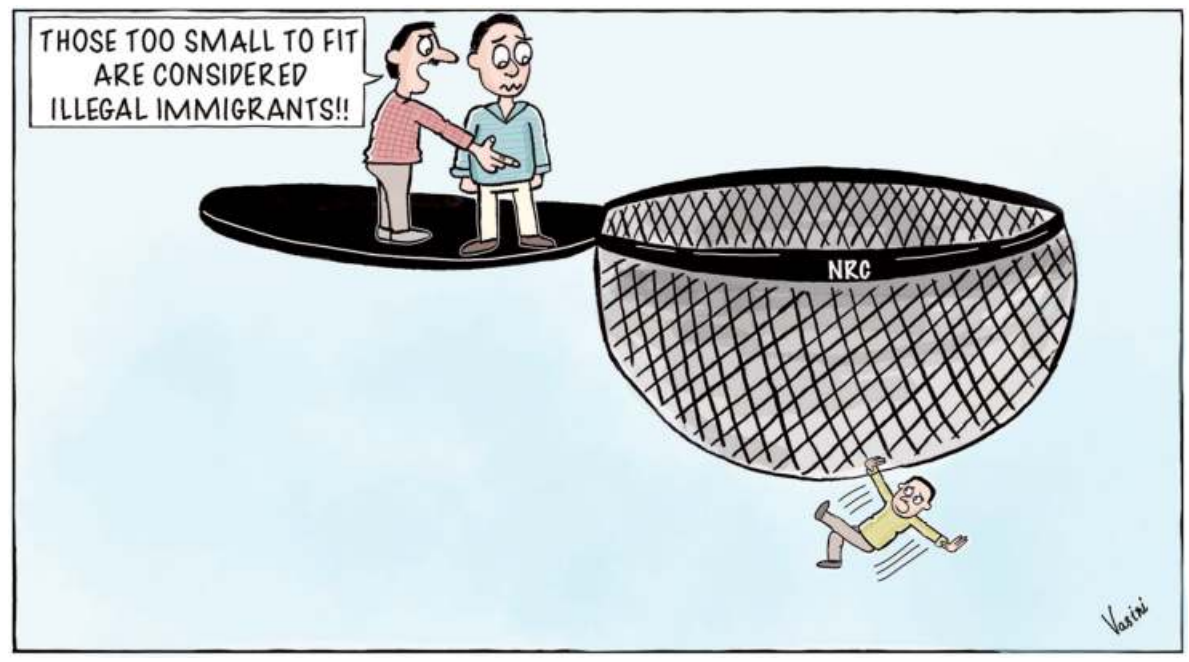
Accuracy rates of facial recognition algorithms are particularly low in the case of minorities, women and children, as demonstrated in multiple studies across the world. Use of such technology in a criminal justice system where vulnerable groups are over-represented makes them susceptible to being subjected to false positives (being wrongly identified as a criminal). Image recognition is an extremely difficult task, and makes significant errors even in laboratory settings. Deploying these systems in consequential sectors like law enforcement is ineffective at best, and disastrous at worst.

Fears of mass surveillance

Facial recognition makes data protection close to impossible as it is predicated on collecting publicly available information and analysing it to the point of intimacy. It can also potentially trigger a seamless system of mass surveillance, depending on how images are combined with other data points. The AFRS is being contemplated at a time when India does not have a data protection law. In the absence of safeguards, law enforcement agencies will have a high degree of discretion. This can lead to a mission creep. The Personal Data Protection Bill 2018 is yet to come into force, and even if it does, the exceptions contemplated for state agencies are extremely wide.

The notion that sophisticated technology means greater efficiency needs to be critically analysed. A deliberative approach will benefit Indian law enforcement, as police departments around the world are currently learning that the technology is not as useful in practice as it seems in theory. Police departments in London are under pressure to put a complete end to use of facial recognition systems following evidence of discrimination and inefficiency. San Francisco recently implemented a complete ban on police use of facial recognition. India would do well to learn from their mistakes.

Vidushi Marda is a lawyer and researcher at Article 19, a human rights organisation

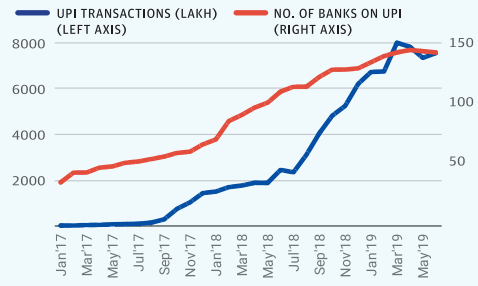


DATA POINT

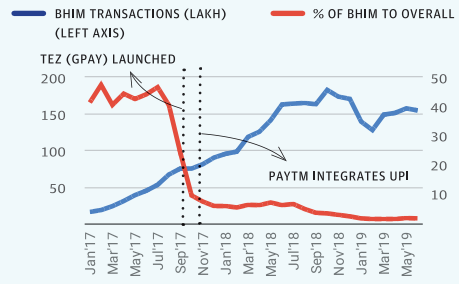
Crowded out by private players

The number of transactions done through the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) has increased by 180 times since its inception in December 2016. However, private players have cut into the government-backed Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) app's share of the transactions, while card-based transactions are still the most preferred online payment method. By **Varun B. Krishnan**

1 Healthy growth
The number of transactions through UPI rose from 41.5 lakh in Jan. 2017 to 7,545.4 lakh in June 2019. The number of banks on the interface also saw a significant growth

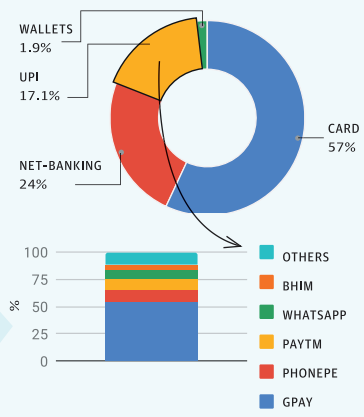


2 BHIM falls behind
From 41% in Jan. 2017, BHIM's share of transactions in overall UPI has fallen to just over 2% in June 2019. Competition from private players has led to this

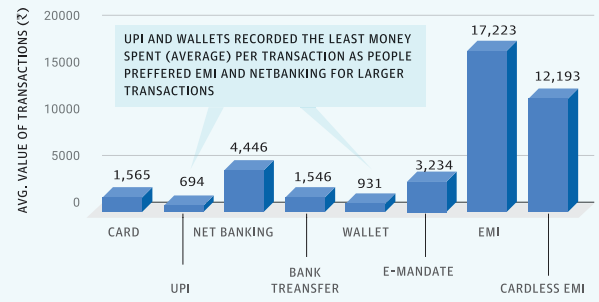


3 Cards ace the pack
Three out of every five online transactions were carried out with either debit or credit cards, while 24% were done through net banking in FY19. UPI accounted for about 17%

In FY19, 54% of the UPI transactions were carried out using GPAY app while BHIM constituted only 4.1%. Graph shows the share of UPI transactions carried out in FY19



4 Smaller transactions
Though the usage of UPI is picking up, the interface is mostly used for transactions of lesser value. Graph shows average money spent per transaction among payment modes between April and May 2019



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 22, 1969

2 men leave footprints on moon

Two men walked on the moon to-day [July 21]. They were U.S. astronauts, Neil Armstrong (38) and Edwin Aldrin (39), the first men to leave their footprints on the dusty, rocky surface of the moon where they landed in the Lunar Module Eagle at 1-47 a.m. (I.S.T.) to-day [July 21]. After completing the tasks set for them, the astronauts again took off successfully to rejoin the command ship. Armstrong set foot on the moon first at 8-27 I.S.T. and Aldrin joined him 19 minutes later. Millions of people all over the world, quarter of a million miles away watched them on television as they walked slowly and warily at first and as they gained confidence, jumping, bouncing and Kangaroo-hopping gaily in front of their landing craft taking advantage of reduced gravity. They stayed in the open for two and half hours carrying out meticulously all the tasks assigned to them and then returned to the Eagle. Armstrong stepped out of the lunar module, Eagle and put his left foot down on the moon with the words "this is one small step tor man, but one giant leap for mankind." The sun was then just rising over the lunar horizon where the days and nights are 14 days long and temperatures range from a scorching 250 degrees centigrade above to a frigid 280 degrees below zero.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 22, 1919.

Death of Dr. T.M. Nair.

(From an editorial)

The news of the death of Dr. T.M. Nair wired by Reuter will be received with profound regret in this Presidency and elsewhere. Dr. Nair was a fluent and eloquent speaker, an acute debater, a bold and courageous politician, a vigorous writer, and an eminent medical man and his loss deprives Madras of a striking personality who for nearly quarter of a century took a prominent part in the civic and public life in the city. A cable to our morning contemporary says that Dr. Nair breathed his last on Thursday morning last, as a result of complications brought on by diabetes, Bright's disease, gangrene of the leg and heart failure. Dr. Nair was nearly 50 years of age at the time of his death. He proceeded to Edinburgh from the Madras Presidency College, where he passed the Medical Examination in 1894 and at Brighton and Paris he obtained valuable experience in ear and throat diseases. While at Edinburgh he took an active part in various college activities and acquired that mastery of English which gained for him distinction as a faultless speaker of that language in after life.

FROM PAGE ONE

Solar panel vendors cash in on demand

A rhino inside the Pobitora sanctuary, Assam. ▪ RITU RAJ KONWAR

The supplies range from vegetables and eggs to kerosene from the markets to relief camps and flood-affected areas.

A few enterprising youths have invested in synthetic mosquito nets to keep fish alive for selling at a higher than normal rate.

Rhino toll 12

Two more one-horned rhinos drowned in the Kaziranga National Park (KNP) on Saturday even as the water level fell by 142 cm.

The two were among 31 animals that were found dead within and on the fringes of the park during the last 24 hours.

"So far, 12 rhinos have died in this flood while two others are under treatment at the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation. A total of 141 animals have died, out of which 15 hog deer and a sambhar were run over by vehicles while trying to cross the highway along the southern edge of the park," said Rohini Ballave Saikia, the park's Divisional Forest Officer.

Army HQ restructuring to begin by month-end

The four studies ordered by Army chief Gen. Bipin Rawat are restructuring of the AHQ; the Army restructuring which includes creation of Integrated Battle Groups; the cadre review of officers; and review of the terms and conditions of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks.

The aim is a holistic integration to enhance the operational and functional efficiency, optimise budget expenditure, facilitate force modernisation and address aspirations, the Army had stated.

"So far, investigations are happening locally. He will get information of all investigations in the entire Army. This will standardise the nature of punishment," the source said, adding the current ADG, Discipline and Vigilance, is not getting the feedback. There will be a new position of ADG, Human Resources, who "shall take proactive action on HR violations."

In the Quartermaster General (QMG) branch, the post of ADG, Technology Evaluation, is to be abolished and chief engineers in formations will be responsible for constructions in their area, and not the Army Headquarters, as is the practice now. "The AHQ cannot look into every construction that is happening," the source said.

The entire training function will move under the Army Training Command (ARTRAC), which will be shifted from Shimla to Meerut. Furthermore, the Director-General, Rashtriya Rifles (RR), now based in Delhi, will be moved to Udhampur, under an Additional Director-General, where the Northern Command is located.

Govt. to roll out major push for infrastructure

The first decision of the Cabinet being major changes to the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme under the National Defence Fund.

A big promise in the BJP's manifesto before the polls was the supply of piped water to all households. The setting up of a Jal Shakti Ministry to address, across sectors, issues related to water, was one step, but a campaign, on the lines of Ujjwala (supply of cooking gas to BPL households), called Jal Shakti Abhiyan was launched on July 1 this year. This will aim at water conservation and water security, but the big stress will be on participation of citizens especially during monsoon and will concentrate on water stressed districts and blocks.

The blistering pace is, however, most evident in the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament. Government data shows that at least 17 Bills have been cleared and 104 more have been introduced in this session alone.

Little room for SC/ST scientists in biotech bodies

Responding to queries from *The Hindu*, Secretary, DBT, Renu Swarup, said the DBT was apprised of this problem last year and had taken corrective action. "A couple of institutes had a problem of representation. We now have a formula in place to ensure that scientists are adequately represented and our hires as of this May reflect this. However, recruitment also has to factor available vacancies, backlog, and skills required,." she said.

In response to a query in the Lok Sabha in December 2018, the government had said that in Central Universities, 193 of the 936 'Professor' grade posts were from the SC/ST category as were 395 of the 1838 'Associate Professor' posts.

Delhi takes major share in electoral bonds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
INDORE

Electoral bonds worth ₹5,851.41 crore were bought by donors to fund political parties between March 2018 and May 2019, of which 80.6% were redeemed in New Delhi, where the headquarters of major parties are located, reply to an RTI query has revealed.

Chandrashekhar Goud, an RTI activist based in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch, on Sunday shared the information furnished by the State Bank of India in response to his two queries.

Electoral bonds worth ₹874.50 crore were sold in 10 phases in New Delhi to raise funds, but the value of bonds redeemed in the national capital was more than five times at ₹4,715.58 crore. Electoral bonds worth ₹1,782.36 crore were purchased in Mumbai, but only 7% of them worth ₹121.13 crore were encashed there, he said.

'Cong., SP behind U.P. violence'

CM says NSA will be invoked against those behind the 'political conspiracy'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday held the Congress and partly the Samajwadi Party responsible for the Sonbhadra killings over a land dispute, which he said were a result of the "sins" committed by the previous Congress governments.

Mr. Adityanath said "going to the bottom" of the case, the incident "is an example of a political conspiracy and *goondagardi* (hooliganism)", and had exposed the "anti-Dalit and anti-tribal face of the Congress".

He said the National Security Act would be invoked against all those involved in the land grab incident.

Offering solace: Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath with the aggrieved family members. ▪ PTI

The Chief Minister, who visited Sonbhadra and met the families of the victims, said the main accused in the shootings, gram pradhan Yagya Dutta, was an "active member" of the SP, while his brother belonged to the Bahujan Samaj Party. Both have been arrested.

In an apparent dig at Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who had a 24-hour stand-off with the Mirzapur administration over the issue, Mr. Adityanath said the Congress, which was "shedding crocodile tears", should apologise to the poor tribal families for starting the land dispute leading to the loss of 10 lives.

According to an investigation committee set up by the Yogi Adityanath government, the land dispute in Umbha and Sipah villages in Ghorawal, Sonbhadra, where the shoot-out took place, traces its genesis to 1955, when a tract of barren tribal land was illegally registered under the name of a public trust, Adarsh Cooperative Society, run by a then Congress Rajya Sabha member. Then, in 1989, the Congress-ruled government said the trust's land was transferred in the name of individual members of the trust, who then sold it to the accused gram pradhan in 2017 after failing to get possession. A three-member committee under the Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue, has been formed to probe the entire matter.

Compensation increased

Mr. Adityanath, meanwhile, increased the compensation for the families of the deceased to ₹18.5 lakh from ₹5 lakh, while the injured would receive ₹2.5 lakh against the ₹50,000 announced earlier.

The CM, while offering all help and development to locals, also promised houses to members of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities of Sonbhadra within a year, while a separate panel would be formed to pay attention to the overall development of the district. The affected villages would also get a police outpost, an Anganwadi centre and a fire tender centre.

Ms. Vadra tried to take credit for the Chief Minister's visit. "Better late than never, standing with the victims is the duty of the government," she tweeted.

Raja to take over as CPI general secretary

Ailing Sudhakar Reddy steps down

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a change of guard in the Communist Party of India, Rajya Sabha member D. Raja, 70, took over as party general secretary on Sunday with the incumbent, Sudhakar Reddy, stepping down from the post due to ill-health.

Mr. Reddy took over as general secretary in 2012 and he was re-elected in 2018 for the three-year term, but Mr. Reddy said at that time that he would remain in the post only till the Lok Sabha election. Mr. Raja's name was proposed unanimously by the CPI national secretariat, which met on Thursday and Friday. The National Council ratified his name on Saturday.

Mr. Raja's second term in the Rajya Sabha ends on July 24. He was born to a family of landless agricultural labourers in Vellore district in Tamil Nadu. His engagement with politics started from his student days when he joined the CPI's student body, All India Students Federation, in 1968. "My first public speech was on the need to support Vietnam during the U.S.-Vietnam war," Mr. Raja recalled.

D. Raja

On his being the first Dalit to make it to the top post, Mr. Raja said the party was just a reflection of society.

"It reflects the Indian social reality. Indian revolution can't be accomplished only by waging war on economic demands; you have to fight against social issues," he said.

He is taking over the party at a time when it has been reduced to a single seat in the Lok Sabha and the Election Commission is considering revoking its national status. Mr. Raja said the country was going through a "critical phase" under the "fascist regime" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "That the Left has lost seats in the LS election and may have been reduced to a smaller force in Parliament, doesn't mean our ideological or political influence has shrunk," he said.

60.14% turnout of service voters, says EC

Voting sees a jump from 4% in 2014

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Having sent postal ballots to service voters electronically for the first time in the latest Lok Sabha election, the Election Commission on Sunday said the one-way electronic transmission had enabled 60.14% turnout of such voters.

In comparison, an EC statement noted, the service voter turnout in the 2014 election was just 4%. While the service voters still had to post their ballots back, an online registration system was set up and the ballots were sent to them electronically for the first time.

Online system

"Compared to 13,27,627 number of registered Service Electors of last General Election in 2014, a record highest number of 18,02,646 were enrolled as Service Electors in 2019 in the world's largest democratic election process. For the first time enabled through the dedicated portal https://www.servicevoter.eci.nic.in online registration, the service voters were sent postal ballots electronically one way to save processing time, resources and avoid human errors," the statement read.

Service voters are those working in Central forces and government officials deployed at embassies around the world. Of the total service electors, 10,16,245 were from the Defence Ministry; 7,82,595 from the Central Armed Police Forces; 3,539 of the External Affairs Ministry and 267 of the State police.

"A total of 18,02,646 postal ballots were dispatched electronically... In return 10,84,266 e-postal ballots were received indicating a 60.14% turnout," it noted.

The Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System has two layers of security, with use of a one-time password, PIN and unique QR code on the portal, it said.

One party has access to 90% of poll funds: Manmohan

State funding can provide a level playing field, says former PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

There is a need to discuss state funding for elections at a time when a single party has access to 90% of the election funds, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Sunday at the birth centenary celebrations of CPI leader Indrajit Gupta.

Referring to the report on electoral funding published by a parliamentary committee chaired by Indrajit Gupta, which argued for state funding to provide a level playing field, Dr. Singh said, "Today, when only one party has access to 90% of the election funds, such ideas need to be discussed and deliberated."

He said it was the beauty of the Indian democracy that ideological difference did not deter anyone from celebrating the life of an opponent.

"Having spent a large part of his public life in the Opposition, Indrajit*ji* knew that without an Opposition, democracy has no soul," Dr. Singh said.

> It is the beauty of Indian democracy that ideological difference do not deter anyone from celebrating the life of an opponent ... Having spent a large part of his public life in the Opposition, Indrajit Gupta knew that without an Opposition, democracy has no soul
>
> MANMOHAN SINGH, Former Prime Minister

Indrajit Gupta had been a parliamentarian for 37 years from 1960 till his death in 2001. UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, who could not attend the event, sent out a written message which was read out by Dr. Singh.

Stickler for norms

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury recalled anecdotes about Indrajit Gupta and described him as a stickler for norms of governance.

Mr. Yechury recalled that he had asked Indrajit Gupta during his 18-month stint as Home Minister to declassify papers on the Communist movement in India.

"I got a tongue lashing. He said norms of governance can't be violated under any circumstances," he said.

He also flagged the need to have state funding. "The exploitation of poor will only increase by the corporates because after all it's their money that's funding one party," he said.

PDP leader booked for comments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

A case has been registered against Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLC Firdous Tak for alleging in a speech at Kishtwar area in the Chenab Valley on Saturday that Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) members were being armed under the village defence committees (VDCs).

A first information report was lodged under Section 153-A of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), which deals with promoting enmity between communities, disturbing public tranquillity and causing fear or insecurity among members of religious groups, the police said.

Mr. Tak was speaking against the local administration's move to fill 467 vacancies in the VDCs with RSS members.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also warned of "dire consequences" in case civilians are armed in Chenab Valley.

Feeding frenzy

On the menu: Elephants being lined up for 'Anayoottu' at the Sree Vadakkunatha Temple in Thrissur on Sunday. During the annual festival, the elephants are worshipped and fed by a large number of people. ▪ K.K. NAJEEB

15 Rohingya stranded on Tripura border

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

A number of Rohingya refugee families remain stranded on a zero point of the border along Tripura, as the Indian Border Security Force and Border Guards Bangladesh failed to resolve the issue. The two forces held a flag meeting after the former prevented their entry into India through the Rahimpur border in Sonamura under Sepahijala district. As many as 15 Myanmar Rohingya nationals, including women and children, are held up in Rahimpur since Thursday last.

The BGB refused to recognise them after the BSF stopped them from entering India.

Ramchandra Paswan, LJP MP, passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Ramchandra Paswan, Lok Janshakti Party MP from Samastipur in Bihar, died on Sunday following a brief illness. He was 57.

Mr. Ramchandra Paswan, the younger brother of Union Minister and LJP chief Ram Vilas Paswan, breathed his last at 1.24 p.m. at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here. He was admitted to the hospital last week after a heart attack.

The body will be kept at his residence in New Delhi, and on Monday, at the LJP office in Patna for paying last respects. He will be cremated on Monday evening.

Ramchandra Paswan

"With profound sadness, I am informing that my dearest and youngest brother Ramchandra Paswan, MP Lok Sabha has passed away...," Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan said. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

APPEAL

I, **Dhayabharan aged 8 years** need your support to bring a new hope to my life. I suffer from Relapsed B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and require **Rs. 6,00,000/-** towards Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai, **will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer (Syndicate Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No.60182010063310, IFSC No. SYNB0006018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

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Dhayabharan

IN BRIEF

Didn't become MP to get toilets cleaned: Pragya

BHOPAL

Pragya Singh Thakur, MP, on Sunday said she was not elected to Parliament to get sewers or toilets cleaned. "I have been completing with honesty all the tasks I have been elected for and will continue to do so," she told party workers at Sehore. Congress State media chief Shobha Oza said it revealed how serious the BJP was about the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan — its flagship programme.

BJP opens 'missionary cell' in Mizoram

GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has opened a "missionary cell" in Christian-majority Mizoram. The cell, to be headed by the State's first mining engineer Lalhriatrenga Chhangte, is aimed at drawing the church closer to the party and helping Christian organisations in times of need. "The cell will build a relationship with church organisations and churches across the State," BJP's Mizoram unit president J.V. Hluna said on Sunday.

Taslima Nasreen's residency extended

NEW DELHI

Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen's residence permit has been extended for a year by the Union Home Ministry, officials said on Sunday. The writer was given a three-month permit last week and had requested Home Minister Amit Shah for a year's extension. Ms. Nasreen has been living in exile since 1994 after she had to leave Bangladesh upon receiving death threats for her alleged anti-Islamic views. No decision has been taken on her application for permanent residency in India, an official said. PTI

Centre's J&K playbook goes down to the grassroots

New Delhi wants to move away from past set pieces, break political hegemonies and put different actors on the political chessboard

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The ongoing Parliament session saw the extension of President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir by another six months. At the same time, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke of devolution of powers and grassroots democracy in the State for which panchayat and urban local body elections were held last year.

Extending Central rule while promoting grassroots democracy may appear to be contradictory, but the decisions taken under the rule of the Governor and now of the President give some understanding of the method in what the Centre is attempting in the State.

The Centre's approach seems to be to concentrate on delivery of basic services without the intervention of local worthies and in a rule-based manner; removal of the vast discretionary powers of the political executive (already enshrined in governance reforms in other States); and devolving enough funds to local governments so that, if not creating a completely new political landscape, then at least green shoots of an alternative political discourse will flourish.

Rules-based order

The Centre is trying to set up a robust administrative mechanism devoid of corruption in Kashmir. Here are a few of the steps :

- Concentrate on delivery of basic services in a rule-based manner without the intervention of local leaders
- Removal of the vast discretionary powers of the political executive
- Elimination of interview process for employment in Class IV category
- Opening of an 'Anti-Corruption Bureau', with six new police stations under its remit
- Devolve enough funds to local government; if not creating a completely new political landscape, at least green shoots of an alternative political discourse will get a fillip
- Budget Estimation and Management System (BEAMS) for expenditure management
- Expenditure allocation being transferred from the Planning and Development Department to Finance

Governance reforms

Many of the over 300 decisions taken by the State's administration in the past year are already part of the governance framework of other States. From something as basic as the Budget Estimation and Management System (BEAMS) for expenditure management and transfer of expenditure allocation from the planning and development department to finance to elimination of interviews for employment in Class IV category, several reforms have been implemented. Significantly, the State also got its first Anti-Corruption Bureau, with six new police stations under its remit. Income-tax searches and an RBI-led audit on the Jammu and Kashmir Bank and arrests among its top management has shaken the Valley, as it is the main banking entity in the State maintaining commercial relationships with a wide section from the working class to the political elite and even separatists.

The action on the bank in particular is being watched carefully in the State, with the mix of politics and big money being a potent force that could damage many reputations and have an impact on the political landscape.

Panchayat elections as an idea for local self-governance and connecting with the local people is not new. The Manmohan Singh government had tried it too, with the previous elections held in 2010. This time around, the elections will be followed by the flow of ₹2,400 crore in funds from the 14th Finance Commission's award and an additional ₹900 crore from Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

New patterns of power

The Centre's hopes are, however, pinned more on the political dividends accruing from at least some of the over 4,000 sarpanchs elected developing enough ambition to enter State politics through the Assembly elections. The larger plan is to break the stranglehold of existing political hegemonies and replace them with new ones, a process that has been done in other States by the BJP in terms of the caste dominance of Jats in Haryana, Marathas in Maharashtra and other communities in various States.

However, much depends on just how much these efforts will end the alienation felt by the youth of the Valley and whether or not Pakistan decides to escalate matters. As a domestic policy, however, it is clear that the Centre wants to move away from the set pieces and put in place different actors on the political chessboard, actors who would be not only new but also devise new moves.

NITI Aayog health index suffers from skew

Use of estimated figures in place of reported numbers affected the final score of certain States

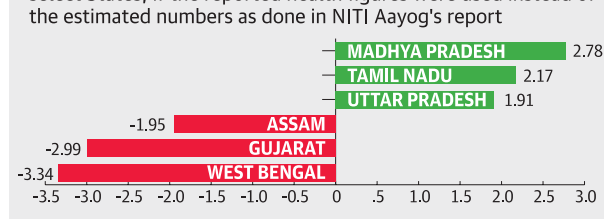
VIGNESH RADHAKRISHNAN
SRRAVYA C.
CHENNAI

An analysis of the NITI Aayog's "Healthy States, progressive India" report released on June 25 shows that the usage of estimated figures in place of reported numbers, to calculate certain health indicators, has adversely impacted the final index score of certain States while boosting that of others.

The report had used an estimated number of births and deliveries to calculate two key health outcome indicators – "full immunisation coverage" and "proportion of institutional deliveries" – which carried high weightage in the calculation of the final index score. The use of estimated numbers instead of the reported figures resulted in a skew. For instance, in the case of Tamil Nadu, which had secured a composite index score of 63.38 for the base year 2015-16, using reported number of deliveries and births instead of estimated figures would have resulted in an increase of 2.17 points for that year.

Measuring the change

Graph shows the increase or decrease in final index scores of select States, if the reported health figures were used instead of the estimated numbers as done in NITI Aayog's report



On the other hand, using reported numbers would have resulted in a decrease of 2.99 points and 3.34 points from the final index scores of Gujarat and West Bengal.

The data for both the reported and estimated number of deliveries for 2015-16 is available in the Health Management Information System (HMIS), a statistical arm of the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

There is a difference in the number of institutional deliveries recorded in the NITI Aayog's report based on the estimated number of deliveries, and what is recorded in the HMIS database based on reported number of deliveries for the year 2015-16.

In Tamil Nadu, according to the NITI Aayog report, institutional deliveries were pegged at 81.82% in 2015-16, whereas in the HMIS database, it is 100% – a difference of more than 18% points. However, in the case of Gujarat, the indicator was almost similar in both datasets (98% in HMIS, 97.78% in NITI Aayog).

In Tamil Nadu, according to the NITI Aayog report, 82.66 % of infants were fully immunised, whereas, according to the HMIS database, it is 104.9%, that is, more than a 22% point difference. In Gujarat, the indicator was almost same in both the datasets (90.55% in NITI Aayog and 93.9% in HMIS).

In the case of bigger States, both the indicators – immunisation of children and institutional deliveries – carry a weight of 50 each. The weighted scores of all the 23 indicators are added to form the final index score.

Calculation of the weighted score for the base year 2015-16 using reported figures from the HMIS instead of the estimated figures used by the NITI Aayog report, increases the final index score of certain States and decreases the numbers for others. When the final index was recalculated using the HMIS' reported figures, Madhya Pradesh's score increased by 2.78 points and Tamil Nadu's by 2.17 points while West Bengal's and Gujarat's decreased by close to 3 points each.

Row over J&K Governor's remarks on politicians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

Satya Pal Malik

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Sunday asked militants to stop killing innocent people, including security personnel, and rather target "those who have looted the wealth of Kashmir for years". The statement evoked severe criticism from mainstream politicians.

"These boys who have picked up guns are killing their own people, they are killing PSOs [personal security officers] and SPOs (special police officers). Why are you killing them? Kill those who have looted the wealth of Kashmir. Have you killed any of them," Mr. Malik said at a tourism function in Kargil.

The comments drew a sharp reaction from former Chief Minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, who said Mr. Malik should check his own reputation in Delhi.

"This man, ostensibly a responsible man occupying a constitutional position, tells militants to kill politicians perceived to be corrupt. Perhaps the man should find out about his own reputation in Delhi these days before sanctioning unlawful killings & kangaroo courts (sic)," Mr. Abdullah tweeted.

India, Iran discuss release of sailors

Expecting response to the note verbale that we sent on Sunday, say sources

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/KOCHI

India is in discussion with Iran to free at least 30 of its nationals who were on board two foreign-flagged ships detained by Iranian authorities.

The Indian embassy in Tehran on Sunday sent an official note urging Iran to release the nationals who were seized from a British-owned oil tanker on Saturday. Diplomats confirmed that Iran held several Indians from a ship captured previously.

"We are currently expecting response to our note verbale that we sent on Sunday. They have our citizens from both *Stena Impero*, which was detained on Saturday, and also *MT Riah*, which was detained last week," said a source familiar with the negotiations.

Our embassy is in touch with the Government of Iran to secure the early release and repatriation of Indian nationals

RAVEESH KUMAR
Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson

The *Stena Impero* was detained by Iran's Revolutionary Guard over the weekend in a tit-for-tat after British authorities detained an Iranian vessel *Grace 1* near Gibraltar earlier. Initially, the whereabouts of *MT Riah* were not known but Indian diplomats were informed about the presence of at least 12 citizens on board the vessel.

It was learned that Iran had hinted that it was considering release of nine of the Indian crew members of *MT Riah*. "Our embassy is in touch with the Government of Iran to secure the early release and repatriation of Indian nationals," said Raveesh Kumar, official spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry.

Kerala CM's appeal

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday wrote to the Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, expressing concern that at least four persons from Kerala are among Indians on the British oil tanker seized by Iran. In another letter following this, Mr. Vijayan also informed Mr. Jaishankar that a Keralite was on board the Iranian ship seized by the British. Ajmal Sadiq from Vandoor, Malappuram, had contacted his family on Saturday and had informed that his ship was seized on July 4, informed Mr. Vijayan's letter.

Lucknow to host DefExpo next year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lucknow will host the 11th biennial edition of DefExpo from February 5 to 8, 2020, the Defence Ministry announced on Sunday.

"The main theme of DefExpo India-2020 will be 'India: the emerging defence manufacturing hub' and the focus will be on 'Digital transformation of defence'," the Ministry said in a statement.

The exhibition will also highlight Uttar Pradesh as an attractive destination for investment in the defence sector and act as a platform for joint ventures in the industry. The State has four units of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and will get one of the two Defence Industrial Corridors announced by the Centre recently.

The previous two editions of the biennial were held in Chennai and Goa.

A.K. Roy, former lawmaker and labour activist, dead

Worked among coal workers, co-founded JMM with Soren

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Arun Kumar Roy, three-time member of the Bihar Assembly and three-time MP for Dhanbad, died on Sunday. He was 84.

At a time when an overwhelming majority of the MPs are crorepatis, Mr. Roy of the Marxist Coordination Committee (MCC) had no bank account, did not have more than two sets of trousers and shirts and lived in a desolate party office without electricity. The allowance he received as an MP was distributed among party members and coal workers. When he started receiving pension after his tenure in Parliament, he donated it to the President's fund.

Mr. Roy was born in erstwhile East Bengal (now Bangladesh) in 1935 to a middle income family. He got his engineering degree from Calcutta University and then went to Germany for higher studies.

Arun Kumar Roy

On his return, Mr. Roy started working as an engineer in the coal belt of east India, but soon became a full-time labour activist after witnessing the plight of the coal workers and emerged as their leader.

He joined the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and contested from Sindri, then in Bihar, as a party candidate in 1966. He was elected to the Bihar Assembly twice after 1966 as a candidate of the Janwadi Kissan Sangram Samiti, an outfit he founded. Later, he got involved with Jayaprakash Narayan's anti-Congress agitation. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Dhanbad twice as an Independent (1977, 1980) and as a candidate for the MCC, again a party that he founded, in 1989.

With Shibu Soren, Mr. Roy formed the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in the 1970s. But as the JMM emerged as a powerful player about to capture power, they fell out. However, he continued to remain a people's leader and was active till a few months ago.

Don't escalate tensions, Iran tells U.K.

This is quite dangerous and unwise at a sensitive time in the region, says Tehran's envoy to Britain

REUTERS
DUBAI

Iran's Ambassador to Britain warned against escalating tensions on Sunday as a U.K. official declined to rule out sanctions in response to Tehran's seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker.

Britain has called Iran's capture of the *Stena Impero* in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday a "hostile act".

Britain needs to contain "those domestic political forces who want to escalate existing tension between Iran and the U.K. well beyond the issue of ships," Iran's envoy to Britain Hamid Baeidinejad said on Twitter. "This is quite dangerous and unwise at a sensitive time in the region," he said, adding that Iran "is firm and ready for different scenarios."

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

Asked about the possibility of sanctions, he said: "We are going to be looking at a series of options ...We will be speaking with our colleagues, our international allies, to see what can actually be done."

Tehran's seizure of the *Stena Impero* followed the July 4 capture by Royal Marines of the *Grace 1* tanker carrying Iranian oil near Gibraltar.

Tough stance: Britain has called Iran's capture of the *Stena Impero* in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday a "hostile act".

Illegal interference: U.K.

In a letter to the U.N. Security Council, Britain said the *Stena Impero* was approached by Iranian forces in Omani territorial waters where it was exercising its lawful right of passage, and that the action "constitutes illegal interference."

British warship *HMS Montrose* radioed an Iranian patrol vessel to warn it against boarding the *Stena Impero*, according to radio messages provided to Reuters by maritime security firm Dryad Global.

Iran said the seized tanker "risked maritime safety" in the Strait of Hormuz, through which almost a fifth of the world's annual oil consumption passes. "We are required by regulations to investigate the issue ... the duration of the investigation depends on the level of cooperation by the involved parties," Allahmorad Afifipour, head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organisation in Hormozgan Province, told state TV.

He added that all 23 crew members aboard the ship, including 18 Indian nationals, are "safe and in good health in Bandar Abbas port".

Tehran for weeks has vowed to retaliate for the seizure of the *Grace 1* tanker by British forces. "The Revolutionary Guards responded to Britain's hijacking of the Iranian tanker," Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani told a Parliament session aired live on state radio.

Oman calls for release of *Stena Impero*

MUSCAT

Oman called on Sunday for the release of the *Stena Impero* detained by Iran and urged London and Tehran to resolve their dispute with diplomacy. Oman "looks forward to the Iranian government's release of the British ship", the Foreign Ministry said on Twitter. The sultanate said it was in contact with all parties to guarantee the safety of commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz. AFP

Iran thanks Saudi Arabia for release of *Happiness 1*

DUBAI

Iran on Sunday appreciated Saudi Arabia's efforts in the return of its *Happiness 1* tanker that had docked at Jeddah port because of technical problems in May, the semi-official Fars news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying. The media reported in early July that Saudi Arabia was not allowing the ship to leave because of a dispute over the payment of repair costs. REUTERS

Protesters deface Beijing's office in Hong Kong

Move seen as a direct challenge to city's political masters

REUTERS
HONG KONG

The Hong Kong police fired rubber bullets and tear gas in running clashes with protesters late on Sunday amid chaotic scenes as anger over an extradition bill morphs into a fresh front against what many see as a broader erosion of freedoms by Beijing.

Thousands of protesters descended on China's representative office in the city, in a direct challenge to authorities in Beijing, just hours after the latest demonstrations to rock the Asian financial central.

Millions have taken to the streets in the past two months in an unprecedented show of force against Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, triggering the worst social turmoil to rock the former British colony since it returned to Chinese rule 22 years ago.

Black-clad activists, many wearing masks, defied police orders and marched beyond the official endpoint of a rally that took place earlier in the day as they made their way towards the Liaison Office.

When asked whether the protesters would attempt to force entry into the building, one 30-year-old man dressed head to toe in black said "No", as he mimicked a throat-slitting action. "That would be the death of Hong Kong," he added.

Some protesters threw eggs at the walls of the Liaison Office, while others spray-painted graffiti as they kept up pressure on the city's beleaguered government to heed their calls for an independent inquiry into complaints of police brutality during recent demonstrations, among other demands.

Sending a message: A defaced Chinese national emblem outside the Liaison Office in Hong Kong on Sunday. ▪ REUTERS

Hindu priest attacked near temple in New York

Police probing if it was a 'hate crime'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK

A Hindu priest was attacked by a man while he was walking down the street in his religious garb near a temple in Floral Park, New York, according to a U.S. media report.

Swami Harish Chander Puri said that around 11 a.m. (local time) on July 18, near the Shiv Shakti Peeth in Glen Oaks, while he was walking, a man came up from behind and started hitting him, a local news channel reported.

Mr. Puri said he had to be rushed to a hospital. He suffered bruises and abrasions all over his body, including his face, in the attack. "I'm in a little pain," the priest was quoted as saying by the channel.

The police arrested 52-year-old Sergio Gouveia in connection with the attack. He is being 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 visit the temple said they believe the priest was targeted. The attacker screamed things like, "this is my neighborhood," during the incident, they said.

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

Minority Congresswomen should apologise: Trump

'Don't believe they can love America'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump renewed his attacks on Sunday on four Democratic Congresswomen he launched xenophobic tweets against last week, demanding they apologise "for the horrible (hateful) things they have said."

"I don't believe the four Congresswomen are capable of loving our Country," Mr. Trump tweeted of ethnic-minority first-term Democrats Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar and Ayanna Pressley.

"They should apologise to America (and Israel) for the horrible (hateful) things they have said. They are destroying the Democrat Party, but are weak & insecure people who can never destroy our great Nation!" the President tweeted.

Donald Trump

The group – all American citizens, three of whom were born in the U.S. – are of Hispanic, Arab, Somali and African-American descent.

Mr. Trump was rebuked by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives last Tuesday for "racist comments" against the women, who are known as the "Squad."

Hasina nixes move for sedition case against Hindu activist

'Priya Saha should first explain her comments to U.S. President'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has disapproved of a planned government move to file sedition charges against a Hindu woman who told U.S. 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 Mr. 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 U.S. President that 37 million people of the minority groups disappeared from Bangladesh.

Priya Saha

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

However, Mr. Quader on Sunday said Ms. Hasina has disapproved of the move to file sedition charges against Ms. Saha without obtaining her explanation on her comments. "The Prime Minister last night sent me a message (from the U.K. where she is on an official tour), saying no legal action was required to be initiated hastily," Mr. Quader told a media briefing at the party's Dhanmandi office.

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

U.S. accuses Venezuela of aggression

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

A Venezuelan fighter jet "aggressively shadowed" a U.S. intelligence plane over the Caribbean Sea, defence officials said on Sunday.

U.S. Southern Command said the Russian-made Venezuelan SU-30 on Friday followed a U.S. EP-3 at an "unsafe distance...jeopardising the crew and aircraft." "The EP-3 aircraft, flying a mission in approved international airspace, was approached in an unprofessional manner by the SU-30... The U.S. routinely conducts multinationally recognised and approved detection and monitoring missions in the region to ensure the safety and security of our citizens and those of our partners," it added.

IN BRIEF

Pakistan PM lands in U.S., to meet Trump today

WASHINGTON

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan arrived here on his first trip to the U.S. He was welcomed at the airport by his Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. He is scheduled to meet President Donald Trump on Monday to reboot bilateral ties. PTI

PTI, Independents lead in FATA polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf party and Independent candidates won five seats each in the first-ever elections in former semi-autonomous tribal region, bordering Afghanistan, that was once a stronghold of militant groups like the Taliban and the Al-Qaeda.

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), where the first-ever provincial elections were held on Saturday, comprises seven districts and was merged with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in May 2018 after a constitutional amendment.

According to the unofficial results of 13 constituencies out of 16, Mr. Khan's PTI and Independents got five seats each, while the Jamat-e-Islami, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl and the Awami National Party won one seat each. Results of three constituencies were not available so far.

The law set aside 24 seats in the provincial assembly for the former FATA region. However, due to administrative reasons, elections on those seats were not held with the general polls held in the country in July last year.

After putting in place the necessary legal and logistic wherewithal, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) went ahead to hold the election on the 16 general seats. Another four seats are reserved for women and one for non-Muslims. These seats will be awarded to the political parties on the basis of their share in the 16 contested seats.

9 killed, 40 injured in terror strikes in Pak.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PESHAWAR

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 check-post and a subsequent suicide blast by a burkha-clad woman at a hospital where the victims of the first attack were shifted.

Both attacks took place in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Four unidentified armed men on two motorbikes fired at two on-duty policemen at the Kotla Syedan check-post, killing them, district police chief Saleem Riaz said.

The hospital that was targeted by a woman suicide bomber. ▪ AP

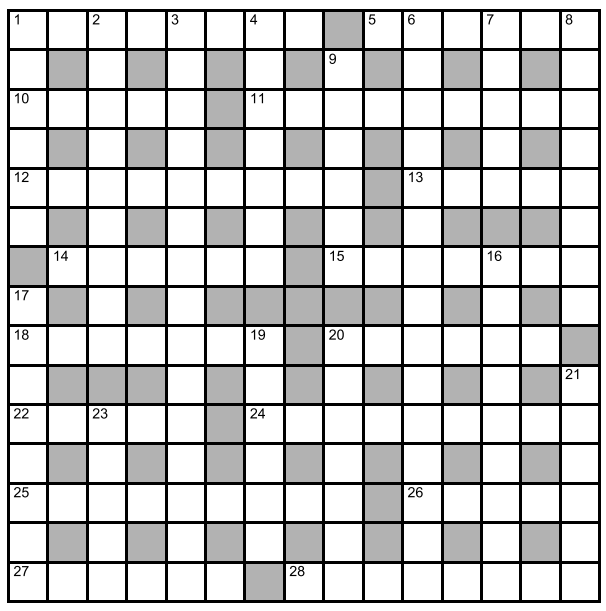
When the bodies of the slain policemen were brought to the district hospital, the suicide bomber, already sitting there, targeted the people gathered around the ambulance, the officer said.

Seven people, including four policemen, were killed in the blast, the police said, adding that this was the first ever suicide bombing by a woman. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack.

The injured were shifted to the Combine Military Hospital. The death toll could rise as majority of the victims were in critical condition, the officer said.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12684

(set by Dr. X)



ACROSS

1 Crack, ecstasy and cocaine taken in depression by woman (8)

5 Manage when callous husband abandons, having turned rotten (6)

10 Poor recital – scrapping it for sure (5)

11 Go to bed, overwhelmed by shame oddly uncommunicative (9)

12 Harassed daughter rose to tackle a thug (9)

13 Reasons given by one in low spirits about consuming ecstasy (5)

14 It is an extensively consumed herbal infusion (6)

15 Summon chap going round with concoction of tea (7)

18 Time to go round fancy bar in marina (7)

20 Heartily requested girl in lake to come out (6)

22 Close to largely forlorn girl (5)

24 Drunkard's corporation? (4,5)

25 Put up a fight in haunt (4,5)

26 Long for a bit of vodka in noisy pub (5)

27 Girl about to bag right husband making money in Africa (6)

28 A serious setback! Congress starting to become insignificant (4,4)

DOWN

1 Throw light on fish in river (6)

2 Buck up after capturing most effective knight (9)

3 Angrily pans one arrogant unacceptable individual (7,3,5)

4 Ultimately deplorable scenes around centre (7)

6 Powerful ambition that a gastritis sufferer might have? (4,2,4,5)

7 Suspect held by cop in enclosure (5)

8 Smarter rogue desires to conceal a little romp (8)

9 Heavy food left out for good man in cottage (6)

16 Holy girl in unholy alliance (9)

17 Covered shack retains warmth (8)

19 Strip-tease by revolting toff (6)

20 Prefer bringing back alternative style of dance music (7)

21 Regulation about abandoning construction of cableway (3-3)

23 Landlord in a state of depression after losing daughter (5)

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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Solution to puzzle 12683

H	I	C	C	U	P		A	B
A		R		N				U
B	L	I	N	K	S		P	R
I		C		I		O		P
T	A	K	E	N	O	T	E	
A		E		D		T		I
T	U	T	U		G	O	O	S
		E		I		M		L
F	A	R	A	N	D	A	W	A
I				G		N		N
F	L	A	T	U	S		O	D
T		U		I		Y		S
I	N	D	E	N	I	A	L	
E		I		A		W		
S	E	T	T	L	I	N	G	

S	S	O	R	B	E	D		
		U		N		E		A
	P	R	A	T	T	L	E	R
		P		H		C		N
	T	E		T	E	C	H	I
		I		E				R
	S	E	B	U	M	P		S
		B		O				
	R	I	S	K				
		S		S		A		
	O	D	O	N	A	T	E	S
		S		E		N		H
R	E	D	E	E		M		
		Z		S		I		
T	E	A	S	E	R			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Vedas and Thiruppavai

While the Thiruppavai has many commentaries, it itself may be considered a commentary on the Vedas, said Malola Kannan, in a discourse. Every pasuram in Thiruppavai reflects the Vedas in one way or the other. Taking the Azhi mazhai kanna pasuram as an example, one can see how it is like Veda sabdas. There are yagas that are performed to obtain the benefit of rains. There are five sabdas prescribed as mandatory during these yagas. If the required yagas are not performed, then it will not rain, and for the yagas to bear fruit, these five sabdas are indispensable. Andal's Azhi mazhai pasuram captures the essence of the Vedic mantras recited for rains. Similarly, each pasuram can be studied for its Vedic connection.

Verse twenty-eight of Thiruppavai (karavaigal pin sendru) may be considered the prayaschitta pasuram. Thiruppavai begins with a vrata, and the twenty seventh verse marks the end of the vrata. Now that the vrata is over, it is time for prayaschittam (atonement). The Gopikas are lucky to have had Krishna in their midst as one of them. The Gopikas might have called Him by names that He might not have liked. Their way of addressing Him might not have been as respectful as it should have been. So, now they are asking Krishna for His forgiveness. For a yaga to be complete and to give the desired results, one must do a prayaschittam. Thiruppavai itself is akin to a yaga and now that the yaga is over, prayaschittam is offered through the karavaigal pasuram. Kanaithilam pasuram is about Vedanta Desika. Just as a cow lets milk flow from its udder, to feed its calf, so did Lord Lakshmi Hayagreeva bless Vedanta Desika. In fact, Desika says in his Hayagreeva Stotram, that the Lord sat on his tongue (jihvAgra simhAsanam), helping him defeat opponents

ASK US

K. NITYA KALYANI

Taking health cover

Q. I am a 49-year-old woman in a government job. Since I have no health issues, will it be advisable to buy basic hospitalisation policy with sum insured of ₹3 to ₹5 lakh? Which mode will be convenient and economic, online or via an agent? May I get a rough idea about premium costs?

YASH HAKE

A. Being a government employee, you would have some medical coverage or scheme and you should look for independent health insurance coverage over and above it and to supplement it.

Since such schemes are reimbursements on bills of actual expenses, you can claim only under one insurance policy / scheme or claim proportionately under more than one policy. So, you can opt for a top-up or super top-up policy with your basic scheme sum insured as the threshold limit.

If you do not have employer-provided coverage please opt for at least ₹5 lakh coverage as you are approaching the age of health challenges and you have to wait 3 to 4 years for any pre-existing conditions to start getting covered. For the same reasons of age and attendant health decline, your policy premium will only increase as time goes by or you may even be denied coverage.

Since you are incepting a policy at an older age, you should go through an agent who will advise you on the nuances of the policy and also take you through medical tests needed before issuing a policy.

Premium calculators are available on almost all insurance company websites and you can pick and choose the policy you prefer and see what they can cost. On an average you can expect to pay ₹15,000 as annual premium for a ₹5 lakh policy.

Survival benefits to foreign national

Q. I have taken LIC's Jeevan Tarang (with profit) single premium policy in the name of my granddaughter as a token gift on my retirement. She was a one-year-old at that time and is an American citizen by birth. The lump sum survival benefit will be paid on her attaining age of 20 years besides life-long annual payments. My query is how can my granddaughter, being an American citizen, get the survival benefits which would be paid in Indian currency.

T. N. SWAMINATHAN

A. Since your granddaughter is a major, the survival benefits will be paid in her name in Indian currency into an Indian bank account, regardless of her nationality. You should ensure that the details of a compliant bank account are given to LIC ahead of the claim date. Please approach your LIC branch or agent for further details and guidance.

Health check-up

Q. I am a 26-year-old, unmarried person, employed in a public sector unit in India. Currently, I have not availed any separate medical insurance policy for myself apart from the group medical insurance policy provided by my employer. My question is whether I am still eligible for claiming tax deduction of ₹5,000 for preventive health check-up covered under Section 80D of IT Act, even though I don't have any exclusive medical policy for myself?

A. KHAN

A. Yes. Even if you do not have a health insurance policy to avail of the Section 80D deduction, you can claim it for preventive health check-up of up to ₹5,000 per year. For senior citizens, provided they are not paying premium for a health insurance policy, a deduction for medical expenses incurred up to ₹50,000 is available under Section 80D.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance and corporate history)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

What you need when it pours

Comprehensive health, home, motor policies can save you from vagaries of weather that may singe your pocket

TARUN MATHUR

Monsoon can certainly be a delightful season. But, though the rains bring respite from the intense heat, they quite often leave behind a trail of losses.

Common problems include water-borne or viral diseases breaking out, engine seizure of vehicles due to their getting stuck in floods and excessive damage to property and its contents in the event of flooding.

Right combination needed

To truly enjoy the rainy season without thinking about financial setbacks, you should protect your health, vehicle and home by availing the right combination of insurance covers.

With the onset of the rainy season, it becomes imperative to protect self and family against diseases such as diarrhoea, dengue, viral fever, typhoid, malaria and chikungunya, which are among the most common ailments reported in hospitals. The cost of treatment for dengue is huge as most private hospitals in India charge anywhere between ₹10,000 and ₹15,000 for platelet separation.

If a patient undergoes transfusion up to four times, the patient has to spend at least ₹40,000 towards procurement of platelets.

There have also been cases where people have spent up to ₹2 lakh for treatment of dengue that included more than four platelet transfusions. Treatment for the disease takes approximately 8-10 days and the room rent at a decent hospital often goes beyond ₹1 lakh.

To handle these expenses, buy a comprehensive health insurance plan which covers you against vector-borne and other diseases.

If you already have a health insurance plan, you can look to further guard yourself by buying dengue-specific cover. These are fixed benefit plans that will cover medical costs as well as loss of income due to hospitalisation.

To avail the most comprehensive coverage, you must invest in disease-specific plans.

Dengue is one of the most prominent diseases for which there are fixed benefit plans available in the market such as those offered by Apollo Munich (Dengue Care), Bajaj Allianz (M-Care) and DHFL (Pramerica Dengue Shield). You must buy one at the earliest as most of these policies come with a 30-45-day waiting period from the date of policy issue.

There are some exceptions such as Max Bupa's Heart Beat plan that comes with no disease-specific waiting period for individuals up to the age of 45.

During the monsoon season, the number of claims related to motor insurance rises significantly due to water ingression into the vehicle's engine or due to an accident because of water logging.

Standard grade not enough

Under such circumstances, a standard motor insurance policy often does not pay for expenses towards repair of a damaged engine due to water seepage, also known as hydrostatic lock. To pay for such expenses, it is recommended that you protect the vehicle with an important add-on cover known as Engine Protector. This particular add-on provides adequate protection to the engine and the electronic circuit within the vehicle. With this add-on cover, the vehicle gets coverage for the monetary loss incurred due to engine damage during water logging.

Yet another important add-on worth investing in to protect your vehicle this monsoon season is Zero Depreciation. This add-on helps reduce losses incurred due to wear and tear; or, replacing parts such as plastic, rubber, fibre, metal and paint. Roadside assistance can also prove useful in case of breakdown of your vehicle due to floods or water logging.

The average premium of Zero Depreciation add-on for a car with Insured Declared Value (IDV) ranging between ₹7.1 lakh and ₹7.8 lakh comes to ₹2,600-₹3,600. However, the premium for Engine Protection add-on for a car for the same IDV range comes to ₹600-₹1,300.

Excessive rainfall destroys personal property, including homes and offices. As per industry insiders, it is important to see home and property insurance as very valuable products. Under a comprehensive home insurance policy, the insurer provides coverage against any damage caused by a natural calamity, including floods.

With weather patterns becoming significantly unpredictable, getting adequate cover for your house is a smart thing to do.

While buying a home insurance policy, you must remember to invest in a plan that not only protects the structure of your property but also offers adequate coverage to its contents. Many insurers have introduced products that insure jewellery and important valuables, personal electronic appliances and domestic appliances under the policy.

The average premium for insuring a house worth ₹50 lakh comes to around ₹2,200 to ₹2,600 annually. However, a detailed home insurance policy, covering your home worth ₹50 lakh along with its added contents (furniture, home appliances, etc.) worth ₹5 lakh, would cost you an annual premium of ₹6,500-₹7,500.

(The author is chief business officer, general insurance, Policybazaar.com)

Learn to weather it

- Take comprehensive health cover at the earliest since it has a waiting period
- An add-on cover with motor insurance can pay to repair water-logged engines

FIRST TAKE: MAKING SALARY PAY WELL

Taking baby steps towards investing hard-earned money

When you get your first salary, it's time to apply your mind towards choosing the right savings option for a better life

AARATI KRISHNAN

You've bagged a plum offer and salary credits from your employer have just begun to fatten up your bank balance. What should your first steps be, in the world of investing? Here's a game-plan:

Save before you spend

Getting your hands on your own money is a thrilling experience. Here, finally, is your chance to splurge on all those cool gadgets, clothes and vacations that you've always coveted. But once you let the shopaholic in you break free, you may find that there's very little left at the month-end to invest.

That's why it is important to commit to fixed savings from your income at the beginning of every month, before you begin spending. Start with saving 10% or 15% of your monthly pay, ramping it up to 20% or 25% as your pay increases.

If your employer offers an Employee's Provident Fund account, there will be an automatic deduction out of your pay every month towards your retirement, which also counts towards your tax breaks under Section 80C.

But equity investments are a must at this age to create long-term wealth. Therefore, you must supplement this by starting a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) in a multicap fund or tax saving fund (ELSS) depending on the room for 80C savings. If you don't know how to choose a fund, opt for equal SIPs in a Nifty50 and Nifty Next50 index fund.

If your employer doesn't offer EPF, open a Public Provident Fund account with a bank and invest ₹1.5 lakh a year towards 80C. Supplement this with equity fund SIPs. Ensure that your SIP dates fall in the first week of the month. Always spread your investments over 3-4 options to diversify risk.

More bang for the buck!

- Start with saving 10% or 15% of your monthly pay
- Evaluate life goals before taking insurance policy
- Be wary of EMIs
- Be clear of savings' goals

Pay off debt

There's no point in investing or saving diligently if EMIs are systematically draining your bank balance. If you've started your working life with loans of any kind (education, vehicle or credit card), use your savings and bonuses in the initial years to pay them off.

If you've got loan repayments looming, use safe and liquid avenues such as recurring deposits or SIPs in liquid/short-term debt funds to invest, where there's no risk of capital loss. Plough your bonuses into the same kitty. Once EMIs are off your head, you can invest the money freed up in PPF or mutual fund SIPs.

Wrong kind of insurance

Protecting what you have, takes priority over investing for the future and that's where insurance products come in. But buying the wrong kind of insurance can decimate instead of protecting your wealth.

Many folks of the earlier generation signed up for 10- or 15-year endowment plans from insurers as soon as they got their first pay cheque.

This is imprudent, as such plans yield measly returns after locking you into rigid monthly pay-outs for much of your working life. As a newbie investor, it is best to separate your insurance from your investments.

Before signing up for insurance cover, evaluate your life goals. If you're a family person, a generous, pure-term policy that covers 20 years' living expenses is critical to take care of your dependents in case of your death.

If you are footloose and single, there's no point in buying a life cover. Instead, sign up for critical illness, personal accident or health insurance plans that will help you tide over acts of God or personal misfortunes during your working life.

Green shoots: As your pay increases, you must consider ramping your savings up to 20% or 25% of your salary. ▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Defer property purchase

Indians starting out on their first job are often urged to buy a home quickly so that they have 'compulsory' savings. But there's a very big difference between compulsory savings that build your own wealth and those that go to fatten up a bank's balance sheet.

Buying property at a very early stage in your career can be damaging to your finances on three counts. One, the burden of a monthly EMI robs you of the ability to spend freely on your other lifestyle needs. Two, owning a home in a specific city will hamper your mobility in seeking out better career opportunities elsewhere. Rental incomes in India amount to a small fraction of home loan EMIs.

Paying an EMI on a property you aren't going to live in and incurring rent in another city is doubly debilitating. A home bought in your twenties may also be in a state of disrepair by the time you are ready to retire.

Three, EMIs rob you of savings potential during the best years of your working life, reducing your ability to create wealth outside of that one piece of property. A ₹50 lakh home loan today (8.6% interest) locks you into an EMI of ₹49,400 for 15 years. By the time you're done with it, you would have paid the bank an interest of ₹39 lakh on the top of the principal amount of ₹50 lakh!

Set goals

Scrimping and saving towards some unknown objective can be quite painful when you're young and looking to enjoy life to the brim. Listing out the goals towards which you are investing and checking on your portfolio periodically, to see how you've progressed, can help make up for the pain.

The goals you list out can range from buying a MacBook Air next year, to a European sojourn in three years' time, to retiring early. Setting out specific goals with time-frames also helps you decide on appropriate investment vehicles. For goals up to four years, you must stick to safe vehicles such as RDs or debt fund SIPs.

For 5-to 7-year goals, PPF/SIPs in hybrid mutual funds can work. Equity funds should be considered only for goals that are over 7 years away, to give your portfolio time to recoup from market ups and downs. Your goals need not be cast in stone and can always be rejigged as you go along.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH

"First, you count up in hundreds. Then, you count down in thousands! It's called the money maths, my uncle said!"

Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.75	8.35	8.75	8.25
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.30	8.00	8.30	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.50	7.30	7.30
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.60	8.50	8.50	8.00
Fincare Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.00	9.00	8.00
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.50	7.00	8.00
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.60	8.30	7.50	7.00
North East Small Finance Bank	8.75	7.25	7.25	6.75
AU Small Finance Bank	8.10	7.01	8.10	7.77
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.85	7.65	7.65	7.50
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Indian Bank	6.90	6.75	6.75	6.90
Syndicate Bank	7.15	6.60	7.15	6.50
Bank of Maharashta	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.25
State Bank of India	7.00	7.00	6.70	6.60
Andhra Bank	6.80	6.80	6.75	6.75
Canara Bank	6.70	6.70	6.40	6.00
Bank of India	6.75	6.70	6.50	6.50
Union Bank of India	6.75	6.75	6.60	6.70
Indian Overseas Bank	6.80	6.60	6.80	6.80
Corporation Bank	7.00	6.80	6.50	6.50
Allahabad Bank	6.75	6.75	6.50	6.50
IDBI Bank	7.25	7.25	6.85	6.85
Central Bank of India	6.65	6.65	6.45	6.45
United Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.00
Bank of Baroda	7.00	6.70	6.70	6.70
Punjab National Bank	6.85	6.80	6.75	6.25
UCO Bank	6.60	6.60	6.50	6.50
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
Karnataka Bank	7.20	7.20	7.00	7.00
South Indian Bank	7.45	7.40	7.25	7.25
Federal Bank	7.25	7.20	7.25	7.25
Axis Bank	7.30	7.10	7.25	7.00
Karur Vysya Bank	7.10	7.10	7.00	7.00
City Union Bank	7.35	7.35	7.00	7.00
Catholic Syrian Bank	7.00	7.00	6.50	6.50
Yes Bank	7.85	7.25	7.25	7.25
ICICI Bank	7.30	6.90	7.25	7.25
HDFC Bank	7.40	7.30	7.40	7.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.20	7.00	7.00	6.50
IDFC First Bank	8.50	7.00	7.50	7.50
DCB Bank	8.25	7.00	8.25	7.75
RBL Bank	8.00	7.90	7.60	7.60
Bandhan Bank	7.65	7.35	7.65	7.65
Dhanlaxmi Bank	7.00	7.00	6.50	6.50
IndusInd Bank	7.75	7.60	7.35	7.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.25	7.25	6.90	6.90
FOREIGN BANKS				
CitiBank	6.00	5.50	6.00	6.00
Standard Chartered Bank	7.30	7.20	6.50	6.50
Deutsche Bank	8.00	6.50	7.00	8.00
HSBC Bank	6.25	5.00	6.25	5.00
DBS Bank	7.50	7.50	7.00	7.00

Source: Paisabazaar.com

Home loan interest rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
	(In %)		
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS			
Punjab National Bank	8.60-8.80	8.60-8.80	8.65-8.85
Bank of Maharashtra	8.60-9.10	8.60-9.10	8.60-9.35
Canara Bank	8.60-8.70	8.60-8.80	8.60-8.85
State Bank of India	8.50-8.90	8.75-9.20	8.85-9.35
Bank of Baroda	8.60-9.60	8.60-9.60	8.60-9.85
UCO Bank	8.65	8.65-8.75	8.80-8.90
Indian Overseas Bank	8.65	8.75	8.90
Oriental Bank of Comm.	8.65-8.75	8.65-8.75	8.65
United Bank of India	8.40-8.55	8.40-8.55	8.40-8.55
Andhra Bank	8.75-8.80	8.75-8.80	8.85-8.90
Punjab & Sind Bank	8.70	8.70	8.95
Syndicate Bank	8.60	8.60	8.60
Union Bank of India	8.65-9.00	8.65-9.00	8.70-9.30
Bank of India	8.75-8.80	8.75-8.80	8.75-8.80
Corporation Bank	8.60-8.95	8.60-8.95	8.60-9.20
Central Bank of India	8.50-9.50	8.50-9.50	8.50-9.50
IDBI Bank	8.75-9.70	8.75-9.95	9.00-10.20
Allahabad Bank	8.55-9.55	8.55-9.55	8.60-9.55
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS			
South Indian Bank	9.10-9.50	9.10-9.50	9.10-9.50
Karnataka Bank	8.90	8.90	9.00
Axis Bank	8.90-10.60	9.05-9.55	9.10-9.55
Bandhan Bank	12.41-13.20	12.41-13.20	12.41-13.20
Yes Bank	9.85-13.00	9.85-13.00	9.85-12.50
ICICI Bank	8.70-9.10	8.70-9.20	9.20-9.30
Karur Vysya Bank	8.90-11.65	8.90-11.65	8.90-11.65
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.75-9.10	8.75-9.10	8.75-9.10
HSBC Bank	8.85-8.95	8.85-8.95	8.85-8.95
Standard Chartered	>=9.41	>=9.41	>=9.41
Lakshmi Vilas Bank	10.10	10.10	10.10
CitiBank	9.55-10.55	9.55-10.55	9.55-10.55
DBS Bank	<=9.60	<=9.60	<=9.60
TMB	8.95-9.20	8.95-9.20	8.95-9.20
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	8.85	8.85	8.85-9.20
RBL Bank	10.30-12.15	11.65-12.15	11.65-12.15
IDFC First Bank	<=12.30	<=11.30	<=12.30
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)			
HDFC Ltd.	8.55-9.10	8.80-9.35	8.85-9.40
PNB Housing Finance	9.05-12.50	9.05-12.50	9.20-12.50
Indiabulls Housing Fin.	8.80-12.00	8.80-12.00	8.80-12.00
LIC Housing Finance	8.80-9.05	8.80-9.15	9.05-9.15
Piramal Capital & Housg.	>=9.00	>=9.00	>=9.00
IIFL	>=10.25	>=10.25	>=10.25
DHFL	>=9.75	>=9.75	>=9.75
Reliance Home Finance	9.75-13.00	9.75-13.00	9.75-11.00
Aditya Birla Capital	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50
GIC Housing Finance	9.10-12.50	9.10-12.50	9.10-12.50
Home First India	11.90-16.90	11.90-16.90	11.90-16.90
Repco Home Finance	>=9.25	>=9.25	>=9.25
Religare Housing Fin.	12.00-20.00	12.00-20.00	12.00-20.00
Shriram Housing Fin.	>=10.49	>=10.49	>=10.49
Tata Capital	>=9.25	>=9.25	>=9.25

Source: Paisabazaar.com

POPxo's pitch to the millennial

With a new luxury vertical added to her online empire, Priyanka Gill is also expanding her brand's brick and mortar presence

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

She might only have 17.5k followers, but Priyanka Gill's Instagram persona has the deliberateness of a social media influencer. She tells you where she got the shirt, the bralet, the heels she's wearing; she credits the hair and make-up artist, and even gives a shout-out to the Airbnb she's vacationing at.

This is on brand for Gill. After all, the 39-year-old is the brains behind Plixxo, one of India's first social media influencer management companies (with a roster of over 39k clients), launched in 2017. But her break into the digital content space came three years before that, with POPxo, the lifestyle, fashion, and beauty website that she started as a "go-to place" for her target audience: the millennial Indian woman.

The website is a mix of Bollywood news, life hacks, and retail listicles ("Tick tock on the clock: Timeless timepieces you can wear for every occasion"). In the app-only forum meant exclusively for users, discussions range from whether a *manglik* boy and a non-*manglik* girl can get married, to how many times in a day one can use a vaginal wash.

This digital community-building is a major driver for Gill. Before POPxo, she'd started another online platform called eStylista, a lifestyle community for all "rich NRI women across the world". Now, she's taken the name of POPxo and Plixxo's UK-based parent company, Luxeva, for her latest vertical: a digital content platform focussed exclusively on luxury.

On brand (Left) Gill and (right) the POPxo retail store in New Delhi ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RIP (Rest in Print)

Luxeva is now six months old, but when Gill shuffles into a large conference room at CoWorks in Gurugram – 174 of her employees, with the rest in Mumbai, work here – it's clear that POPxo is still her biggest preoccupation.

"As a child, if you asked me where I wanted to work, I'd have named any top magazine," says the English literature graduate from Lady Shri Ram College. "But readers today don't have that heritage or love affair with print – they don't get it. That population is only going to increase, and we will become the minority."

Luckily for POPxo, its initial days coincided with Facebook's push to be the world's newsfeed, so Gill led her team to churn out articles by the hour. Former employees recall having to produce about four articles each, per day. In late 2016, when Facebook gave a push for video content, POPxo followed suit, producing as many as 50 in-house videos a month.

But even as this content-factory was operating on full momentum, Gill was looking beyond ads, sponsored content, and events. Merchandise, inspired by trending content, seemed like a potential source of revenue. Take the Powerpuff girl meme, which hit a million views on social media last year. The company quickly cashed in on the wave by collaborating with Cartoon Network for a Powerpuff Girls X POPxo merchandise line. "Content basically became a means to an end," admits Gill. On cue, the company opened a merchandise kiosk at the Select CITYWALK mall in Delhi earlier this year, being the only one of its ilk to venture into offline retail so far.

There are doubts however, as to whether the merchandise strategy is working as well as Gill would want it to. A quick glance at social media shows that merchandise-based content garners less engagement. Compared to anywhere between 1,000-4,000 likes on a Bollywood memes or videos like "Reactions to Crazy Fashion Looks," a post about merchandise only has between 400-700 likes. With no sales data available, this becomes an important marker.

Grooming the luxury market

Luxeva – with an interface of articles, listicles and merchandise quite like POPxo's – hasn't yet fully taken off on its own. Gill wants to follow the POPxo game plan of building a community, this time of luxury consumers. The hope is also that the POPxo user will be groomed into a Luxeva user. The success of this plan remains to be seen, especially since the Indian luxury market is still small.

A former employee, who worked at POPxo four years ago recalls that the platform's audience then mostly lived in Tier II and Tier III cities. "The content was very vanilla. We wouldn't really write about current fashion trends, but about stuff from like two years ago...the whole trickle-down-from-high-street logic," she says.

So far, this has worked splendidly. As per latest data, readers from Tier II and III cities still make up 51% of the audience, and they have over 39 million MAUs (monthly active users) across platforms. Today, the Hindi version has a bigger user-base than English, and with $11 million in capital as of March this year, Gill is pushing the Telugu, Tamil, Bengali, and Marathi versions too.

And so, the POPxo machine steamrolls on. Two more verticals, including one on millennial parenting, are in the pipeline. But with digital lifestyle-and-entertainment sites now a dime a dozen, one wonders how much longer Gill can wait for her original POPxo community to mature into her many fast-arriving verticals.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Out in the cold Graves at Humayun's Tomb serve as memory of the Mughals ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Funeral of the mighty Mughals

While Mughal rulers like Babar and Bahadur Shah Zafar have been buried on foreign soil, quite a few members of their clan rest at Humayun's Tomb

R. V. SMITH

Where do most Mughal kings, princes, and princesses sleep in Delhi? The answer lies in the vaults of Humayun's Tomb, built with much devotion, by the emperor's first wife, Haji Begum. Among those buried here are Hamida Bano Begum, the mother of Akbar; Dara Shikoh, Shah Jahan's heir apparent; Aurangzeb's once beloved son, Azam Shah; the dandy Jahandar Shah, and his slayer Farrukhsiyar; Ahmed Shah and Alamgir-II.

There are many more, of lesser note, some without inscriptions, gathered within the folds of the mausoleum of their ancestor Humayun. It's a strange feeling of beds spread out on a summer night with the kind emperor sleeping in glory among many of those who waded to the throne through the blood of their relatives. The last rites of murdered princes were generally adhered to and they were laid to rest in the family graveyard. But there were exceptions like Dara Shikoh, who was denied the ritual funeral bath by his austere brother Aurangzeb.

In Mehrauli, the precincts of the shrine of Hazrat Qutubuddin Bakhtiar Kaki also form the burial ground of many Mughal and other princes. In Agra, Akbar's tomb at Sikandra is the repository of the remains of a host of princes and princesses. In Calcutta, several descendants of Wajid Ali Shah, the last King of Oudh, lie buried, and in Rangoon, the family of Bahadur Shah Zafar has found a burial place denied to it in the land of its birth.

Babar's tomb should have been the last resting place of all those descendants whose graves are found in Humayun's mausoleum. But Babar chose to be buried in Kabul which ceased to be a part of the Mughal empire by the time most of his successors died.

Isn't it an irony of fate that the first and last emperors could not be buried in India? While Babar loved Kabul, Bahadur Shah Zafar had no choice as the British wanted to stamp out his very memory by burying him in a nondescript grave in Rangoon, which was rediscovered by chance and formed the rallying point for Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's INA during World War-II.

Bahadur Shah Zafar died on 7 November, 1862 and was hastily buried by lantern light, with the British officer deputed to escort him from India and look after his stay in Rangoon, supervising the funeral. Zinat Mahal and the other ladies of the harem who had accompanied the king did not attend the last rites, but his young son, Jawan Bakht was present. No tombstone was erected to perpetuate the memory of the star-crossed monarch, but fate willed it otherwise and Bahadur Shah Zafar seems to have had the last laugh as his name and fame survive despite his oppressors' ill-intentions.

The king's mazar (shrine) has now become a place of pilgrimage in Myanmar, where the last emperor is worshipped as a Pir. While on the walls are inscribed some of his heart-rending ghazals, like the one bemoaning the misfortune of his not having found even two yards of land in his country of birth "Kitna hai badnaseeb Zafar dafan ke liye / Do gaz zamin bhi na mili ku-e-yaar mein". But he has acquired enough space in the hearts of his compatriots alright.

Babar's mausoleum is a modest one, which lay neglected for many years. But it is heartening to note that lately it has been renovated, having somehow escaped destruction during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and then the turmoil of the Taliban period. Though demands have been made for bringing back Zafar's remains to India, nobody has raised their voice for Babar's reburial, not entirely because of the first Mughal emperor's dying wish.

So Humayun's Tomb remains the funeral parlour of the family of Babar. You go from vault to vault and nothing but inscribed stones confront you on which are enshrined a cloak-and-dagger mystery. Death, gruesome death, generally at the hands of an assassin hired by the next of kin, the ambitious prince determined to seize the throne.

Many were done to death by their brothers, uncles, nephews or treacherous wazirs. Some died of poison, administered through a favourite, but faithless, courtesan; others strangled in their sleep, yet others hacked with swords or stabbed through the heart or back. Children weren't spared. You gaze at these tombstones with awe and pity. How many innocent lives destroyed for the sake of ambition! There is the silence of death all around, with the Grim Reaper gloating over his sickle of time with which he has laid low both those with name and those without fame. Only Clio, the muse of history, understands the secrets of these vaults and it is she who weeps in them through her tresses: Put on your shoes and tip-toe away.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

The return of Bruce Lee

A look at how the Little Dragon's legacy takes a fresh turn with *Warrior* and Tarantino's upcoming film, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*

AYAAN PAUL

"We are formless, we are shapeless, we can flow, we can crash, we are like water, we are Hongkongers!" Last month, Bruce Lee's iconic quote ('...Be water, my friend'), popularly used in the documentary *Bruce Lee: A Warriors Journey* (2000), became a symbol of the ongoing Hong Kong sit-in protests against the extradition deal with China.

The martial arts star's philosophical beliefs mirrored his fighting styles and way of living. But it isn't just on the political front that the icon has made an appearance this year – April saw the launch of Cinemax's period drama *Warrior,* about a Chinese martial artist who emigrates to San Francisco in search of his estranged sister. The well-researched biography, *Bruce Lee: A Life* by Matthew Polly, is one of summer 2019's recommended reads. And Quentin Tarantino's *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood,* a Cannes 2019 favourite and releasing on July 26, has Lee in it too (played by Mike Moh). With the martial arts evangelist continuing to have an impact on global culture 46 years after his death (July 20), let's take a look at the Lee legacy.

Fighting fit

The 'Father of MMA' taught martial arts to many of his Hollywood co-stars: James Coburn, Steve McQueen and Chuck Norris. Norris and Lee even face off in *Way of the Dragon* (1872), in which the bare-chested Lee walks out of the Colliseum after having snapped Norris' neck. Lee believed traditional martial arts techniques were too rigid and formalised to be practised in an environment such as the United States. 'Jeet Kune Do' or 'The Way of the Intercepting Fist' was what he called "the style of no style", which employed a variety of different fighting styles, to better adapt to the Western audience, fuelling his mastery of the art of Kung Fu.

In action (from top) Mike Moh as Lee in *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* and *Warrior*'s poster

The 'A' list

Half a decade after his death, Lee's influence permeates every genre of contemporary Western cinema and has paved the way for Asian representation in Hollywood.

In a year where names such as Constance Wu, Awkwafina, Randall Park and John Cho appear on IMDB's 'Most Popular' list, it's safe to assume that the Orient is no longer viewed solely on the basis of its connection to martial arts. It is now a thriving, multi-genre industry which has only just begun and shall have so much more to offer.

Rise of the Dragon

Well after his establishment in the industry, Lee Jun-fan, or the anglicised Bruce Lee, pitched the idea for *The Warrior*, a TV series set in San Francisco's primaeval era of Tong Wars in the late-1800s. In what led to a good deal of controversy, Warner Bros. restructured Lee's concept and put 1972's *Kung Fu* on air, claiming that they had been working on the idea for quite a while and that any resemblance to Lee's script was 'purely coincidental'.

Close to five decades later, the Lee family estate worked together with Jonathan Tropper and Justin Lin to bring his unfulfilled vision to life through Cinemax's *Warrior*, which follows Lee's original concept and premièred in April 2019.

On Tarantino

Tarantino's upcoming period piece set in 1969 Hollywood, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, pays homage to what he considers to be the finest filmmaking era. Following the story of an ageing television actor and his stunt double, the film features a star-studded cast that includes Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt and Margot Robbie. As if this wasn't enough, it seems Taranatino felt no '60s Hollywood show would be complete without an appearance of the Little Dragon himself.

Actor and martial artist Mike Moh was cast to play the part of the legend, and in the film's teaser, Lee issues a warning to Pitt's character, Cliff Booth: "My hands are registered as lethal weapons. We get into a fight, I accidentally kill you, I go to jail." Social media scoffed at the idea that someone like Booth could ever hold his own against Lee, and the scene invoked further criticism for Booth's prompt retort, "Anybody accidentally kills anybody in a fight, they go to jail," he says. "It's called manslaughter". This was perceived as playing into the white male fantasy. The fact remains, Tarantino stuck to the reality of the situation back in the 60s. The racial undertones of the exchange between the two characters may as well be an allegory to the ongoing white against non-white feud of the time.

YOGI, THE MODERN THERAPIST

Relax Yoga therapy involves both somatic- and mind-oriented techniques
▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram's new book points to the aspects of yoga that make it a suitable method of psychotherapy

SWETA AKUNDI

There's a well-played-out trope in Eastern mythology: burdened by life's many questions, you climb thousands of kilometres to reach the top of a mountain. Here sits a wise man, holding the key to your problems. Now put this image in a Western context, and who do you replace the wise man with? Your therapist?

But what if there was a midpoint between Eastern and Western models of psychology? It's a question that *Counselling Principles and Practices for Yoga Therapists*, a recent book authored by Latha Satish, head of the research council at Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, Chennai, deals with.

"As the title suggests, my book is meant for yoga therapists – anyone who practises yoga, but also has credentials in medicine, physiotherapy, psychology, special education or physical education," explains Latha, a psychologist and yoga practitioner.

While the meditative aspects of yoga are well-known, yoga as a form of psychotherapy, has started to be developed in a structured manner only over the past few years.

A holistic view

"Yoga is not just *asana* and *pranayama*," emphasises Latha, "It also involves certain self-reflective rituals like chanting, and mediation to gain introspect. And when you do that, you also maximise your ability to empathise with others." Even the early yogis who developed *asanas*, did it out of self-examination, she adds.

These aspects of yoga are akin to psychotherapy, she believes. "A counsellor also uses techniques like relaxation. However, theirs is more mind-oriented than somatic (relating to the body)," she says. However, there has been a distinct lack of textual material available that details the way in which a practitioner can offer therapy to the care-seeker. It is this gap that her book hopes to bridge.

With chapters detailing the various techniques of therapeutic relations, from building a rapport with the care-seeker, to the therapist's body language and attitude, the book uses an equal measure of anecdotes from ancient texts and modern case studies to make its point.

In the past two decades, with the world recognising and mainstreaming yoga, there have been a number of books on how to use yoga practices to prevent or keep in check various lifestyle conditions. Latha credits it to an increasing movement towards holistic well-being. "Health and wellness is multifaceted because a disease itself doesn't have a single cause. Dysfunction occurs under multiple influences: environment, social, spiritual, psychological, and biological. Moreover, the progression of the condition is also such that the physiological may affect the psychological, which may affect the social and spiritual."

Yoga, she says, addresses the whole context, from all the angles. As the physiological benefits of yoga have been recognised, she hopes the psychotherapeutic ones will too.

Differences and similarities

So what is the difference between you speaking to a psychologist and to a yoga therapist? The book treats this as a separate chapter in itself, by posing the same questions on their methods of treatment to a professional from both fields.

"A psychologist would approach the issue from a theoretical point of view. He would try to understand what it is about the person's personality that makes him prone to stress, and he will give strategies to deal with it, based on Western psychological theories, like relaxation and cognitive techniques," says Latha.

On the other hand, the yoga therapist will first train the person in reducing the physiological arousal level, and in the techniques of self-empowerment: how to first take care of your body, then your breath, and then your mind.

"You can think of one as a top-down approach and the other as a bottom-up. What this book hopes to do is to encourage yoga therapists to move beyond the bottom-up approach, and look into the contents of the mind. Where the negative thoughts are coming from, and how to get rid of them," she says.

Currently, there exists an unsaid barrier between the two approaches. Yoga practitioners, she believes, tend to stay away from psychology, while psychologists, even though they may believe in the power of yoga, would not use it in their clinical advice. "It's still at the university level that Indian psychology – yoga therapy – is a part of the curriculum," she says.

Counselling Principles and Practices for Yoga Therapists *is available on www.kym.org for ₹160.*

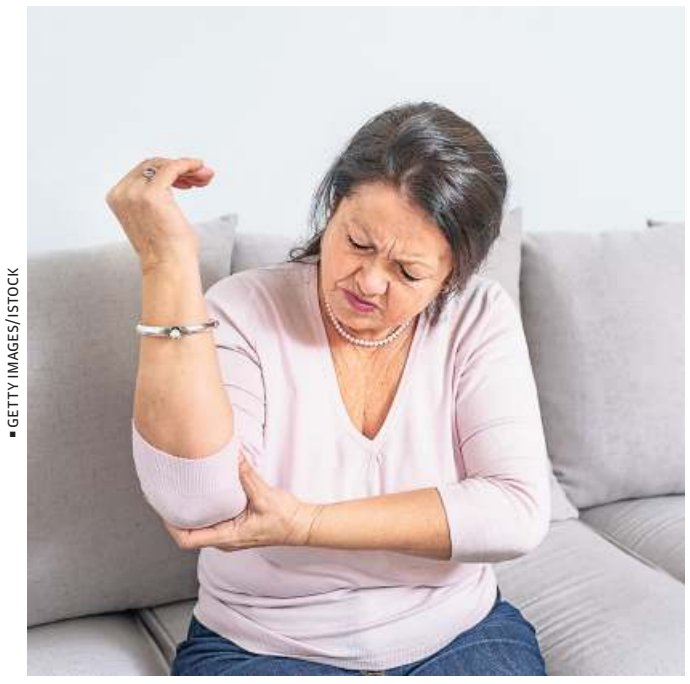
BEACH DAY

Sandplay therapy is a form of therapy created in the 1950s by psychologist Dora Kalff. It involves playing with mountains of sand, and creating miniature worlds.

Q&A

My mother is 70 years old and house-bound. She is not able to exercise because of arthritis. How do we manage her over-weight?

■ Targeting healthy weight reduces pressure on joints, which eases the pain and inflammation. The balanced ratio between different food groups is key to accelerating fat loss without losing lean body mass. Half of her plate should be soft cooked vegetables, one-fourth a healthy protein and the rest should be carbs from whole grains such as rice, *dalia*, *poha*, *upma* or *roti*. Make sure her breakfast is within an hour of waking up, lunch within six hours and dinner at least three hours prior to bedtime.


▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

People with arthritis tend to ignore protein. Eggs and milk products from native Indian cows are safe sources of protein for her. Sugar is addictive, inflammatory and causes unnecessary insulin spikes, none of which is desirable while managing weight or arthritis. Excess consumption of omega-6-rich oil found in corn, safflower, sunflower, soy and vegetable causes inflammation, making pain worse.

I am a 29-year-old girl. I swim regularly, but still have big hips. Are there some foods affecting this?

■ Synchronising your workout with the right food cannot be taken for granted, especially when aiming for focused fat loss. Oestrogen plays a role in accumulating fat in a pear shape, where high levels can lead to fat deposits around the buttocks and thighs in women. Include half-an-inch of raw turmeric with two to three black peppercorns and a teaspoon of coconut oil on waking up. Switch to farm-fresh dairy, maintain restful sleep, as that induces melatonin production, which protects against oestrogen dominance. Be sure to get enough fibre from two or three different seasonal fruits and vegetables daily.

Lovneet Batra is a nutritionist, a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, USA; lecturer at IHM Pusa; a consultant to the Sports Authority of India, having counselled the Indian boxing, gymnastics, cycling, archery teams; and a consultant at Fortis La Femme Hospital, Delhi

Nothing in this column is intended to be, and is not, a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Please seek independent advice from a licensed practitioner if you have any questions regarding a medical condition. Email us with your questions at mp_health@thehindu.co.in

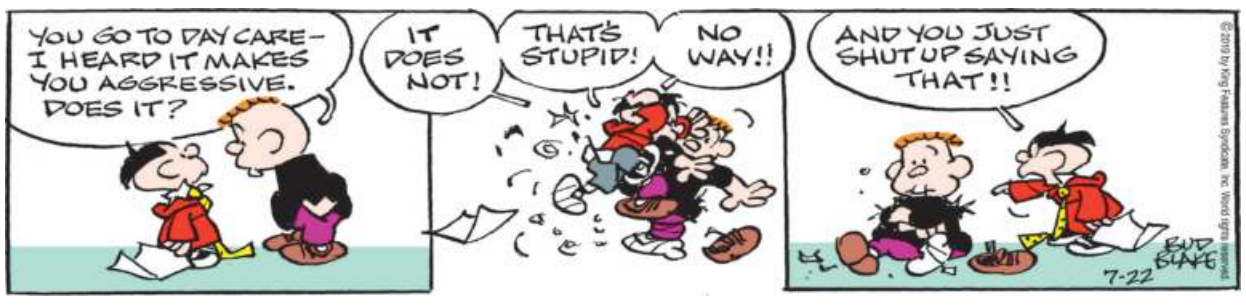
POOCH CAFE

PEANUTS

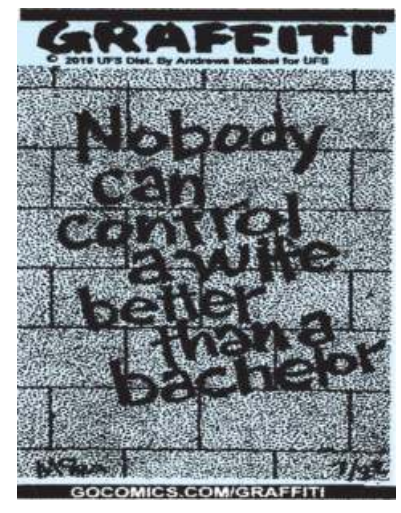
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

CALVIN AND HOBBES

TIGER

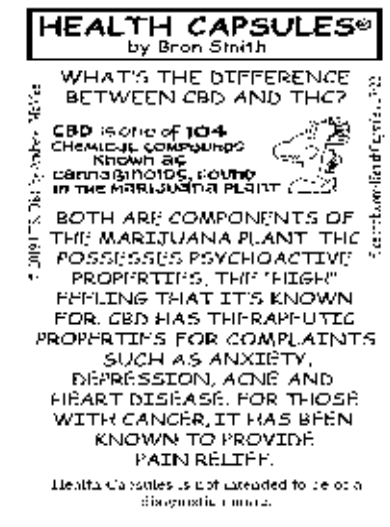


GRAFFITI

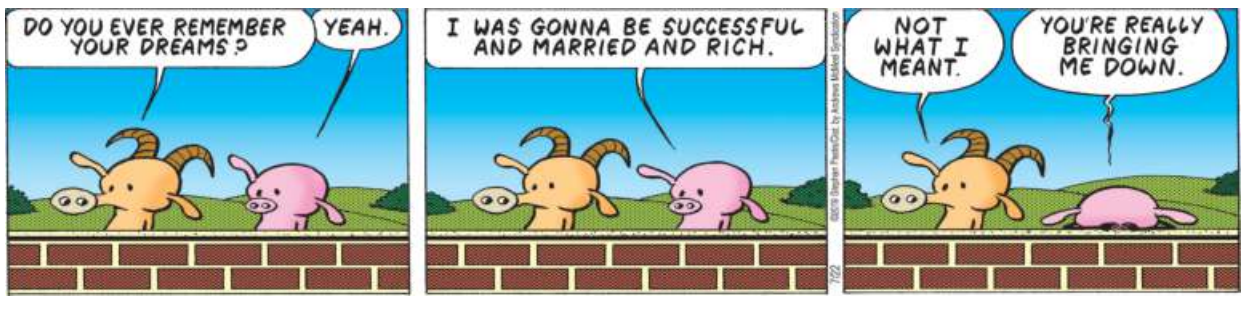


WUMO

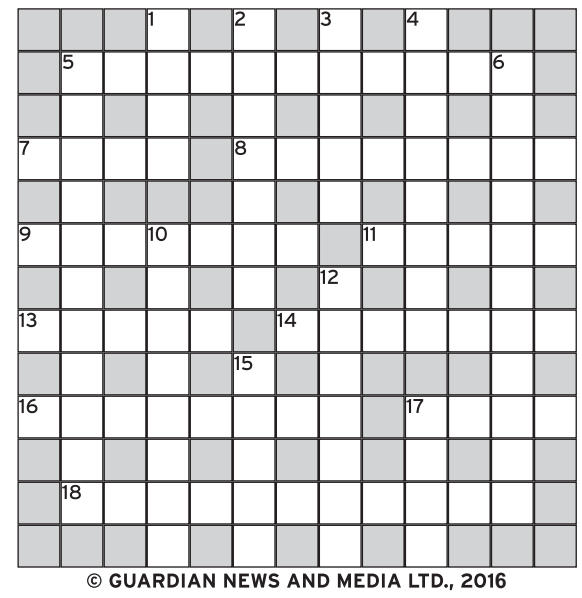
HEALTH CAPSULES



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13128



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4 Abnormal redness of the skin – my heater (anag) (8)
5 Late 19th-century French style of painting using dots of colour (11)
6 Soviet Communist Party bureaucrat (11)
10 Home phone (8)
12 Eventually (2,3,2)
15 Get out of here! (5)
17 Lout (4)

■ **Across**
5 The 18-yard box (7,4)
7 Green fruit – green colour (4)
8 Monument honouring the fallen (8)
9 Blue cheese (7)
11 Tired (5)
13 Fail (an exam, say) (5)
14 Succession of rulers from the same family (7)
16 Light cooking pot for camping (8)
17 Thai currency unit (4)
18 Inability to remember something that you normally can (6,5)

■ **Down**
1 At a previous time (4)
2 Someone with the right to vote (7)
3 On the way out (5)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 23, 2019.

Solution No. 13127

B	R	I	G	H	T		A	C	E	T	I	C
O		N		E				A		R		O
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Y	E	M	E	N	I		P	O	S	S	U	M

Hardik Pandya rested for full West Indies tour

Pant is first-choice 'keeper for all three formats; Saha will be the second gloveman in Tests while Bharat misses out

INDIA SQUADS

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Bengal wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha has been preferred over Andhra's promising K.S. Bharat for the two-Test series against the West Indies starting August 3.

M.S.K. Prasad, chairman, BCCI's senior National selection committee, said here on Sunday that the 34-year-old Saha (32 Tests,1164 runs, 3x100s, 75 catches, 10 stumpings) had gone out of the team only because he was injured during the Cape Town Test against South Africa in January 2018.

Elaborating on the Test series team selection, Prasad said: "Bharat was very close to getting selected, but we have an unwritten norm that when an established cricketer gets injured and stages a comeback, an opportunity should be given to him. That's the reason we have given an opportunity to Saha.

Stellar performances

"But with the stellar performances that Bharat has given for India-A in the last year, with three centuries and 50 dismissals which is fantastic, we will be looking at (Rishabh) Pant, Saha and Bharat for Test cricket for some time.

"The discussion of who will play the Test series is there, but Pant has not done anything wrong for his non-inclusion in the playing XI.

"Pant is going to play all formats and so we have to see his workload management," said Prasad after his committee chose three teams for the Twenty20, ODI and Test series.

While Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Pant feature in all three teams, a notable name missing from the full tour is all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who played nine matches in the recently concluded World Cup, scored 226 runs and took 10 wickets.

Pandya was rested for the full tour of Australia last year after he had hurt his lower back during the Asia Cup in the UAE. Without specifying the nature of physical impairment, Prasad said Pandya has been put through a programme.

Bumrah for Tests

Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has been rested from the limited-overs series and will join the team for the Tests.

Prasad also pointed out that all-rounder Vijay Shankar is under rehab for his toe injury and Prithvi Shaw is recovering from a hip-related injury he suffered during the Mumbai Premier League.

The squads for the three-match T20I and ODI series were selected on the basis of performances in the World Cup and for India-A. "We have to reward the players' performances for India-A. Manish Pandey and Sheyas Iyer have been phenomenal and so was Navdeep Saini.

"Shubman Gill went to New Zealand as replacement for Rahul and since he's back in the team, we will consider Gill in the future," said Prasad.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan has recovered from the thumb injury he suffered against Australia during the World Cup and is an automatic choice for the T20 and ODI series.

Prasad said Kedar Jadhav had not done anything wrong to be overlooked for the ODI team.

The right mix: The 16-member Indian Test squad for the tour of the West Indies. ▪ PTI

Who's in, who's out

THE SQUADS

T20IS: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma (vice-capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Krunal Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar and Navdeep Saini

ODIS: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma (vice-capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kedar Jadhav, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed and Navdeep Saini

TESTS: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Ajinkya Rahane (vice-capt.), Mayank Agarwal, K.L. Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant (wk), Wriddhiman Saha (wk), R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Umesh Yadav

- Pant will don the big gloves in all three formats
- Rohit and the fit-again Saha back in the Test fold
- Bumrah, rested for the limited-overs leg, will fly out for the Test series
- Karthik has been dropped from ODIs; Shreyas and Pandey get an opportunity
- Deepak Chahar, Washington and Khaleel back in the T20 mix
- Dhawan returns, will play in T20Is and ODIs
- Saini has been included for both limited-overs series
- Rahul Chahar picked for T20Is
- Vihari, Shreyas, Pandey, Krunal, Deepak and Rahul Chahar, Khaleel, Saini and Washington are currently in the Caribbean with the India-A squad

▪ Dhoni opts out of the tour, plans to spend two months with his army regiment

THE SCHEDULE

T20IS
August 3, Fort Lauderhill (Florida, USA)
August 4, Fort Lauderhill (Florida, USA)
August 6, Guyana
ALL MATCHES START AT 8 P.M. IST

ODIS
August 8, Guyana
August 11, Trinidad
August 14, Trinidad
ALL MATCHES START AT 7 P.M. IST

TESTS
August 22 to 26, Antigua, **7 P.M.**
August 30 to September 3, Jamaica, **8 P.M.**

No bias or favouritism in Rayudu's exclusion for World Cup: Prasad

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

At the outset, the chairman of the senior national selection committee M.S.K. Prasad made it clear that he will first field questions relating to the teams selected for the West Indies tour before giving any clarifications on the so-called selection anomalies for the ICC World Cup.

Enjoys the tweet

Prasad, 44, introduced an element of wit when questions were directed him about the non-inclusion of Ambati Rayudu for the World Cup. He had ascribed Vijay Shankar's selection because of the three-dimensional quality (batting, bowling and fielding) and hence was chosen ahead of Rayudu.

Presumably responding to Prasad's statement, a normally reticent Rayudu sprang a surprise via his Twitter handle saying: "Ordered 3D glasses to watch World Cup.'' Subsequently, after Mayank Agarwal replaced Vijay Shankar in the team, Rayudu announced his retirement.

On Sunday, Prasad was asked if Rayudu's witty tweet came in the way of his selection midway through the World Cup. He was a standby.

Without pausing, Prasad said: "Frankly speaking that was a lovely tweet. I really enjoyed it. Seriously, it was a very timely one and very sarcastic. I enjoyed it."

Sharing his thoughts on the replacements (Rishabh Pant for Shikhar Dhawan and Mayank Agarwal for Vijay Shankar) effected during the World Cup, Prasad first regretted not communicating the same to the media through a BCCI press release.

Emotions

Prasad further explained: "First of all, just as the emotions that would have gone through any player, the same emotions has gone through the selection committee too. When we pick any player and he does well we feel so happy for him.

"Similarly, when somebody out of emotion goes out in this way, the selection committee members also feel for it. But having said that, the decision that was taken was completely devoid of any bias or favouritism. How much Rayudu was emotional, we were also emotional. We, as ex-cricketers, also felt for him."

No hidden agenda: M.S.K. Prasad says that the selectors try to do a fair job while picking the national team. ▪ VIVEK BENDRE

'An error of judgement'

I don't regret the decision: Dharmasena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

It indeed was a judgement error to award six runs to England from an overthrow in the World Cup final, admitted umpire Kumar Dharmasena. The Sri Lankan, however, said he will never "regret" the decision.

"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."

Kumar Dharmasena. ▪ AFP

Replays showed that Adil Rashid and Ben Stokes had not completed the second run when Martin Guptill released the ball from the deep.

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

Jaiswal and bowlers do it for India u-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WORCESTER

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal's 78 (115b, 9x4) and a superb display by the bowlers helped the Indian colts beat England by five wickets in the tri-series opener here on Sunday.

The pace-spin duo of Kartik Tyagi (three for 35) and Ravi Bishnoi (three for 40) restricted England to 204. Jaiswal then anchored the chase.

The scores: England under-19 204 in 46.3 overs (Kartik Tyagi three for 35, Ravi Bishnoi three for 40) lost to India under-19 205 for five in 39.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 78, Divyansh Saxena 43, Priyam Garg 38).

Shane Lowry wins his maiden Major in style

THE OPEN 148TH ROYAL PORTRUSH

REUTERS
PORTRUSH

Irishman Shane Lowry won the British Open by six strokes amid emotional scenes at Royal Portrush on Sunday.

Fervently cheered on for every shot by the sellout crowd, the 32-year-old from Clara was never seriously troubled in the final round as he carded a one-over 72 in strong winds and intermittent rain which buffeted the late starters.

"My mum and dad, they sacrificed for me when I was younger and I'm so happy I can hand them this trophy tonight," said Lowry as he clutched the Claret Jug, his voice cracking with emotion. He finished at 15-under 269.

Englishman Tommy Fleetwood, the only player to apply any semblance of pressure on Lowry, shot a 74 for second place.

Lowry started the day with a four-shot lead and must have been most grateful for the margin, which afforded him the luxury of being able to drop a few shots without doing too much damage.

He needed to avoid any big numbers on his card and duly did so, making nothing worse than bogey.

Sealed with a kiss: Shane Lowry took home the famed Claret Jug with a dominant display at Royal Portrush. ▪ REUTERS

Victory march

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 in the final three holes.

He became the second player from the south of the border, after Padraig Harrington in 2007 and 2008, to lift the Claret Jug.

Birthday to remember

Meanwhile, India's Shubhankar Sharma was serenaded with a chorus of "happy birthday" by the spectators at the 18th green, before proceeding to pour in a 45-foot birdie putt.

The 23-year-old finished the tournament with an excellent three-under-par 68 to end at three-over for the championship. He finished Tied-51.

The top five: 1. Shane Lowry (+1 in final round, -15), 2. Tommy Fleetwood (+3, -9), 3. Tony Finau (E, -7), 4. Brooks Koepka (+3, -6) & Lee Westwood (+2, -6).

Thalaivas have Titans' measure

Fortunegiants score remarkable win over Bulls

PKL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Rahul Chaudari brushed aside any sentiments of having played six seasons for Telugu Titans, as he guided Tamil Thailavas to a 39-26 win late on Sunday night in a Vivo ProKabaddi League Season 7 league match.

Rahul scored a Super 10 to finish with 13 points and dominated proceedings in the company of an equally brilliant raider Ajay Thakur at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium.

For a second consecutive match, the much-awaited show from Titans' star raider Siddharth Desai was never really on. He was effectively countered by defender Manjeet Chhillar, who also completed 200 tackle points overall in the PKL. He also scored a High 5 to the dismay of Titans' fans.

Thailavas scored two all-outs in the first-half and one more in the second even as many local fans displayed placards asking Rahul to return to Titans.

Trapped: Titans' Rakesh finds no escape route past a determined Thalaivas defence. ▪ K.V.S. GIRI

Earlier, Gujarat Fortunegiants scored a remarkable 42-24 win over defending champion Bengaluru Bulls. At half-time, Gujarat led 21-10. It was a revenge victory of sorts for Fortunegiants that lost to Bulls in last season's final.

In the first-half Gujarat showed all-round superiority as it picked up points both in raids and tackles (it in fact had more points in tackles).

Fortunegiants also scored two all-outs in the first session itself and Bulls' star raiders Pawan Sehrawat and Rohit Kumar were not given any kind of freedom in its territory. With Sachin, Rohit Gulia and G.B. More being dominant in attack, it was obvious that Bulls were under pressure. If Bulls hoped for a change of fortune in the second-half – like in last season's final – it was misplaced as Sehrawat got 'out' seven times.

The results: Tamil Thailavas bt Telugu Titans 39-26; Gujarat Fortunegiants bt Bengaluru Bulls 42-24.

Monday's matches: U Mumba vs Jaipur Pink Panthers (7.30 p.m.); Haryana Steelers vs Puneri Paltan (8.30 p.m.)

Sindhu falters at the final hurdle

INDONESIAN OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

P.V. Sindhu's hopes of breaking a seven-month title drought came crashing down as the Indian lost in straight games to Akane Yamaguchi in the final of the Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 tournament here on Sunday.

Seven months after becoming the first Indian to win the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals in December, Olympic silver medallist Sindhu had an opportunity to finally lay her hands on another crown only to squander, losing 15-21, 16-21 to the Japanese in a lop-sided summit clash that lasted 51 minutes here.

Sindhu failed to match the brilliance of the 22-year-old, whom she had beaten in the last four meetings.

This was Sindhu's fifth loss to Yamaguchi in 15 meetings. The last time the Indian lost to the Japanese was in the semifinals of the All England Championship last year.

So near yet so far... P.V. Sindhu's seven-month title drought continues after Akane Yamaguchi trumped the Indian. ▪ AFP

Golden moment for Sathiyan-Archana

The 17-year-old Pang stuns Sharath in the quarterfinals

C'WEALTH TT

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

G. Sathiyan and Archana Kamath made it a golden day for India by clinching the mixed doubles crown, but it was the 17-year-old Pang Yu En Koen of Singapore who stole the show by stunning second seed and favourite A. Sharath Kamal in a sensational quarterfinal of the 21st Commonwealth table tennis championship on Sunday.

Pang, a promising paddler from Singapore, had entered the main draw through a tough qualification group.

Battling on

His opponent Sharath, who lost in the mixed doubles semifinals with partner Sreeja Akula, was grappling with a severe backache.

However, the World No. 32 left the near-packed stadium and also Pang, ranked 376th, spellbound with an incredible string of winners in the fourth game to race ahead 3-1. The young Singaporean fought back, forcing Sharath to commit unforced errors. In the deciding game, Sharath's experience came to the fore and he had three match-points while serving at 10-7.

However, the Indian missed his serve, sparking off a five-point run for Pang and culminating in one of the biggest wins of his career.

Pang will meet Harmeet Desai in the singles semifinal on Monday.

The results: Mixed doubles: Final: G. Sathiyan & Archana Kamath bt Pang Yu En Koen & Goi Rui Xuan (Sgp) 11-1, 11-7, 11-4; **Semifinals:** Sathiyan & Kamath bt Harmeet Desai & Ayhika Mukherjee 11-2, 11-2, 11-9; Pang & Goi bt A. Sharath Kamal & Sreeja Akula 13-11, 8-11, 6-11 11-8, 11-4.

Singles: Quarterfinals: Men: G. Sathiyan bt Bode Abiodun (Ngr) 11-7, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6; Thomas Jarvis (Eng) bt Sanil Shetty 11-5, 11-8, 8-11, 13-11, 12-10; Harmeet Desai bt Sushmit Sriram 11-4, 11-8, 6-11, 11-7, 11-8; Pang Yu En Koen (Sgp) bt A. Sharath Kamal 7-11, 9-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-9, 11-7, 12-10.

Women: Ho Tin-Tin (Eng) bt Archana Kamath 11-9, 7-11, 11-5, 11-3, 11-6; Ayhika Mukherjee bt Mousumi Paul 11-6, 11-6, 11-2, 11-8; Sreeja Akula bt Sutirtha Mukherjee 11-5, 11-6, 11-9, 17-19, 6-11, 17-15; Madhurika Patkar bt Krittiwika Sinha Roy 11-4, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10, 11-9

Dazzling duo: Archana Kamath and G. Sathiyan, the mixed doubles winners. ▪ BISWARANJAN ROUT

TV PICKS

Commonwealth TT: DD Sports, 10 a.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Another title for Manny Pacquiao

LAS VEGAS

Manny Pacquiao (right, in pic) beat defending champion Keith Thurman on a split points decision on Saturday to take the WBA welterweight super championship at the end of an electrifying fight here on Saturday. Pacquiao,who is the only man in boxing history to hold world titles in eight different divisions, is now 62-7-2 with 39 knockouts, while Thurman falls to 29-1 (22 KOs). REUTERS

Caleb Plant successfully defends IBF crown

LAS VEGAS

Caleb Plant of the United States made a successful first defence of his IBF super-middleweight crown on Saturday, scoring a third round knockout over previously undefeated challenger Mike Lee. Plant, 27, dominated Lee from the opening bell, wrapping up victory after sending his opponent to the canvas twice in the third. It was a polished performance from Plant, who won the IBF crown with an upset win over Jose Uzcategui in Los Angeles in January. AFP

Man United rejects €60m Inter bid for Lukaku

LONDON

Manchester United has rejected a €60 million bid from Inter Milan for striker Romelu Lukaku. Lukaku missed both of United's tour matches in Australia because of injury and had to sit out of Saturday's match against Inter Milan in Singapore. Inter boss Antonio Conte, on Saturday, reiterated that he is willing to sign the 26-year-old in order to strengthen the team. "I consider him a player who could improve our team," Conte was quoted as saying by BBC Sport. IANS

Indian women spikers finish 10th

HANOI

India finished 10th after losing to Australia 17-25, 19-25, 25-11, 19-25 in the third Asian women's u-23 volleyball championships here.

Controversy marks Sun Yang's record 400m freestyle triumph

Silver medallist Mack Horton refuses to join the Chinese on the podium

WORLD SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GWANGJU (KOREA)

Making a statement: Sun Yang, centre, and Gabriele Detti pose for the lensmen even as Mack Horton stands away in protest after the medal ceremony. ▪ AP

China's Sun Yang captured a record fourth 400m freestyle World title in an acrimonious final on Sunday, before Britain's Adam Peaty produced an eye-popping World breaststroke record.

Sun pumped his fists and let out a visceral roar after a pulsating race brimming with bad vibes and capped by rival Mack Horton's refusal to join the Chinese giant on the podium after the medal ceremony in Gwangju.

"Not everyone likes me – I don't care," growled Sun when asked about Horton's snub. "It's OK if you don't respect me personally, but at the victory ceremony – which is a sincere occasion – you should show respect to my country."

The controversial triple Olympic gold medallist slapped the water in delight, pointing to his flag-waving Chinese fans as he savoured an emotional victory over Australian Horton and his 10th World championship gold medal.

The defending champion clocked three minutes, 42.44 seconds with Horton taking silver in 3:43.17 and Italian Gabriele Detti bronze in 3:43.23 in a repeat of the 2017 podium in Budapest.

The bad blood between him and Horton continued with the Australian refusing to take part in the traditional photo after the playing of the Chinese national anthem.

Peaty's World record

Peaty smashed his own 100m breaststroke World record, the Olympic champion storming home to win his semifinal in a time of 56.88 seconds – becoming the first swimmer to break the 57-second barrier and eclipsing his previous mark by more than two tenths.

After the tension of Sun's gold medal – the first of the eight-day pool competition – Aussie teenager Ariarne Titmus stunned American great Katie Ledecky to win the women's 400m freestyle final.

The three-time champion looked in complete control until she faded coming off the final turn, allowing Titmus to storm past her to bag her first World title.

Caeleb Dressel, who swept seven medals at the 2017 world championships, led the American men's 4x100m freestyle team to gold in a meet record of 3:09.06, retaining their title by almost a second from Russia in silver.

Cate Campbell anchored Australia to gold in the women's 4x100m free in the evening's final race.

The results:

Men: 400m freestyle: 1. Sun Yang (Chn) 3:42.44s, 2. Mack Horton (Aus) 3:43.17, 3. Gabriele Detti (Ita) 3:43.23. **4x100m freestyle relay:** 1. USA 3:09.06, 2. Russia 3:09.97, Australia 3:11.22.

Women: 400m freestyle: 1. Ariarne Titmus (AUS) 3:58.76, 2. Katie Ledecky (USA)3:59.97, 3. Leah Smith 4:01.29. **4x100m freestyle relay:** 1. Australia 3:30.21, 2. USA 3:31.02, 3. Canada 3:31.78.

Bhakti and Vantika share lead

Mary Ann suffers shock loss to Srishti

NATIONAL CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KARAIKUDI

Bhakti Kulkarni. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Former Asian champion and second seed Bhakti Kulkarni (Air India) and Delhi's young gun Vantika Agrawal share the lead with four points apiece after the fourth round of the 46th National women's chess championship at the Chettinad PS here on Sunday,

Both Bhakti and Vantika were in a punishing mood right through. Playing the black side of the Giuoco Piano opening, Bhakti planned it well by tactically shutting down the space for five-time national champion Bhagyashree Thipsay (Maharashtra) to develop the pieces. It worked as she gained a double-pawn advantage and, with it, sealed the game in 44 moves.

Vantika, on the other hand, playing with the dark pieces in a Rossolimo variation of the Sicilian Defence, used her pair of bishops quite smartly against P.V. Nandhidhaa's pair of knights in the middle game to collect a full point after 41 moves.

The third day saw some upsets as well with three-time national champion WGM Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) going down in a rather shocking manner to Srishti Pandey (Maharashtra). Mrudul Dehankar from the same State surprised her higher-ranked opponent M. Mahalakshmi of Railways.

Important results (fourth round, TN unless specified): Bhagyashree Thipsay (Mah) 3 lost to Bhakti Kulkarni (AI) 4; P.V. Nandhidhaa 2 lost to Vantika Agrawal (Del) 4.

Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB) 3.5 bt Nityata Jain (MP) 3; Divya Deshmukh (Mah) 3 drew with S. Meenakshi (AI) 3; S. Vijayalakshmi (AI) 3.5 bt Harshita Guddanti (AP) 2.5.

M. Mahalakshmi (Rlys) 2.5 lost to Mrudul Dehankar (Mah) 3.5; Nandhini Saripalli (Goa) 3 drew with Michelle Catherina 3; Nisha Mohota (PSPB) 3 drew with Kiran Manisha Mohanty (LIC) 3.

Aarthie Ramaswamy (AI) 3.5 bt K. Priyanka (2.5); Swati Ghate (LIC) 3 bt L. Jyothsna 2.5; Srija Seshadri 3 bt Dhyana Patel (Guj) 2; Srishti Pandey (Mah) 3 bt Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) 2; Priyanka Nutakki (AP) 3 bt Potluri Supreetha (AP) 2.

Neha Singh (Bih) 2 lost to Pratyusha Bodda (AP) 3; Smaraki Mohanty (Odisha) 2 lost to Isha Sharma (Kar) 3.

Eight-wicket win for Indian blind team

ANI
JAMAICA

The Indian blind cricket team registered a big eight-wicket win over Jamaica at the Melbourne Cricket Oval in Kingston on Saturday. Chasing 118 for victory, Sunil Ramesh's unbeaten 90 helped India easily chase down the target and gain a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series. Earlier, Jamaica was all out for 117.

Nikhat Zareen advances

Nikhat Zareenww ▪ FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) on Sunday advanced to the second round of the Thailand Open International boxing tournament with a comfortable opening win in Bangkok.

The boxer from Hyderabad prevailed 5-0 over New Zealand's Tasmyn Benny in the first round of the tournament.

Sohil completes a double

Ishaan notches maiden win in Touring class

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

One for the album: Nayan Chaterjee, left, Sohil Shah and Vishnu Prasad,right, proudly display their trophy.

Bengaluru schoolboy Sohil Shah completed a fine double in the premier MRF F1600 category as the third round of the MRF MMSC-FMSCI National car racing championships drew to a close at the MMRT, here on Sunday.

Elsewhere, VW Motorsport's Ishaan Dodhiwala from Hyderabad notched his maiden win in the Touring cars class after his teammate Karthik Tharani was disqualified for a couple of infringements and subsequently banned for one race, while Bengaluru's Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) chalked up his third win of the season in the Super Stock category.

Other winners of the day were Viswas Vijayaraj (DTS Racing) in the Formula LGB 1300 race and Mumbai's Saurav Bandyopadhyay who took the honours in the Volkswagen Ameo Class.

The saloon car race was fiery with Tharani being disqualified for his violations. The Stewards subsequently slapped a one-race ban which will take effect for the next round of the championship scheduled for August 16-18. Consequent to the disqualification, teammate Dodhiwala was declared winner followed by Nikanth Ram (ARKA Motorsports) and Arjun Balu (Race Concepts).

The results (Provisional - all 8 laps unless mentioned):

MRF F1600 (Race-3): 1. Sohil Shah (Bengaluru) (13mins, 28.460secs); 2. A Bala Prasath (Coimbatore) (13:34.321); 3. Manav Sharma (Faridabad) (13:34.945).

Race-4: 1. Sohil Shah (13:25.572); 2. Nayan Chatterjee (Mumbai) (13:27.330); 3. Vishnu Prasad (Chennai) (13:30.166).

Touring Cars (Race-2): 1. Ishaan Dodhiwala (VW, Hyderabad) (15:41.905); 2.Nikanth Ram (Arka Motorsports, Coimbatore) (15:42.130); 3. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts, Coimbatore) (15:51.488).

Super Stock (Race-2): 1. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) (16:27.646); 2. RP Rajarajan (Performance Racing) (16:28.805); 3.R Rajashekar (Race Concepts) (16:41.742).

Formula LGB 1300 (Race-2, 7 laps): 1. Viswas Vijayaraj (DTS Racing) (17:43.357); 2. Sohil Shah (M Sport) (17:43.957); 3. Ashwin Datta (Momentum Motorsports) (17:46.458).

Volkswagen Ameo Class (Race-2): 1. Saurav Bandyopadhyay (Mumbai) (15:49.972); 2. Pratik Sonawane (Pune) (15:52.896); 3. Avik Anwar (Bangladesh) (15:53.007).

Formula 4 SEA (Race-3, 11 laps): 1. Lucca Allen (Ireland) (21:16.050); 2. Shihab Al Habsi (Oman) (21:16.480); 3. Muizz Musyaffa (Malaysia) (21:19.262). **Race-4 (13 laps):** 1. Allen (21:29.615); 2. Al Habsi (21:31.570); 3. Elias Sappanen (Finland) (21:34.061).

Night race definitely on

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Confirming that night races, the first in India, at the MMRT circuit here were definitely on, Vicky Chandhok, the Chairman of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National car racing championships and vice-president of MMSC, said the club has earmarked funds to install floodlights at the FIA certified Grade 2 track.

Speaking to the media here on Sunday on the sidelines of the third round of the National car racing championship, Chandhok said: "A very professional lighting expert has given us a quote of ₹16 crores to 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,"

To this end, the MMSC has scheduled a "test run" on August 7 between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. to evaluate the possibility of full-fledged night races in the near future, he said.

India in quarterfinals despite loss

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India set up a quarterfinal clash with Indonesia despite losing its last group match to Korea at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2019 (Mixed Team Event) in Suzhou, China on Sunday.

Maisnam Meiraba's great effort was the silver lining of the day for the Indian contingent in its 1-4 loss but by finishing second to Korea in Group C, India made it to the last-eight.

On the first day of the continental event, India blanked both Mongolia and Macau China by an identical score of 5-0.

Manipur's Meiraba had been in sterling form of late and he even won his first international tournament at the White Night Russian Junior International earlier this month.

Meiraba refused to give up and fought for 1 hour 32 minutes to subdue Korea's Hyeon Seung Park.

While that was the solitary win of the day for Team India, there were encouraging performances from others. 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 were equally impressive in their 16-21, 21-16, 12-21 girls' doubles loss to Young Bin Ji and Eun Ji Lee.

The boys' doubles combine of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Vishnu Vardhan Goud Panjala found Korea's Dong Ju Ki and Joon Young Kim too strong in their 17-21, 15-21 defeat. In girls' singles, Malvika Bansod suffered a 10-21, 8-21 defeat to Ga Lam Kim.

Nagal qualifies for Hamburg ATP-500

SPORTS BUREAU
HAMBURG

Sumit Nagal defeated Alejandro Davidovich Fokina of Spain 6-3, 7-5 in the second and final round to make the main draw of the €1,855,490 ATP-500 tennis tournament on Sunday.

The results: €1,855,490 ATP-500, Hamburg, Germany: Qualifying singles (second and final round): Sumit Nagal bt Alejandro Davidovich 6-3, 7-5; **First round:** Nagal bt Sebastian Ofner (Aut) 7-5, 6-2.

Simon Yates wins final Pyrenean stage

Thibaut Pinot further impresses; Alaphilippe still ahead

TOUR DE FRANCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
FOIX

Simon Yates of Britain posted a second stage win with a solo raid during the last Pyrenean trek of the Tour de France as Frenchman Thibaut Pinot gained more time on his rivals in the fight for the yellow jersey with a ferocious attack in the final climb on Sunday.

Yates triumphed at the summit of the Prat d'Albis in Stage 15, three days after his first stage victory in the southwestern mountain range. Pinot crossed the finish line in second place, 33 seconds behind Yates, and moved to fourth overall.

Julian Alaphilippe was isolated without a single teammate to help him in the 12-kilometre final climb and cracked but managed to salvage his yellow jersey.

Defending champion Geraint Thomas remained second in the general classification.

On the attack

Yates, the Vuelta defending champion, made his decisive move about 9km from the line. Racing behind, Pinot attacked a reduced group of overall contenders to drop both Thomas and Alaphilippe.

Thomas did not panic and rode at his pace until he accelerated with 1.5km to cut the overall gap on Alaphilippe from 2 minutes, 2 seconds to 1-35.

Alaphilippe was so exhausted after his effort up the hill, where he grimaced through the rain, that he had to grip a roadside barrier afterward while he caught his breath.

"If I crack I hope he'll carry the torch for the French," Alaphilippe said about Pinot.

Ahead of the pack: Julian Alaphilippe, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, leads a peloton in the 15th stage on Sunday. ▪ REUTERS

Well Connected pulls off a narrow win in Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore

BENGALURU: S. Padmanabhan-trained Well Connected (David Allan up) won the Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore, the stellar attraction of the races held here on Sunday (July 21). The winner is owned by Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar & Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep by. Mrs. Behrose Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Yohan Z. Poonawalla & Mrs. Michelle Y. Poonawalla.

Allan, who rode a well-judged and brilliant race, kept his mount fifth or sixth till the final bend before skilfully manoeuvring the filly from wide outside in the home stretch. Well Connected responded tremendously to the reminders and galloped with giant strides to pip long-time leader Impavid by a long neck.

Proud moment: V. Harimohan Naidu (BTC chairman), right, with S. Padmanabhan (trainer), Gurpreet Singh (vice president (marketing) UB), David Allan (jockey), Zavaray Poonawalla (owner/breeder), Simone Poonawalla (breeder), co-owners Delna Poonawalla, Behroze Poonawalla, P.J. Vazifdar, and Sherna Vazifdar (all owners) after Well Connected won the Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore on Sunday. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

1 INDIAN PATTERN COMMITTEE CUP (1,200m), rated 15 to 35: **CONSTANZA** (Trevor) 1, Kimera (Srinath) 2, Habanero (Noornabi) 3 and Aqua Blessing (Chetan K) 4. 3-1/4, 3-1/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 13.64s. ₹14 (w), 11, 10 and 20 (p), SHP: 17, THP: 37, FP: 18, Q: 13, Trinella: 80 and 59, Exacta: 257 and 99. Favourite: Constanza. Owners: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd, Mrs. Rina Mahindra & Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

2 HYDERABAD CUP (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35: **CRACK OF DAWN** (Sandesh) 1, Musterion (Trevor) 2, Electra (Suraj) 3 and Duxton (Jagadeesh) 4. 1, 2 and Shd. 1m, 26.30s. ₹21 (w), 12, 14 and 12 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 47, FP: 88, Q: 65, Trinella: 130 and 45, Exacta: 363 and 238. Favourite: Electra. Owners: Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad and Mr. Kersi H. Vachha. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

3 KOLKATA CUP (2,000m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: **LYCURGUS** (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Velocidad (Srinath) 2, Nitromax (Arshad) 3 and Prince Charmo (M. Naveen) 4. 1-1/4, 2-3/4 and 1. 2m, 07.50s. ₹37 (w), 13, 10 and 17 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 41, FP: 120, Q: 41, Trinella: 216 and 153, Exacta: 504 and 253. Favourite: Velocidad. Owner: Dr. Ian D'cruz. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

4 MUMBAI CUP (1,400m), rated 45 to 65: **SAKURA** (Srinath) 1, Air Command (Suraj) 2, Corona Del Corsa (Antony) 3 and Ice Floe (Sandesh) 4. Not run: Psychic Warrior. 1-1/4, Nk and Nose. 1m, 24.96s. ₹45 (w), 16, 27 and 21 (p), SHP: 83, THP: 47, FP: 627, Q: 378, Trinella: 3,680 and 986, Exacta: 30,765 and 10,548. Favourite: Multifaceted. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr & Mrs. K.N. Dhunjibhoy and Mr & Mrs. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

5 MYSTICAL MILLION (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o, (Terms): **SPEAKING OF STARS** (Zervan) 1, North Winds (Yash) 2, Mighty Red (Darshan) 3 and Hokkaido (Dhebe) 4. Not run: Prayer. 1-1/4, 4-1/4 and 1-3/4. 1m, 38.80s. ₹60 (w), 17, 17 and 36 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 101, FP: 411, Q: 189, Trinella: 9,604 and 5,488, Exacta: 25,198 and 6,749. Favourite: Nicollini. Owner: Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Darius.

6 B.T.C. ANNIVERSARY CUP (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): **KNOTTY ASH** (Antony) 1, Prevalent Force (Zervan) 2, Automatic (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Lady Legend (Trevor) 4. 2-1/4, 3-1/2 and 1-3/4. 1m, 24.59s. ₹61 (w), 18, 20 and 69 (p), SHP: 61, THP: 119, FP: 355, Q: 241, Trinella: 10,160 and 5,322, Exacta: 64,772 and 55,519. Favourite: Corfe Castle. Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh & Mr. K. Manoj Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

7 KINGFISHER ULTRA DERBY BANGALORE (2,000M), 3-Y-O ONLY, (TERMS): WELL CONNECTED (ARAZAN-GUEST CONNECTIONS) DAVID ALLAN 1, Impavid (Air Support-Polenta) Sandesh 2, Knight Templar (Multidimensional-Grand Madame) Zervan 3 and Southern Ruler (Saamidd-Farha) Bhawani Singh 4. Lnk, 1-1/4 and 4-1/2. 2m, 05.88s. ₹23 (w), 13, 13 and 28 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 55, FP: 38, Q: 21, Trinella: 178 and 167, Exacta: 1,935 and 1,392. Favourite: Well Connected. Owners: Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar & Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep by. Mrs. Behrose Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Yohan Z. Poonawalla & Mrs. Michelle Y. Poonawalla. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

8 ADMIRAL HENRY JOHN ROUS TROPHY (1,200m), rated 75 & over: **SAINT PETERSBURG** (Trevor) 1, Courage (Suraj) 2, Star Carnation (Bhawani Singh) 3 and Aeisir (Neeraj) 4. 1, 1 and Shd. 1m, 13.55s. ₹26 (w), 14, 17 and 45 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 79, FP: 78, Q: 32, Trinella: 585 and 562, Exacta: 2,472 and 1,059. Favourite: Saint Petersburg. Owners: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd & Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

9 HYDERABAD CUP (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35: **FIND** (Antony) 1, Cosmic Feeling (Nazerul) 2, Skyfire (Vaibhav) 3 and Eco Friendly (Irvan) 4. 1-1/2, 5-1/4 and 3-1/4. 1m, 29.45s. ₹69 (w), 20, 15 and 134 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 273, FP: 335, Q: 134, Trinella: 26,059 and 8,376, Exacta: 1,94,891 (carried over). Favourite: Stroke Of Genius. Owners: Mr. Vettri Velan. B & Mr. Sathish Kumar Joghee. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

Jackpot: ₹59,633 (22 tkts) Runner up: 1,008 (158 tkts); Treble (i): 157 (125 tkts); (ii): 2,678 (12 tkts); (iii): 1,013 (51 tkts).

IN BRIEF

Bayern Munich spoils Hazard's Real debut

LOS ANGELES

Bayern Munich spoiled Eden Hazard's Real Madrid debut, downing the Spanish giant 3-1 in a friendly in Houston on Saturday despite goalkeeper Sven Ulreich's sending off. Corentin Tolisso, Robert Lewandowski and Serge Gnabry had given Bundesliga champions Bayern a comfortable 3-0 lead before recent Real Madrid signing Rodrygo grabbed a consolation goal with a brilliant free kick. That followed Ulreich's departure in the 81st for a foul on Brazilian teen Rodrygo outside the area. AFP

Russian boxer has brain surgery after loss in ring

Russian boxer Maxim Dadashev was in hospital in suburban Washington on Saturday after emergency brain surgery in the wake of a punishing loss in the ring, US media reported. Dadashev's fight against Puerto Rico's Subriel Matias was stopped by cornerman James "Buddy" McGirt at the end of the 11th round on Friday night. Dadashev was unable to walk to the dressing room after the bout and was immediately hospitalised. Doctors operated to relieve pressure from swelling on his brain. AFP

Tapper — making the most of her disadvantage

The Australian is the most sought-after athlete in the Commonwealth tournament

C'WEALTH TT

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

Despite the rich tradition of Olympics and Paralympics, only 15 athletes have represented their respective countries in both the quadrennial extravaganzas featuring able-bodied and physically challenged sportspersons, respectively. One of those 15 – Australia's ever-smiling paddler Melissa Tapper – competed in the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship here over the last week.

She may not have been able to win a medal but Tapper was one of the most sought-after athletes by Oriyas during the tournament. Born with brachial plexus – which means the nerves between her right neck and shoulder were torn apart – Tapper is used to getting attention whenever she competes in able-bodied tournaments.

Gritty: Born with brachial plexus — which means the nerves between her right neck and shoulder were torn apart — Melissa Tapper is used to getting attention whenever she competes in able-bodied tournaments. ▪ BISWARANJAN ROUT

Discouraged

While the left-handed paddler admits that at times she has been discouraged from participating in these tournaments, she explains the advantages of participating in both.

"Occasionally, people have come and told me to focus on para games but I benefit from playing in both. My class in para is the least amount of disability," Tapper says. "Playing in able-bodied competitions, I keep getting better in my game while playing in para-competitions helps in reaching finals and gaining confidence, which translates during able-bodied competitions. I need to be smart in choosing which to play and when."

So has she been ever sledged for the physical challenge by any of her competitors on the international circuit?

"Most athletes don't treat me differently, at least not to my face," she says with a smile, and adds, "They understand I'm here on my own merit and have come here to play and compete. It is difficult to serve (with her right-arm being much shorter than the left).

> **Playing in able-bodied competitions, I keep getting better in my game while playing in para-competitions helps in reaching finals and gaining confidence**

"I have tried to practice and make it as close to legal one as possible. Nobody has objected, maybe an umpire but not players."

Perfect partner

Besides playing table tennis, Tapper works as an exercise expert and occasionally dons the hat of a motivational speaker.

But whenever she feels let down with her performance in the arena, she turns to husband Simon Gerada, himself an Olympian table tennis player.

"It's very big help to have your partner in the same sport. He came up through the ranks, is an Olympian and has represented the country in the Commonwealth Games.

"He understands what I'm feeling, what I go through, big part in helping me grow as an athlete, tries to motivate me and helps me find solutions. He is the driving force in helping me achieve my goals."

Zimbabwe pulls out of Bangladesh triangular series

IANS
HARARE

Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) , which has been suspended by the International Cricket Council (ICC), has announced that the national team will not travel to Bangladesh for the triangular series including Afghanistan in September.

ZC in a statement on Saturday notified its inability to stage domestic competitions or fulfil the obligations of the Future Tours Programme after ICC's suspension which also saw the freezing of funds for the cricket board.

Bearing the brunt

"In all this, players and staff are bearing the brunt of the standoff and they might be forced to go for months or forever without their salaries and match fees," the statement said.

"We would like to see our teams playing again as soon as possible and the ZC board is ready to cooperate with the SRC and other stakeholders to get Zimbabwe back to operating within the confines of the ICC statutes again," the statement added.

Rashid mentally ready to lead Afghanistan

'We have to be fully fit and well-prepared'

CRICKET

ANI
LONDON

Rashid Khan, the newly appointed Afghanistan captain, said he was mentally ready for the position, adding that when it comes to national duties one has to be ready to lead.

Rashid, who was given the duties to lead the team in the shortest format earlier, was named to helm Afghanistan across all three formats. He replaced Gulbadin Naib, who was appointed as ODI captain just before the World Cup.

"I wasn't quite surprised. I was already the vice-captain, which means you are the upcoming captain. Mentally, I was ready for it. Yes, it happened very quickly, but when it comes to the national team, when it comes to the country, you always have to be ready to lead. I'll try my best to lead as well as possible," ESPNcricinfo quoted Rashid, as saying.

Rashid Khan. ▪ FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

"From here, we have to take steps. We have seen the World Cup, we have seen the oppositions and what should be the proper preparation for them, and we have to be very strong mentally. We have to be fully fit for such competitions and we have to be well-prepared. We are not playing with Associate teams right now, we are playing with the Full Members, so we have to be well-planned and prepared."

The 20-year-old said that Afghanistan is talented and skilled but needs to improve in fitness. Rashid added that cricketers coming into the national team need to work on their mental aspect, believe in oneself and work hard.

"The most important thing is fitness, we have to be very fit. These are the things we need to improve on in upcoming years to be a better side, a side that can beat any team. We have the talent, we have the skills. We just need to bring improvement in that," he said.

"You need to have worked on your skills, not that when you come to the national side you start working on it. Once you come to the national side, you have to work on the mental aspect (more). And being a youngster, you should always believe in yourself and work hard. Then you can achieve anything," he remarked.

The next World Cup 2023 will be hosted in India, while the ICC T20 World Cup 2020 will take place in Australia. Rashid stressed that his team needs to learn how to play against big teams.

"That (2023 World Cup) is something that is a very big challenge for us. As I said, we have the skills and talent, but we need to improve. We need to know how to play against the big teams and what should be the proper preparation against them. As we saw, we were struggling in this World Cup. (But) I think the 2023 World Cup, it's a little bit far. The focus and target right now is the T20 World Cup in Australia," he said.

Mardini — a refugee swimmer rising up fast

She's representing FINA's independent athletes team

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GWANGJU (SOUTH KOREA)

Syrian refugee Yusra Mardini, who almost drowned at sea fleeing her war-torn country four years ago, heaved a deep sigh after failing to set a personal best at the World swimming championships on Sunday.

Representing FINA's independent athletes team, the 21-year-old looked up at the giant scoreboard and winced at her time of 1min 8.79sec in the 100 metres butterfly heats in South Korea.

"I'm not very happy actually," Mardini told AFP.

"I had some problems with my shoulder but I'm back in training. I still have the 100m freestyle and I'm looking forward to that."

Mardini's time was more than 12 seconds slower than that of reigning champion Sarah Sjostrom and 47th overall, but she has come a long way since risking her life crossing from Izmir in Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos in the summer of 2015.

Fighter to the core: Yusra Mardini, 18, said representing millions of displaced people around the world makes her proud. ▪ REUTERS

Thirty minutes into that treacherous journey, the motor on their dinghy cut out and the tiny vessel, carrying 20 people rather than the six or seven it was designed for, threatened to capsize.

As the only people who could swim, Mardini and her sister Sarah jumped into the water to push and pull the stricken dinghy for over three hours until they finally reached the shore.

"I arrived in Greece in only jeans and a T-shirt," said Mardini, who also swims in the 100m freestyle later this week. "Even my shoes were gone."

Mardini famously competed at the Rio Olympics a year later under the refugee flag.

Rocket strikes

"In the beginning I refused to be in a refugee team because I was afraid people would think I got the chance because of my story," said Mardini, who now lives with her family in Berlin.

"I wanted to earn it. But then I realised I had a big opportunity to represent those people – so I took the chance and I never regretted it," she added.

"Rio was amazing. It was really exciting to see the reaction of people to the team. Now I'm representing millions of displaced people around the world and it really makes me proud."

Teen star Ingebrigtsen fires a warning

Fast and furious: Jakob Ingebrigtsen, left, seen with brother Filip, set a new Norwegian national record in the 5000m at the London Anniversary Games on Saturday. ▪ AP

ATHLETICS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Teen track sensation Jakob Ingebrigtsen fired a warning to his older rivals after setting a new Norwegian national record in the 5000m at the London Anniversary Games on Saturday.

In a thrilling battle at the Diamond League event, Ethiopia's Hagos Gebrhiwet held off a charging Ingebrigtsen during the final lap to squeeze home by just 0.17sec.

Ingebrigtsen, who won European gold over 1500m and 5000m last year, ran 13:02.03 – a new national record.

Gebrhiwet, who has run the third-fastest time so far this year over the distance, admitted he had been pushed hard by the confident 18-year-old.

"I'm in my own bubble before the race and also in the race," said Ingebrigtsen.

"I don't consider anyone better than me until it's proven.

Great race

"I wanted to run faster. It's a great race for me and also to be able to compete against the very best. (Hagos) is a fast guy and really experienced but I'm new to the game at this level. Hopefully I'll be running even faster in the future." When it was put to him that many athletes already felt beaten when they lined up against the powerful Africans, he said: "That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard.... If you want to be the best you have to consider yourself the best.

Harry Kane hits staggering winner

Injury time strike from centre circle sinks Juventus

FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SINGAPORE

Harry Kane scored a stunning 93rd minute winner from the halfway line as Tottenham Hotspur edged Juventus 3-2 in an entertaining pre-season friendly in Singapore on Sunday.

The England captain latched onto Lucas Moura's short pass and launched a first-time shot high over a scrambling substitute Wojciech Szczesny in the Juventus goal as Spurs rallied past new manager Maurizio Sarri's Italian champions in front of a delighted National Stadium crowd.

"It's probably one of the best goals of my career. I noticed the keeper was often off of his line and thought if I get a chance to shoot I will, and it just went in," Kane said in a post-match interview.

Mobbed: Tottenham's player converge on Harry Kane after his wonder goal sealed a win. ▪ REUTERS

Struggling to adapt

A youthful Spurs dominated the first half as Juventus struggled to adapt to its new manager's "Sarri-ball" tactic of playing out from the back with short, quick passes.

Instead of moving the ball forward, Juventus often found themselves defending desperately after being caught in possession as Spurs pressed high up the pitch. The Premier League side went 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 keeper straight into the path of an unmarked Erik Lamela for a routine tap-in.

Juventus had more success after the break when it increased its tempo and went more direct, and half-time substitute Gonzalo Higuain levelled the score in the 56th minute with a drilled strike after exchanging passes with Federico Bernardeschi.

Buoyed by the equaliser, Juventus was soon ahead when 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 five minutes later, however, when Champions League semi-final hero Lucas fired home record signing Tanguy Ndombele's low cross, the French midfielder finding the Brazilian with his first touch after coming on as a substitute.

Kane and Higuain both squandered good chances to score winning goals in the final 10 minutes before the England striker prevented the contest going to a penalty shootout with the most brilliant of strikes.

'I started crying with joy'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

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 giant shelled out €120 million 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 sports daily *Marca*. "I was with my friends, with my wife, with my children and it was an incredible moment," he added.

Antoine Griezmann. ▪ AP

Madrid ready to ship out Gareth Bale

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LOS ANGELES

Real Madrid head coach Zinedine Zidane says the *La Liga* giant is poised to offload Welsh star Gareth Bale in the coming days.

Bale was left off Real Madrid's roster for Saturday's 3-1 exhibition loss to Bayern Munich at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas.

"He wasn't included in the squad because the club is working on his departure and that's why he didn't play," Zidane said.

Nketiah strikes in Arsenal's win

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Youngster Edward Nketiah made it three goals in two matches Saturday with a brace that boosted Arsenal to a 3-0 win over Fiorentina in a pre-season friendly in North Carolina.

The 20-year-old striker scored with goals in the 15th and 66th minutes. Joseph Willock added an exclamation point with a goal to make it 3-0 in the 89th.

In striking form: Eddie Nketiah of Arsenal, right, scored for Arsenal goals in the 15th and 66th minutes. ▪ AFP

Fiorentina could have made things more difficult for the Gunners but for a series of missed chances in the first half and solid work by Emi Martinez in the Arsenal goal.

The victory in sweltering heat before a crowd of 34,902 at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte made it three wins in three for Arsenal in a tour that began with unsettled captain Laurent Koscielny refusing to make the trip to force a transfer.

THE HINDU

DELHI • MONDAY • JULY 22, 2019

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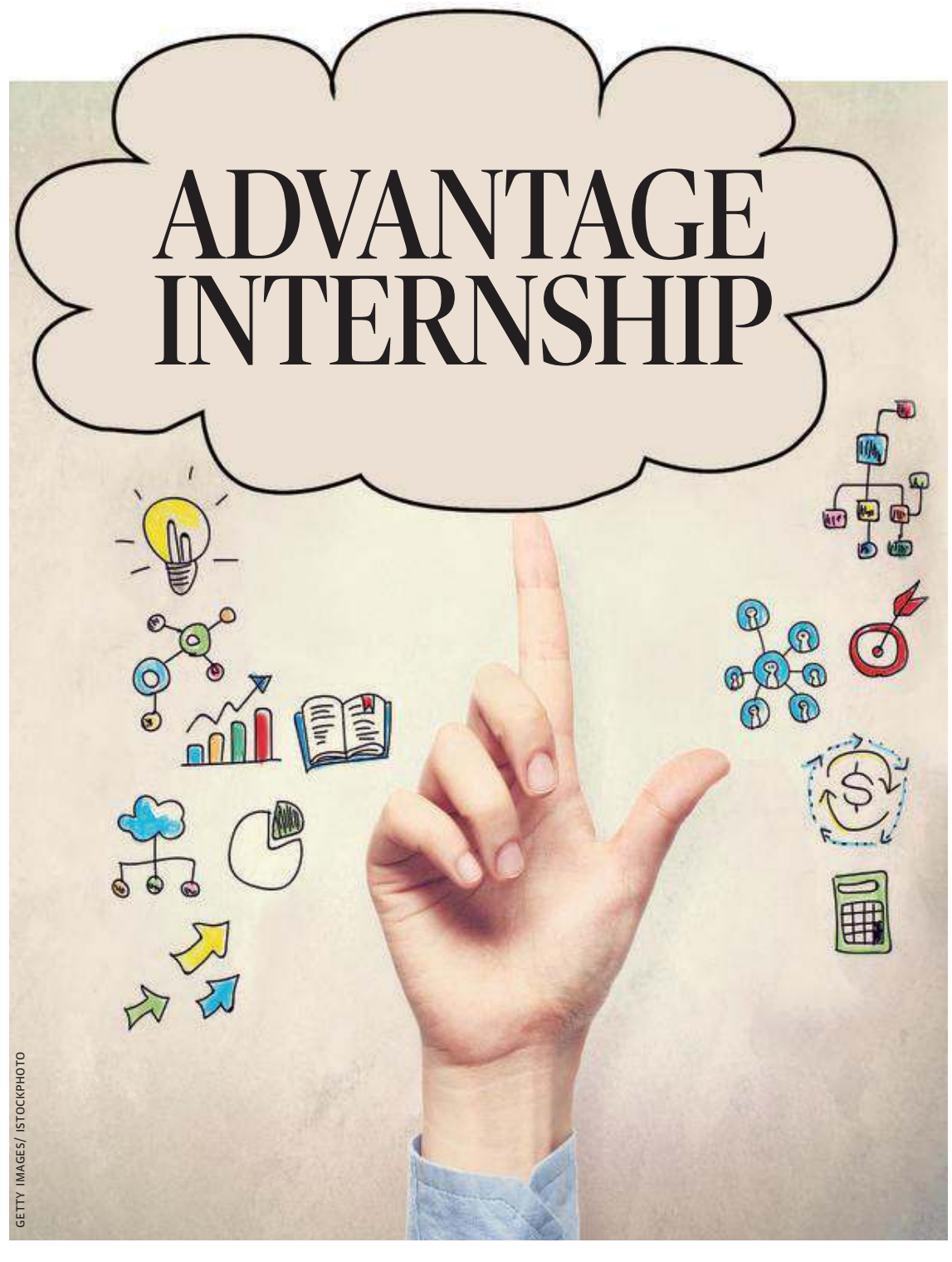
ADVANTAGE INTERNSHIP

Industry internships have transformational potential — they double up as a vehicle to initiate competency development in students and subsequently, improve their employability

■ SUDHIR VARADARAJAN



GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCKPHOTO

Another season of summer internships is coming to an end. Today, we see a large number of third and second year engineering students taking up internships during their summer vacation. This is a far cry from the days when summer vacation used to be a true holiday. While peer pressure plays a role, students realise that summer internships provide an important opportunity for learning and advancing career prospects.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)'s policy of mandatory internship of 14-20 weeks, announced in 2018, will not only add fuel to this trend, but will also unlock about 127 million student-days of effort every year. Are the stakeholders prepared to exploit the transformational potential of this policy?

The AICTE policy is based on the premise that internship is an imperative to improve employability of engineering students, and this can be a win-win for the three key stakeholders – students, industry and academia. However, a true win-win partnership among the three stakeholders is an exception rather than a rule. In most cases, at least one stakeholder may not effectively participate in the process.

One scenario that is often observed is where the student and company see mutual benefit in pursuing a project, but the faculty does not see an alignment with his/her research interest. A second scenario is where the student and faculty see potential in developing an idea, but there is no commitment from any company (example, research internship). A third scenario is where the company and faculty are keen to do a project, but the student does not find it exciting. In order to realise the transformational potential of the AICTE policy, the stakeholders must rethink their views on internship.

Academic involvement

Students who have had good internship experiences often say that they learnt a lot more in one to three months compared to the three years of their course. While this is discomforting to faculty, a careful observation suggests two things: (a) the students are internalising a lot more by personally experiencing the real-world when compared to listening to concepts or examples in the classroom; and (b) this learning is effective only under proper supervision.

- AICTE's policy of mandatory internship of 14-20 weeks is a move to improve employability of engineering students.
- A deeper involvement of the academia with internships will help them collaborate better with the industry.
- SMEs should see internships as an opportunity to take risks and prepare for the disruptive trends.

The academia must see internship as a vehicle to initiate competency development, i.e., an ability to integrate knowledge, skills and attributes to solve real-world issues. And understand that competencies can be gained only through learning-by-doing and under expert guidance for a minimum of four to six months. If academia adopts this perspective, then they will take the responsibility to institutionalise a full-semester internship programme and proactively engage with students to deepen learning.

A deeper involvement of the academia with internships will also help them collaborate better with the industry. It will also open possibilities for creative integration of courses such as professional ethics with the internship programme. Academic institutions must recognise these possibilities and incentivise faculty to participate in the process.

Scope for innovation

While large corporates and high-tech startups have programmes to attract and utilise interns in their innovation initiatives, it is the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) in manufacturing that need to rethink their approach to internship.

SMEs are under serious threat due to disruptive technology trends such as Industry 4.0 and electric vehicles. Recent surveys by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and commentaries by CxOs suggest that while Industry 4.0 is an imperative, smart use of digital technologies can help deliver value even with small budgets. SMEs should start seeing internships as an opportunity to take risks and prepare for the disruptive trends. With a little bit of planning and setting aside some time and small annual budgets (like the mandatory CSR spend), they can leverage internship programmes to solve everyday issues.

Recent events like Smart India Hackathon show that, with some support, students can come up with innovative ideas for persistent issues. Working with academic partners will not only help SMEs to identify time-bound projects that fit within an internship programme, but also seek matching grants for these projects through schemes such as the Innovation Voucher programme of Govt. of Tamil Nadu. This can help SMEs to experiment with digital technologies and develop low-risk, low-cost innovation networks for their benefit.

The future

For students, internships can be more than learning a new skill or securing a future. It is a massive opportunity to not only surprise themselves but also the society in a positive way. By staying curious and cultivating skills to empathise with issues in their local context, they can help envision a new future. Such an immersive experience over four to six months can be transformational to the student.

It is this experience that is far more valuable than the number of internships and the quality of logos on the CV. It can transform the student into a job-creator which is both the need of the hour and the real value of this internship initiative.

The writer is Dean (Design, Innovation & Incubation), IIITDM Kancheepuram.

VOICES

A question of credibility

The HRD ministry has sent a list of 'Non-NBA premier institutes' and 'Institutes of National Importance' to the Kuwait government to resolve the invalidation of engineering degrees, as Indian professionals face job uncertainties in West Asia. What can be done to improve the creditability of our degrees abroad?

■ NEHA RUPEJA

MUDIT CHAUHAN, PGPM, MDI, GURGUGRAM

The HRD ministry needs to focus on authenticating colleges other than those accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA). A regulatory push is also needed to ensure that the premier colleges are recognised by the board to verify the quality of a college. The funds received from the government should depend on their accreditation grade to motivate them towards achieving a better reputation. Moreover, the authorities should also work on policies to build the global stature of Indian colleges.

RISHI MOHAN, III, BA HONS POLITICAL SCIENCE, LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY, UTTAR PRADESH

This proactive step by HRD ministry is a move in the right direction which will affect Indian students positively. It will provide students with a ray of hope and motivate them to work hard, in order to pursue their dream jobs abroad.

To make Indian degrees globally acceptable, Indian universities must be streamlined so that major accreditation institutes are merged into one internationally recognised macro unit which will help avoid the problem of invalid degrees.

ADARSH CHOUDHURY, GRADUATE 2018, B. TECH, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Lack of accreditation is one of the major reasons for Indian students' inability to bag core jobs abroad. Companies are cautious about hiring Indian students because of the lack of a systematised mechanism that fulfils international standards. Development of standardised norms, against which the quality of the country's engineering colleges can be measured will help the Indian education system become more reliable and transparent for the recruiters.

DEVANSH GOEL, FINAL YEAR, MBBS, AIIMS, RISHIKESH

Every government holds the right to employ the best professionals to serve their country, and the only way to gauge applicants' creditability is to trust accreditation committees. But Kuwait's decision to trust only the National Board of Accreditation for accreditation of degrees while disregarding the premier universities such as IITs is a nasty move. It might demoralise Indian professionals working in Kuwait and other gulf countries. The problem is the low ranking of Indian universities, which should be worked on.

RINGSIDE VIEW

Villages in our schools

Can students in urban schools be taught about the 'real' villages to question the current paradigm which is unduly biased?

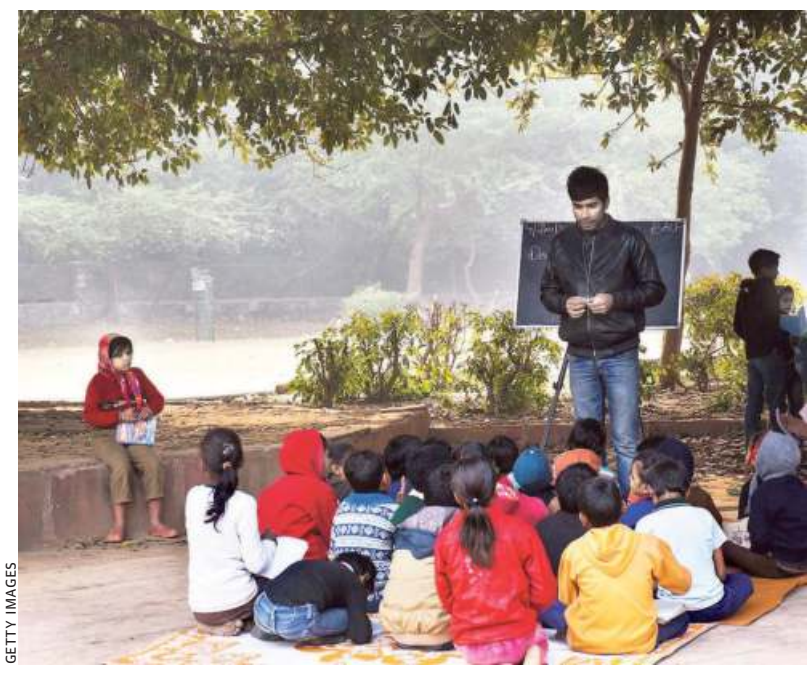
■ NIMESH VED

I was asked if I would share some of my experiences of village life with students. This discussion, with students, would precede their trip to an organisation working in a rural set-up. I figured that this would be challenging given that most students came from affluent families. In other words, they would possibly have limited exposure like I once had.

I began on a lighter note with snippets of my ignorance during my initial days in Central India – how it had taken me more than a month's stay to figure out the significance of three tea-stalls in the village, abutting each other and each boasting of strictly loyal clientele – my first lesson in caste. Unlike the illustrations I had come across in text-books, neither was *panchayat* a meeting with five people under a tree, nor was *sarpanch* the person with the biggest head-gear. Couple of years later I moved to another village, further eastwards in our country. Over the period, my awe for the landscapes replaced the shocks, and my respect for the people grew. Their abilities to work with hands, for example – the sheer range of use they put the same knife (*dao*) to.

Realisation

The sharing got a tad serious, as I moved to my learning. The initial months brought out that what many of us in cities consider as basic and necessary, is many a time luxury or simply absent in villages. It was at these villages that I learnt how to shower selfless affection – by being at the receiving end. Neither had I met them before, nor were there too many similarities in our lives and yet the people showered love and warmth. Over time I realised that that clichés like 'sleepy old village', I had grown up with, were as real as ghosts in the villages. And that it was easy to fall into the trap of either patronising the village people or treating them as exotic creatures. The challenge was to accept the people and village as they were, and treat them as equals.



GETTY IMAGES

...it was easy to fall into the trap of either patronising the village people or treating them as exotic creatures. The challenge was to accept them as they were...

Back to the discussion; the idea was, with help of anecdotes, to get the students to react and question. The questions ranged from whether I had worked with tribals to what they ate, from how much were the people in villages interested in my life to, of course, which of the stall(s) I had tea at? I was walking a tight-rope. I had to resist either painting a glossy image or underscoring the stereotype. I was keen to convey that life in villages, like elsewhere, is dynamic and that people in villages love, hate, quarrel, celebrate and sing like all of us.

As I sit to draft this, I wonder on my school days – a 'regular' English-medium school in an urban area. The school taught me the foreign language, I write this in, but little did it teach me about life in a village; a life majority of my country brethren lived. Home too did little on this front. This was one of 'us' and 'them'. Unlike today, however, villages then did exist in television serials and Hindi movies.

Can we discuss this topic at city schools? To understand that villagers are individuals beyond construction workers and domestic help? To enable the students (and teachers) to know their country better? To highlight the interdependence and enable the students – even a few – to question the current paradigm which is unduly biased in their favour?

The writer can be reached at nimesh.explore@gmail.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS

■ The Ian Parry Scholarship

Ian Parry organisation is providing scholarship awards to young photographers who wish to take independent photography projects. These scholarships will provide applicants additional benefits covered under Sunday Times Award for achievement and the Canon Award for their potential.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian students below 24 years of age, and attending any full-time photographic course may apply for this scholarship.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected scholars will be provided a scholarship sum of US$3,500, scholarships and loans for photography equipment from Canon, direct entry to Joop Swart Masterclass nominations, and all expense paid year-long mentorship programme.

APPLICATION MODE: Online

DEADLINE: July 05

http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/IAP9

■ L'Oréal India For Young Women In Science Scholarship

L'Oréal India is providing educational scholarships to young women who wish to pursue their graduation in any field of science from a recognised institute in India. The aim is to encourage young women to pursue their education and career in science and empower them with financial aid.

ELIGIBILITY: Female candidates who have passed class 12 with 85% in PCB/PCM/PCMB in the academic year (2018-19) are eligible. Annual family income of the applicant should be less than ₹4 lakhs, and she must not be more than 19 years of age when applying.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected women scholars will be provided up to ₹2,50,000 in instalments towards their tuition fees and academic expenses for pursuing graduation courses in science.

APPLICATION MODE: Applications are accepted online or student can send by post at L'Oreal India, The Scholarship Cell, C/O Buddy4Study, Stellar IT Park, C-25, Office No.8,9 & 10 Tower-A, Ground floor, Sector 62, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301

DEADLINE: July 01

http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/LIF9

■ The Denys Holland Scholarship, UCL

University College London (UCL) invites undergraduate applicants to earn scholarships for three years of their studies based on their academic merit. The program is meant for financially underprivileged students who wish to study at UCL.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian students who have secured admission to the September 2019 intake session for any undergraduate course at UCL, and are below 25 years of age.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected students will be provided a scholarship sum of £9,000 per year for the respective course duration of three years.

APPLICATION MODE: Online or e-mail

DEADLINE: July 05

http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/TDH1

Courtesy: www.buddy4study.com

IIT Madras launches AI platform

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras faculty are launching a platform, 'AI4Bharat', to build Artificial Intelligence solutions to address India's problems and accelerate AI Innovation. It will be a community of AI professionals, students, domain experts, policy makers and academicians collaborating on solving real-world challenges in agriculture, healthcare, Smart Cities, Digital India and sustainability. The platform is also open to students who will be mentored to solve these problems.

It was founded by Mitesh M. Khapra and Pratyush Kumar, Assistant Professors, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Madras.

Pause to find a purpose

Take a gap year to explore, travel, and find a new 'you'

CAREER CUES

RICH DWIVEDI SAKLANI

ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

Steve Jobs was not the first person to visit India for a gap year and subsequently make it big. While I am not implying a direct link between the two events, here are a few more examples. Mark Zuckerberg visited Nainital – on Steve Jobs' advice – in the early stages on Facebook; Benedict Cumberbatch moved to Darjeeling after Harrow to teach Buddhist monks; 19-year-old Mother Teresa's trip to Darjeeling inspired her to build the Missionaries of Charity; feminist writer Gloria Steinem spent two years in India after college helping young women organise against injustice.

While India is a popular "gap year" destination, the only gap year Indian students knew till recently was the one you took to prepare for medical or engineering entrance tests. The "gap year" to explore, travel, breathe and find yourself is very new and shrouded in much excitement and many apprehensions. Will it affect my college admissions positively or negatively? Will it help me get the answers I am looking for?

What is finding myself anyway?

I see it as knowing what you want. Sometimes, students go through school and college pleasing teachers, parents and the larger "system". The end of school or college often creates a huge void – how do I choose my next move? How do I know what is right for me?

A gap year allows students to take on self-exploratory activities like internships, short courses, and travel without the pressure of making a commitment. This provides the space for students to hear their own voice within and watch how they resonate with things (or don't). The "answer" may be a life-changing "aha!" moment ("I know I want to teach"; "Research is my thing"; "The answer is Law") or simply be a realisation of your strengths and weaknesses, letting you fall in rhythm with yourself.

Some famous examples include Nigella Lawson who worked as a chambermaid in Florence where she discovered her love for Italian cooking; Dan Brown who spent a year in Spain studying art history which would become the subject of his bestselling books including the Da Vinci Code; and Charles Darwin whose theory of evolution was inspired by a trip to the Galapagos Islands as a travel companion to naturalist Captain Robert Fitzroy.

While a gap year does not guarantee such resounding success, it certainly allows students to move ahead with greater purpose and less stress.

A gap year allows students to take on self-exploratory activities like internships, short courses, and travel without the pressure of making a commitment

Some ideas to make your gap year count:

Pursue a "passion project": Do you want to work on a film? A blog? A business? Work in a kitchen? Go on a trek on the Himalayas? Work with animals? Pursuing a passion project without the pressure of making it a lifelong career or a runaway success is one of the biggest opportunities that gap years offer.

Learn a new skill or develop a new hobby: A new language, diving, cooking, rock climbing, guitar, tennis, or running may not become careers for you but will provide you the balance that you may need once you take on the pressure of studies again and eventually, that of a job.

Join a gap year programme: While most universities in the U.S. and U.K. offer gap year programmes that include travel, volunteering and skill building, this is still a new concept in India. Some U.S. universities also offer scholarships for gap year programmes to deserving students.

Meet people who could be your role models: Do you admire the teen tech blogger? Or the young girl who took over her father's conservatory? Or the banker who became a famous novelist? Seek out the people whose career trajectory you admire, and get answers to your own dilemmas in their journeys.

Blog about your gap year: India has few students taking the plunge and if you go down this path, your journey will have tremendous interest and value to those still thinking about it. And well, you could end up with a popular blog or at least a serious hobby to spend your life with.

The writer is the author of The Ultimate Guide to 21st Century Careers. She leads Inomi Learning, a Gurugram-based career and college guidance firm. info@inomi.in

Dos:
Plan your gap year while still in school or college. Decide if you want to get admission into your dream course and ask for a deferment or only apply the next year. Many colleges support students taking a gap year by deferring their admission offer. Check with your college – or dream college – what their gap year policy is.

Plan your gap year in three-month chunks, for example: chill and travel, internship, short course, social project and so on.

Find a place to report to almost every day when you intend to "work from home" – your parents' office or a co-working space. If studying for entrance tests, join coaching classes!

Donts:
Allow your indecision about whether you are taking a gap year or not to result in poor academic outcomes. If you plan in advance, you could focus on board results during your last year in school or college and spend the gap year honing your application and improving test scores.

Take more than a month of "doing nothing". While a gap year allows you to take a breather before you jump back onto the academic roller-coaster, too much fallow time can erode your ability to focus and persevere once you are ready to bounce back.

Plan extensive "work from home" periods. These can be challenging for the most disciplined; and a teenager with time, Internet and privacy may need superhuman willpower to work consistently.

KNOWLEDGE

WALNUT KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS

Q1

'83 is an upcoming biographical Bollywood film being directed by Kabir Khan. It talks about an event that took place on June 25, 1983, that changed India's history forever. However, due to an ongoing strike at the time, the BBC missed the opportunity to cover it. Ranveer Singh portrays the role of the leader who helped achieve this feat along with his 'devils'.

What feat, that was repeated in 2011, does the movie portray?

Q2

In 2009, Rohan, one of the children of a very famous personality, started the brand ____ Coffee. He sources coffee beans from his 52-acre property in Jamaica. He promotes sustainable farming practices and discourages the use of pesticides. He says, 'My father used to say that one day he was going to stop playing music and just farm. I am the other side of my father, the completion of his dream to return to farming'.

Name the eponymous brand of coffee, and the famous personality.

Q3

The Antarctica Service Medal is awarded by the U.S. Government to personnel who have served in Antarctica. The medal has a ribbon which consists of a 3⁄16-inch black stripe on each edge and graded from a white stripe in the center to a pale blue, light blue, greenish blue, and medium blue. While the outer bands of black and dark blue represent five months of Antarctic darkness, the center portion, by its size and colours, symbolises seven months of solar illumination and a certain natural phenomenon.

What is the natural phenomenon from which the band takes inspiration for its colours?

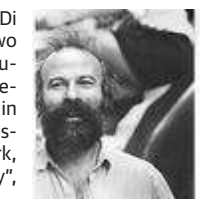
Q4

In 2016, the Government of Telangana initiated Mission ____, a project to provide safe drinking water for every village and city household in the state. It was aptly named after an Indian mythological king belonging to the Ikshvaku dynasty who led an austere life and performed penance in the Himalayas to bring the river Ganga from heaven to earth to release his forefathers from the curse of saint Kapila.

Name the eponymous project.

Q5

In 2019, Boeing announced a strategic partnership with an American start-up to develop a semi-autonomous flying taxi. This start-up is backed by Google founder and Alphabet CEO, Larry Page, whose mission is to make the dream of personal flight a reality. For this, they released an electric aircraft that weighs only 220 pounds and doesn't require a pilot's license to fly. The name of the organisation is a nod to a 1903 feat at a beach town in North Carolina. Name the organisation.

Q6 

Italian sculptor Arturo Di Modica spent over two years and hundreds of thousands of dollars on the creation of an artwork. Variations of the main work are found in Shanghai, and in Amsterdam. When asked to describe the work, tourists use words such as "money", "strength", and "financial power".

What is his most famous artwork, and where would you find it?

Answers

A1. India winning the Cricket World Cup (1983)
A2. Marley, Bob Marley
A3. Aurora Australis, or the Southern Lights
A4. Bhagiratha
A5. Kitty Hawk
A6. Charging Bull/Wall Street Bull; New York

Looking for leaders

Who is a strong leader? Is it the one who protects, or the one who lets you nurture on your own?

ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

ETHICS AND YOU

MINI KRISHNAN

On view and open to discussion every hour of the day is the behaviour of men and women who lead the world in politics and military power. Seven hundred years ago, King Edward II of England so disregarded the wisdom and advice of his barons that they united to destroy him and his favourite courtier. It was murder under the dining table. Exactly a hundred years ago the lifestyle and attitudes of the Romanovs fired the beginnings of the Russian revolution which ended their three-century rule. Their belief that they owed nothing to the people and that the people owed them everything is astonishing to modern day populations.

Today, the words and deeds of the mighty in public and increasingly in private, which very quickly reaches news circuits, are a matter of concern to the people who put them in charge and therefore feel – quite rightly – that they have the right to demand certain standards from them. If their teenage pranks cannot be held against them, surely they must be made to account for their latter-day near criminal acts or intent to hurt. They are in charge of countries. The power to change other peoples' lives is not a small thing.

Are they, today, living up to the faith and respect we show them? Who is a really strong leader? Is it not one who guides, protects and inspires? A show of strength is not real strength.

Types of leaders

What about positions less grand than leading a country – like the head of an institution or the principal of a college? They too occupy vital positions of responsibility and control. What do we look for in such people when we first meet them or are invited to work with them? And do we not all know people on lower rungs of the ladder who are equally competent, and perhaps kinder to their colleagues? These are the canopy men and women. You can go to them with any problem and even if they cannot solve it they help by being consistent, balanced and empathetic. Like trees filter the air, reverse damage to it and provide food, energy and income, such people support everybody around them. You will find that their attitude is consistent: whether with fellow workers like doormen or peons or functionaries or executives in the office or members of the family at home. These people act like canopies supporting others and helping them by their active aid or mere presence. These canopy people have what we might call integrated personalities.

There is another kind of tree person. The banyan-tree person. It is well known that nothing grows in the shade of the stupendous banyan. The overarching trees and leaves block off sunlight without which nothing can survive. The only things that multiply and do well are the prop roots of the banyan itself which it puts out to support itself as it slowly enlarges itself and the area it occupies. The banyan-tree person is like the leader who fills you with awe, mesmerises you and succeeds over and over again in making you feel inferior. This kind of tree-person neither encourages or permits you to develop.

What is the canopy of a person's support and confidence all of us tend to seek? That indefinable thing called the spirit which lies at the core of everyone's personality is the same. Controlled experiments were done to check the weight of life by weighing people just before and after death. There was no difference at all. Imagine that! What do you think it means?

Why do you think one feels either inferior or superior to others?

The writer is the Series Editor of Living in Harmony (Oxford University Press, India)

Ready to retire for the day?

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

S UPEBNDRAN

What is the meaning of the expression 'play out of one's skin'? (K Arun, Hyderabad)

A lot of people who watched Simona Halep running from one corner of the court to the other during the recent Wimbledon final against Serena Williams must have thought that the little Romanian was 'playing out of her skin'. The expression is used quite frequently in American English in the context of sports. When you say that someone is playing out of their skin, what you are suggesting is that they are playing brilliantly; they are playing the game with a lot of energy and skill, and their performance is truly outstanding. When someone plays out of their skin, it does not necessarily mean that the person ends up winning – just ask Roger Federer.

Ganesh played out of his skin, but unfortunately lost the match.

Hamsa was truly brilliant. She played out of her skin.

What is the difference between 'retire' and 'hit the hay'? (B Vishwanath, Bengaluru)

Both are normally used to mean 'to go to bed'. The word 'retire' is the more formal of the two. When someone who is tired says he is 'retiring' for the evening, it suggests that he is going to bed - perhaps immediately. The word can also suggest that one does not wish to be in the company of others; the individual who is 'retiring' perhaps wants to be alone in his room doing a bit of reading or writing before actually going to bed.

It's been a really strenuous day; the President plans to retire early tonight.

Sujatha usually retires after dinner. She spends a couple of hours watching TV before going to bed.

The idiomatic expression 'hit the hay', on the other hand, is mostly used in informal contexts to mean, 'to go bed'.

Rajan had already hit the hay before we arrived.

You look sleepy, Shakul. Why don't you hit the hay?

In the old days, a poor person usually slept on a sack filled with hay – this was his bed. In order to get a good night's sleep, people used to ensure that the hay in the sack had been spread evenly. This was achieved by hitting the hay before lying down on it.

What is the meaning of 'pontificate'? (Rakesh Kumar, Vellore)

The first syllable rhymes with 'con' and 'don', and the final syllable with the words 'hate', 'date' and 'gate'. The vowel in the second and third syllable sounds like the 'i' in 'bit', 'sit' and 'kit'. It is pronounced 'pon-TI-fi-kate' with the stress on the second syllable. The word is mostly used nowadays to show disapproval. When someone 'pontificates', he speaks in a rather pompous way; he believes that his opinion should be the final opinion about a matter because he knows everything there is to know about the subject. Everyone else's opinion is wrong. The word can also be used to refer to one's style of writing.

His son is a crook. Yet the Minister is always pontificating about good parenting.

Is it okay to say, 'pin drop silence'? (Ravi Kiran, Chennai)

Native speakers of English normally say, 'you could hear a pin drop' and not 'pin drop silence'. The expression is normally used to suggest that there was absolute silence – people were so interested or shocked by what was happening that nobody spoke or said anything.

It was so quiet in the meditation hall that you could hear a pin drop.

When Radha announced she was leaving her husband, you could hear a pin drop.

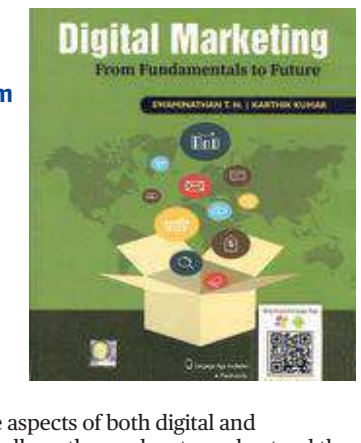
*****

"Sleeping is no mean art: for its sake one must stay awake all day." Friedrich Nietzsche

The writer teaches at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.
upendrankye@gmail.com

ON THE SHELF

KRITIKA RATHORE



Digital Marketing: From Fundamentals to Future

The level of integration of technology in our lives is increasing day by day. This makes certain things easily accessible as they become just a click away. Digital marketing is rising with easy Internet access. *Digital Marketing: From Fundamentals to Future* sheds light on some of the aspects of both digital and traditional marketing and allows the readers to understand the convergence of technologies to stay connected. The book provides information on the usage of digital technologies based on the principles of marketing and aims at motivating and equipping readers to begin a career in digital marketing. The different chapters provide a framework on the working of the virtual marketing process. This helps in understanding the integration of marketplace from brick and mortar to virtual. The book covers the important theoretical structures of traditional and digital marketing relevant to business and academics. It concludes with an exposure to certain technologies useful in marketing and exemplifies digital transformation.

EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN

WHAT'S NEW?

Study the scarcity

Courses on Water Science and Policy will create professionals who can identify solutions

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTOS

- Shiv Nadar University is offering a master's, postgraduate diploma, and certificate courses in Water Science and Policy.
- The course addresses the need for rigorous, creative, multidisciplinary and practice-based training in water education in India.
- Students get to work with leading NGOs and are taught by experts from those NGOs.

DEEKSHA TERI

Water scarcity is a problem that has been around for a few years now, and the situation is only getting worse with every passing day. States such as Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Kerala have been facing the worst scenario this year, with not enough water to even drink.

It is in times of such crisis that one realises the dearth of knowledge and skills to handle it. To address this issue, Shiv Nadar University (SNU), Uttar Pradesh, is offering a unique master's, postgraduate diploma, and certificate courses in Water Science and Policy.

The programme is a high-level response to the urgent need for rigorous, creative, multidisciplinary and practice-based training in water education in India. It seeks to address the critical gap of qualified professionals needed on ground to manage the significant challenges of reforming India's water sector.

"The programme is a teaching and research programme. It is no silver bullet to the current water crisis, but over time it will build a cadre of professionals with the required credentials. These credentials will give them the understanding of how we got into the current water crisis, and how we can get out of it," says Rajeswari S. Raina, Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences at SNU.

The programme...is no silver bullet to the current water crisis, but over time it will build a cadre of professionals with the required credentials.

Right mix

The course is a mix of on-site experience and theoretical knowledge which helps in creating future policy-makers. Currently, our policy makers use data on water table to understand how much groundwater is available and how its availability can be improved. "Our students see that it is not just the water table but the typology of (rock formation) the aquifer that is to be studied. As future policy-makers, these insights are crucial. With climate change upon us, we cannot afford to repeat past mistakes," adds Prof. Raina.

The students spend an entire semester in the field – covering four chosen modules from a total of five that include Watershed Management, Sustainable Groundwater Management, Participatory Irrigation Management, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Along with it being a practical semester, it is also a test of how well the students have mastered the basic concepts taught in the first and second semester. They also work with leading NGOs and are taught by the adjunct faculty (experts from NGOs), which helps them keep their theoretical and conceptual tools sharp.

"Our first batch has produced excellent research projects. One of them is a study on drought and the ecosophy approach to understanding the state and its response to drought," shares Rajeswari S. Raina.

"As part of their fieldwork, our students have participated in the CANALPY programme – cleaning the canals in Alleppy, studying the biotic life in Surajpur wetlands in Uttar Pradesh, with assignments for the decentralised septage management study sponsored by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), and much more."

For students to apply to the M.Sc programme, and the PG Diploma programme, the minimum qualification required is a B.Sc/ BA /B.Tech. or an equivalent undergraduate degree. More information is available on university's website.

https://cpact.snu.edu.in/graduate/masters/certificate-in-water-science-policy

POSTCARD FROM...BELFAST

All the campus is a stage...

...Discovered Shraddha, during her three years at Queen's University, where she had the experience of a lifetime

I was always sure that I would travel when I was going to university but I just didn't know where. I had the U.K. in mind, and then I heard Ashish, Regional Manager for Queen's University in South Asia, talk at my school about Queen's University in Belfast. I wanted to study film and as a massive fan of "Game of Thrones", I knew this was a place I needed to find out more about. So, I contacted Ashish and met him to explore more about Queen's University as my possible new study destination.

The more I found out about Queen's, the more I veered towards the possibility of studying and living in Belfast.

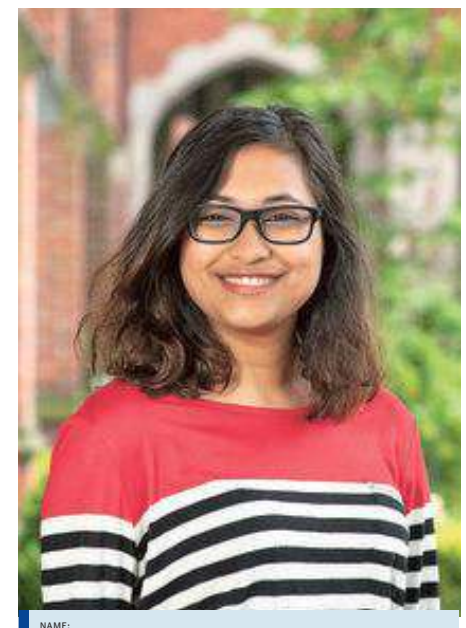
Peer member

I arrived in Belfast in the summer of 2016 to pursue a B.A. in Drama. Everything was so accessible and my university accommodation was close to the main campus, which has a rich heritage, state-of-the-art facilities and is ranked in the top 10 most beautiful universities in the U.K.

During my three years at Queen's, I was a peer mentor and ambassador for drama, leading the way for other students and often giving talks during Open Days.

I was successful in securing a placement at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast as a stage manager, and this gave me opportunities to work on an international stage with shows including "Good Vibrations" and "Huckleberry Finn".

This role opened up the world of stage theatre and working in the real environment of putting a show on stage, from rehearsals to setting up for the main performance. This was an environment I thrived in, and it led on to me working with Queen's Drama Society and at the All Ireland Drama Festival.



NAME: **Shraddha Parchani**
COLLEGE: **Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland**
COURSE: **B.A. Drama**

Starry-eyed

As a huge fan of Game of Thrones I was delighted to be living in the city where it was all being filmed and produced and studying in the same field. This also opened doors to meet the crew, and on a few opportunities catch a glimpse of the actors.

I have been a part of the famous "Game of Thrones" tour, and another highlight of living in Belfast was visiting the Titanic Quarter and exploring the museum where the infamous ship was built. It is a thriving and exciting city to live and study in. I have also made some life-long friendships. I will be returning to India this summer to work and I hope to fulfil my passion for travelling in the near future.

Shraddha Parchani has completed her undergraduate degree in BA Drama from Queen's University Belfast, Ireland.

ETIQUETTE

Be a smart globetrotter

Travelling is more than just packing your bags and heading out; be respectful to the rules and cultures of the places you visit

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTOS

GEETA PADMANABHAN

A student's essay on international relations had this telling paragraph: "In a US convenience store, I paid for my shopping and left the empty basket near the check-out counter. Without a word, the man behind me picked it up and put it in the stacking rack. I should have done that. I felt ashamed." He must have felt relieved as well. He escaped getting a public lecture on "being considerate."

Been there, felt that? We litter, "cut" our way into queues, push and shove while boarding trains, speak loudly while everyone else is silent. We play music, watch movies on the mobile in quiet trains. And indulge in this unpardonable act – scratch our message on monuments. We seem to believe that breaking the law and getting away with it is "macho", it is occasion to feel like a hero. Apologising when caught is a cowardly act. Instead we say, "Oh, I'm in a hurry", "Are you catching everyone?", "I am new to this place, why pick on me?"

While wilful acts that border on the "boorish" are bad enough in our own streets, they are infinitely worse when exhibited abroad. We forget we operate under a different set of rules, we are in countries where civic rules are followed by all and unruly acts are severely punished. In some countries flinging a beer can in the street invites steep fines or time in lock-up, riding a mobike on the footpath is just not done. Breaking the law and getting punished is one thing. Much more is lost in terms of our nation's reputation and honour. It is hard to fix that damage.

Will we resist the temptation to chuck trash around, carve our love stories on protected surfaces, stop to let animals cross in forested areas?

Being mindful

Rotarian B Sridhar, who is compiling stories of his travels across the world, wonders if our young travellers need a crash course in "travel behaviour." "Why do our intelligent, tech-savvy, smart kids turn boorish while away travelling?" he asks. "Will someone tell them they are India's ambassadors abroad?"

He lists specific instances that left him appalled. "Once, Indian youngsters on our coach tour occupied the back seat and began to drink. I wondered how they would manage the tight sight-seeing schedule, and one of them began to throw up. Quite embarrassing." He wishes youngsters would not take off on their own while on a scheduled tour. "At one point, we had to backtrack to pick up people who had gone hang-gliding off schedule."

College student Naren Pradhan, who grew up in California, would like Indian schools/colleges to include travel etiquette in the curriculum. "Lessons should include 'Don't litter, play music at reasonable decibel levels, speak softly and put back shopping items you pull out and don't buy. And don't throw trash into a marsh.' This is a serious violation in California."

Young people are travelling more than ever before. Their social media pictures show them in places once considered "remote." Many of these places like the ones in the North-East look pristine, but will they remain so? Will we resist the temptation to chuck trash around, carve our love stories on protected surfaces, stop to let animals cross in forested areas? And definitely not enter areas barred for human entry?

Here are some do's and dont's of travel:

1. **Learn as much as you can about the place you're visiting.** In Vatican you are expected to cover your knees and shoulders. Always tip the tour bus driver.
2. **You are a visitor!** Do not disturb the locals. Don't expect them to make space for you on the train/tram/bus. Be courteous when you ask for information.
3. **Follow rules.** Read the sign-boards carefully. "No swimming?" Don't.
4. **Learn a few words/ phrases of the local language.** Instead of nodding vaguely, use native words for "yes", "no", "thank you", "good-bye." Find out the right way to greet. Is shaking hands okay?
5. **Watch out for where you can take selfies.** Selfie etiquette dictates that you should be mindful of whom you include. Find out if using a selfie stick is okay in places like museums and churches.
6. **Mind your manners in restaurants.** Order carefully and don't leave a mess. Find the rules of tipping. Take advice from the tour guide.
7. **Dress appropriately.** Avoid offending local dress sensibilities. Ask: Are flip-flops ok in a place of worship?
8. **Stand in queues, always.** Walk through the queue corridors marked, don't jump across the ropes.
9. **Bargain only where it is allowed.** Buy what you can afford, to help local economy. Don't launch a haggling match.
10. **Be polite.** Made a mistake? Apologise!

ADMISSIONS

Bachelors, Masters and Diploma Programmes in Fashion Design

INSTITUTION: International School of Design, New Delhi
ELIGIBILITY: Class 10 pass for diploma, 10+2 for bachelors and diploma and graduates for masters degree or diploma (any stream).
DEADLINE: July 31

http://www.insd.edu.in/apply-online.html

MA Landscape Architecture

INSTITUTION: University of Sheffield, the U.K.
DURATION: 2 years
ELIGIBILITY: Undergraduate honours degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject. Overall IELTS grade of 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in each component, or equivalent.
FEE: £21,100 for overseas student for 2019
DEADLINE: Prospective students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible prior to the commencement of the course in September.

https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/landscape/mastudents/masterla or contact - landscape-admissions@sheffield.ac.uk

OFFBEAT... SCIENCE

Forging a niche path

This week we look at some offbeat courses that try to fill the gap in STEM

■ ARCHANA SUBRAMANIAN

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Sustainable career: In solid waste management

While we are familiar with the core and regular subjects and specialisations in Science, there are a number of niche and off beat courses introduced by colleges across the country that we may not be aware of. Here is a look at a few such courses...

Environmental studies

The Municipal solid waste management is one of the major challenges that cities in developing countries are facing. Bengaluru, for instance, generates around 4,500 tonnes of waste per day. Out of this, only 550 tonnes is processed in a day, as per a report in *The Hindu*. Sustainable ways to process waste is the need of the hour, and for those interested in the subject, Bangalore University's **M.Sc in Solid Waste Management** would be the right choice. It is a master's degree programme covering environmental science, zoology, botany, chemistry, agriculture, horticulture, and forestry. Students who have a BE in Environmental Engineering can also apply. A minimum of 50% marks in undergraduation is required to be eligible. Students will get to study the chemistry of the environment which will be the basis of the course. They will also learn how waste is generated, it's different categories and characteristics, and how it can be processed. After graduating, one can work with the local bodies of the state government, allied governmental agencies and NGOs, or as a consultant to public and private enterprises.

Learn more: http://bangaloreuniversity.ac.in/

The United Nations General Assembly drew up a set of 17 goals that need to be achieved by the year 2030. These goals are called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of the SDGs is Clean Water and Sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

This is a high priority for the Indian government too, especially with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Mission. Capacity building in this area is an important task and the International Water Association (IWA), an association of water professionals around the world, has predicted the requirement of professional capacity in this regard.

The **ME programme in Sanitation Science, Technology and Management**, offered by the Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences, Pilani, is a step in this regard. Students can apply on the basis of marks obtained in the BITS HD admission test or based on GATE / GPAT score.

For details: https://www.bits-pilani.ac.in/

Aviation expertise

With the aviation sector's prospects taking off, more jobs have been created, thus creating a demand for skilled personnel. SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, has introduced a **B.Sc. honours programme in Aircraft Management**. Students who have completed 10+2 with physics, chemistry, and math as their core subjects or have a diploma in engineering, having a minimum aggregate of 50% in physics, chemistry, and math can apply for this course.

Jobs are aplenty in the airlines and Indian Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) industry. Job portfolios include aviation maintenance manager, aviation maintenance technician, QC inspector, and aviation sheet metal mechanic besides many others related to the operations of planes and other airborne vehicles.

Jobs are aplenty in the airlines and Indian Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) industry.

For details: http://www.srmuniv.ac.in/

Optical science

Our eyes are bearing the brunt of the rise in popularity of devices like smartphones and tablets. This calls for better equipments to deal with improving vision and maintaining the health of our eyes.

NSHM Knowledge Campus, Kolkata which is affiliated to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (formerly known as West Bengal University of Technology) is offering a **Bachelor's degree programme in Optometry**. Students will get to learn in detail the basic sciences like ocular anatomy, physiology, optics, and biochemistry. The second and third year consists of clinical sciences and pre-clinical labs such as visual optics, binocular vision, instrumentation, ocular diseases, clinical refraction, low vision, contact lenses, with an integrated internship during the final year. On completion of the course, one can choose to become a clinical optometrist in government and private hospitals, or set up their own practice. There are also options to become a lecturer / professor, research assistant, research associate and research coordinator.

For details: http://www.nshm.com/

Tech specialisation

Actuarial science is the discipline that combines mathematical and statistical methods to assess risk in insurance, finance and other industries. Actuaries are professionals trained in this discipline. Students can study this course in order to pursue a career in finance, insurance, technology and data analytics sector. Mumbai University is offering **B.Sc. Actuarial and Data Science**.

For details: http://www.mu.ac.in/

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belgaum, is set to introduce a course – **B.Tech in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)**, from this academic year. The move comes in the wake of increased demand for AI and ML related skills in the job market and a vacuum in finding the right course in state universities. As of now, only premium institutes like the IITs and IIITs along with a few regional universities offer an exclusive course on the subject. The opportunities after pursuing this course include jobs as a software analyst and developer, computer scientist, and algorithm specialist.

For details: http://vtu.ac.in/en/

With inputs from Liffy Thomas (Bangalore); Saradha Udayakumar, Kritika Rathore (Kolkata)

TECHNOLOGY

Time management tomatoes

Segment your time effectively to be productive

■ RADHA VARADARAJAN

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Life hacks – they are like flash cards for the test of life. Sometimes, figuring out life feels like knowing enough and varied life hacks to deal with different situations. One such hack is the Pomodoro Technique. The time management technique was developed by Francesco Cirillo, way back in the 1980s. Cirillo had a timer on his kitchen counter, in the shape of a pomodoro (a variety of Italian tomato), which served as an inspiration to for the name of the technique.

A seemingly mammoth and impossible task may seem simpler if it is broken down into small segments. If you go further and bind each segment of work to be completed in a certain time, the task becomes even simpler, and its magnitude may not weigh you down. This is where the magic of Pomodoro comes to play.

Interval-based

The technique is simple. In a given half hour, you do productive work for 25 minutes, take a break for five minutes, and repeat the same all over again. This way, instead of doing a particular task for 100 minutes, you do it for four pomodoros (100 minutes of work and 20 minutes of break). This proved to boost productivity considerably and improve concentration.

Shreya, a student preparing for the UPSC exam said, "Pomodoro helps me measure how distracted I am because I get to see how little or how much work I am able to accomplish, in one pomodoro. It helps me compartmentalise my tasks and keep my anxiety at bay."

"The technique can help you crank through projects faster by forcing you to adhere to strict timing. The constant timing of your activities makes you more accountable for your tasks and minimises the time you spend procrastinating," said Akansha*, a HR manager.

Famous psychologist Dr. Marty Lobdell explains in his YouTube video that a three to five minutes break is necessary and considered ideal, as it gives your eyes and mind some rest, but avoid stopping for so long that you lose track of what you are doing. Suitable break activities could include going for a short walk, getting yourself a drink, doing some light stretching, or playing a tune on a musical instrument.

This technique especially caters to the millennial (and zillennial) trend of being obsessed with productivity. The time division does not have to be 25 and five minutes. It can also be 45 and 15 minutes, or 60 and 20 minutes. Determining the time division is a personal decision. Some people can work undisturbed for a longer period than others. It also depends on practice. One doesn't do intensive workout at the very beginning. Just as exercise is physical training, Pomodoro is mental priming.

Despite its many glories, the technique does not accommodate multitasking. "Multitasking is a wasteful way to work. Instead, you will achieve more if you choose one activity at a time," Dr. Lobdell can be quoted saying, in his popular YouTube video 'Study Less, Study Smart.' He, along with popular YouTuber Thomas Frank promote the usage of the Pomodoro Technique to become a more effective student.

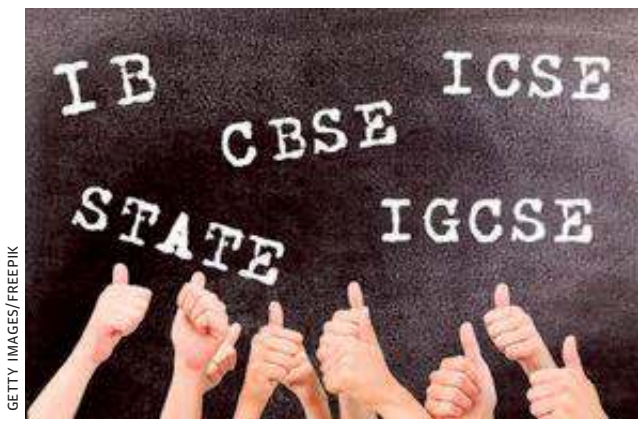
**- Name has been changed to protect privacy*

TREND

Aspiring for global recognition

Why do parents want their wards to prepare for International Boards?

■ NEHA RUPEJA



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A growing preference for international boards in India has been pointed out by the Regional Director of South Asia, Cambridge International, Ruchira Ghosh. This has come to notice that more than 45,000 admissions were made to the Cambridge IGCSE board in the March 2019 series, which indicated a 17% growth over last year's admissions.

International boards familiarise students with a multicultural environment, and an option to choose courses from varied disciplines which imbibe the required qualification suited for globalised work environment. According to Hillary Hinchliff, Principal, GEMS Modern Academy, Kochi, "Many parents choose international boards as they aspire for a global career for their children". With the rise in opportunities to study and work abroad, international recognition is highly valued.

"When it comes to IGCSE in the country, students are offered the advantage of flexibility and choice. They are not bound to study subjects under compulsion and can choose their focus according to their true inclination, right up to class XII. Moreover, they can also choose the level of difficulty of the courses," says Ruchira. An additional advantage is that the examinations are conducted in time for students to appear for admissions in foreign universities.

Employability and skills

International boards prepare students for employment as they focus on developing skills and attributes along with knowledge.

"In many international boards, skill-oriented subjects such as marine science, travel and tourism, enterprise, fashion designing, journalistic writing and translation studies have been included. However, they are not exclusively categorised as vocational courses," says Ruchira.

Emphasising the urgency for a skill-orient curriculum, Lina Ashar, Founder of Billabong High International School says, "Due to the fourth industrial revolution, technology has disrupted the job landscape, but our education system has remained under-invested and is fundamentally inadequate for the future, which needs to change."

The Indian boards need to be at par with the international boards to help students gain a worldwide currency. "To merge the gap, Indian boards need to shift the focus of pedagogy from teacher-centric model of instruction to a learner-led teaching method. They must provide the opportunity for students to choose from a broader range of subjects and study them in-depth," adds Hillary.

According to Renita Handa, Founder and Director-Academics, Redbricks Education Foundation, Ahmedabad, the current approach is focused on a proclivity towards fetching marks where students lose out on important cognitive and application skills. Assessment pattern needs to be modified for students to be able to apply their high order thinking skills.

IN BRIEF

Smart India Hackathon

Seven teams from Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar (SSN) institutions were declared winners at Smart India Hackathon, 2019 hardware edition. The winners were selected from over a thousand teams and more than one lakh students participated from across the country. This was the second time that the public and private sector companies became a part of this event.

Convocation of IITDM

Around 280 students, including 13 PhD students, recently graduated from IITDM Kancheepuram. This was the university's seventh convocation ceremony. A total of 31 medals were presented to students under various categories for their outstanding performances. The chief guest of the occasion was Dr. Koppillil Radhakrishnan, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur, and Former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation.

Graduation ceremony

UpGrad and International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) marked their third graduation ceremony recently with 864 data science graduates. This also marks the first graduation ceremony for 189 machine learning and AI graduates, along with 44 software development graduates. Rishikesha Krishnan, Professor, IIM Bangalore, ex-Director IIM-Indore was the chief guest.

Socially synchronised

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) based start-up Quaff Media Pvt. Ltd. recently launched a new social media management app called "My Social Handle". This app allows users to connect with various social media accounts with one unique ID. It helps the users to create their customised digital card and share with anyone following some steps. This app allows users to synchronize their accounts with one username, and on meeting someone new, they can simply share their social handle username and give access to multiple accounts.