

**CHANDRAYAAN-2**  
launched from Sriharikota

**48-DAY JOURNEY**  
begins, landing September 7

**PRESIDENT, PM**  
lead nation in hailing ISRO

# Off to the moon

Destination is lunar south pole, ISRO says it's just the beginning

**AMITABH SINHA**  
SRIHARIKOTA, JULY 22

CARRYING "A billion dreams" in India's quest to land its first spacecraft on the moon, Chandrayaan-2, riding the powerful GSLV Mk-III rocket, was successfully launched at 2.43 pm Monday from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.

It was a textbook launch and initial anxiety evaporated 16 minutes 23 seconds later when scientists at mission control broke into applause, signalling that Chandrayaan-2 was now on its own. It had been deposited in an earth orbit by the 640-tonne GSLV Mk-III which, after burning its successive stages, had separated itself completely from the spacecraft. The orbit at its nearest was 170 km from earth, and 39,120 km at the furthest.

The mission will see the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover modules of the spacecraft make a soft-landing near the unexplored south pole of the lunar surface 48 days from now — on September 7. Both will be "alive" there for 14 days, during which they will carry out various experiments and collect data.

The mission also has an orbiter module that will go around the moon for the next one year in an orbit of 100 km from the lunar surface. During this time, instruments on board the orbiter will study the moon's surface, its atmosphere, prepare three-dimensional maps, and also search for further evidence of water, including the possibility of ice trapped in the south pole craters.

The launch Monday went off without any hitch, a week after it was aborted 56 minutes before liftoff due to a technical snag. Chandrayaan-2 will spend the next 23 days circling around the earth, incrementally raising its orbit, before embarking on a seven-day journey to enter an orbit around the moon.

The celebration in mission control was held back till the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



The GSLV Mk III carrying Chandrayaan-2 lifts off from Sriharikota, Monday. ISRO

RELATED REPORT, PAGE 10

**IMRAN ASKS HIM TO PUSH FOR INDIA TALKS**

## Delhi denies Trump claim PM asked him to mediate on Kashmir

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

IN REMARKS that angered New Delhi and were quickly denied, US President Donald Trump Monday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked him to play the role of a mediator on Kashmir, and "if I can help, I would love to be the mediator" between India and Pakistan.

Trump made the remarks in the presence of visiting Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan at the White House ahead of their bilateral meeting. Within an hour, the Ministry of External Affairs contradicted the US President's remarks saying "no such request has been made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

"We have seen @POTUS's remarks to the press that he is



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, US President Donald Trump in Washington on Monday. Reuters

REPORT, PAGE 16

ready to mediate, if requested by India & Pakistan, on Kashmir issue. No such request has been made by PM @narendramodi to US President. It has been India's consistent position that all outstanding issues with Pakistan are

discussed only bilaterally. Any engagement with Pakistan would require an end to cross border terrorism. The Shimla Agreement & the Lahore Declaration provide the basis to

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

## Karnataka: Trust vote spills over again, new deadline 6 pm today

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE FUTURE of the JD(S)-Congress coalition government in Karnataka continued to hang in the balance with a trust vote sought by Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy not reaching its culmination despite over 10 hours of debate in the Assembly Monday.

Nearing midnight, with the stalemate still in place, Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar adjourned the House till 10 am Tuesday, with a deadline of 6 pm to complete the floor test.

While the Opposition BJP has 105 MLAs in the House and the support of two Independents, the ruling coalition has 101 MLAs on its side on paper. On Monday,



H D Kumaraswamy in the House on Monday. PTI

however, as many as 20 coalition MLAs were absent from the House, suggesting that their numbers could be down to 98.

In Delhi, meanwhile, the Supreme Court decided to take up Tuesday a plea by the two Independents seeking a direction to "forthwith" hold the floor test. The two MLAs, R Shankar and H Nagesh, had earlier

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

## 2 electrocuted in Delhi rain, one died trying to save other

**JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

AFTER HAVING lunch at his Chhatarpur home, Saleem Saifi (29) left for a quick carpentry job around 2:30 pm Sunday. The only earning member, he was to return home by 7 pm, his wife Ruksana (26) said. Around 5 pm, she received a call that Saifi, a father of three, including an eight-month-old boy, was dead in the middle of a street in Fatehpur Beri, electrocuted when an overhead wire fell on him on a waterlogged road.

Around the same time, the phone rang at the home of Sandeep Rawat (22). His father, Hoshier Singh (54), was dead — trying to save Saifi. Employed at a timber factory, Singh was

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY  
For half the cost, we reach the moon.



### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

### NEW MOON, NEW CHALLENGE

By AJEY LELE  
PAGE 14

## 15 complex manoeuvres before critical descent on September 7

**AMITABH SINHA**  
SRIHARIKOTA, JULY 22

THE CHANDRAYAAN-2 mission has to clear several complicated procedures before starting its work. ISRO chairman K Sivan said the spacecraft has to undergo at least 15 complex manoeuvres over the next one-and-a-half months before the final, and most critical of all — the landing of the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover on the lunar surface on September 7.

Most manoeuvres will be performed in the first 25 days when the spacecraft will incre-



A TV grab of Team ISRO at mission control on Monday. PTI

mentally raise its orbit around the earth, and gain strength for the journey to the moon. These are the crucial phases

of the mission: **JULY 22 TO AUGUST 13:** On Monday, Chandrayaan-2 was in

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### EXPLAINED For signs of water

THE SEARCH for water on the moon is one of the main objectives of Chandrayaan-2. At least three of 14 instruments on board will look for additional evidence and signs of water. Two camera-based instruments and one synthetic aperture radar will prepare different kinds of high-resolution lunar maps. At least four instruments will study the composition of the lunar surface, and try to detect the different minerals and elements present there.

## New offshore records reveal several Indian firms tapped Mauritius route to save on taxes

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**RITU SARIN, P VAIDYANATHAN IYER, JAY MAZOOMDAR & SANDEEP SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

AFTER SWISS Leaks, Panama Papers and Paradise Papers, come documents from Mauritius — over 200,000 emails, contracts and bank statements that show how the island

nation was used by a long list of corporates to facilitate their partnerships with multinationals and, without paying any capital gains tax, remit profits as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to India.

At the heart of the 18-country collaborative investigation by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and The Indian Express is data from Conyers Dill & Pearman, an offshore specialist firm which started operations way back in 1928 from Bahamas and in 2009 from Mauritius to cater to investments being routed to



Africa and Asia. The Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) was signed between India and

Mauritius in 1982. Under this, any entity could apply for tax residency and pay zero capital gains tax. This became the principal reason why Mauritius emerged as a top channel for investments being routed into India. However, after 33 years in which there were several allegations of round-tripping and treaty abuse, Indian tax authorities amended the DTAA on May 10, 2016 and, for one, imposed capital gains tax, in a phased manner for two years, and fully applicable from April 2019 on. That changed the game for

companies like Conyers. Also, companies shifted their plans to invest via Mauritius and it lost its supremacy for being the country which brought in the highest FDI inflows. The figures reflected the shift and in the year 2018-2019, there was a 44% fall in FDI inflows into India from Mauritius in comparison to the previous year.

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**RELIGARE MOVED FUNDS TO OFFSHORE FIRM** PAGE 17

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CHANDRAYAAN-2 IN EARTH ORBIT, NOW ALL EYES ON SEPT 7 MOON LANDING

The Chandrayaan-2 mission lifted off from the Sriharikota launch range at its appointed time of 2.43 pm. The mission would see the lander and rover modules of the spacecraft make a soft-landing on the moon's surface 48 days from now, on September 7

VIDEO OF THE DAY



PAK PM IMRAN KHAN IN AMERICA

In USA, Imran Khan was greeted by Pak-Americans

FULL COVERAGE



CHANDRAYAAN 2 LAUNCH

The lander and rover will land on the moon on September 7

EXPRESS AUDIO

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'SIMI MEETING'  
SC notice on NIA plea challenging acquittal of 5 accused

ANANTHAKRISHNAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE SUPREME Court on Monday issued notice on a plea by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) challenging the acquittal of five men accused of organising a meeting of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) in Kerala's Panayikkulam in August 2006.

meeting "was convened by the accused with intent to cause disaffection towards Government of India, to conduct Jihad for cession of Kashmir from India and to bring back Muslim rule in India". They were charged with and other offences under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

Acquitting them, the HC disagreed with the agency's charge that their speech amounted to sedition.

After citing case laws on the matter and discussing the charges, the HC ruled that "taking into consideration all these facts and principles evolved in appreciating a case under Section 124A, we do not think that the statements aforesaid even if read as a whole was intended to create any hatred or contempt or disaffection towards the Government of India. Nothing has been stated against the Government of India. Of course, it is stated that certain laws like TADA and NSA are oppressive and Muslims are tortured. It is also stated that the persons who are doing Jihad in Kashmir are gunned down by Indian military and all persons have to fight against the same. It might be true that it may trench upon making a malicious speech. But in so far as the speech does not create any hatred or contempt or Government of India, nor does it excite any disaffection, the provisions u/s 124A cannot be invoked."

The prosecuting agency had relied on the testimony of the Imam of Panayikkulam Salafi Masjid to press its charges. The Imam, who became an approver, had allegedly attended the meeting at the invitation of one of the accused.

The accused, claimed the probe agency, brought pamphlets containing anti-national, seditious and inflammatory writings with intent to bring hatred and contempt against the Government of India. Two of the accused "addressed the audience and advocated for cession of Kashmir through Jihad and for bringing back Muslim rule in India". The books and pamphlets brought by accused 1 to 5 were publications of SIMI, the prosecution alleged, adding that the

FROM PAGE ONE  
15 complex manoeuvres

an orbit which, at its nearest, was 170 km from earth, and, at its furthest, 39,120 km. It will undergo at least five orbit raising manoeuvres over the next 20 days.

**AUGUST 13:** Leaves earth orbit, and begins its seven-day journey to the lunar orbit.

**AUGUST 20:** Enters lunar orbit. Starts circling the moon at a distance of 100 km.

**SEPTEMBER 2:** Vikram and Pragyan will separate from the orbiter, lower themselves in an orbit closer to the moon and continue to go around it.

**SEPTEMBER 7:** The final descent to the lunar surface. This should take 10-20 minutes, depending on how soon Vikram is able to find a suitable landing place. It has cameras on board to guide it, and avoid landing in a crater. The same day, Pragyan will emerge from Vikram and start roaming the lunar surface at an extremely slow pace of 1 cm per second.

**VIKRAM AND PRAGYAN** will be operational for 14 days. The orbiter will have a life of one year.

2 electrocuted in Delhi

returning home at the time. Unknown to each other, the two families were joined in grief outside the AIIMS Trauma Centre mortuary as the post-mortems were held the next day.

According to police, Saifi was riding his motorbike when the wire fell on his head. Police said Singh, who was passing by, saw that Saifi was in trouble and tried to help him, but got electrocuted himself. Both men died at the spot on the waterlogged road.

Saifi, who hailed from Uttar Pradesh's Amroha, had moved to Delhi five years ago. He lived with his wife and three children, Fyna (4), Rita (2) and eight-month-old Sahil. "He is the eldest of us four brothers and always provided for the family. Our mother lives in Amroha and Saifi would often send her money," said Bhure, Saifi's younger brother who lives near his home.

Sitting outside the mortuary, Ruksana said: "We received a call from police and rushed to the spot. Saifi was lying dead in a puddle. Police had put barricades and only after an hour, when officials disconnected power from the line, were the bodies taken to the hospital."

Singh, a resident of Badarpur, worked in a factory in Jonapur and is survived by his wife and three children, Rahul (19), Sandeep (22) and Mamta (28). He, too, was the only earning member in his family.

Mamta's husband Manish Narang, who stays with her in Rishikesh, said: "He usually left for work early in the morning and would return around 6 pm. We received a call in the evening about an accident. When we reached Delhi on Monday, police told us he had died trying to save a man's life. He worked really hard for his family."

According to police, a case has been registered against unknown persons under IPC sections 304A (causing death by negligence) and 287 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery).

"We received a call at 4:40 pm about an accident near Bagwani Nursery. We rushed to the spot and saw two men lying on the road. A bike was lying in a puddle

India's mission to moon

final separation of the spacecraft and the rocket. "Today is a historic day for space and science and technology in India. I am extremely happy to announce that that GSLV Mk-III has successfully injected Chandrayaan-2 in desired orbit," ISRO chairman K Sivan said minutes later.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter to congratulate ISRO: "The launch of #Chandrayaan2 illustrates the prowess of our scientists and the determination of 130 crore Indians to scale new frontiers of science. Every Indian is immensely proud today!... Our existing knowledge of the Moon will be significantly enhanced."

President Ram Nath Kovind, who was supposed to witness the original launch on July 15, also congratulated the team. "The historic launch of #Chandrayaan2 from Sriharikota is a proud moment for all Indians. Congratulations to our scientists and engineers for furthering India's indigenous space programme May @ISRO continue to master new

technologies, and continue to conquer new frontiers," he said in a message posted on Twitter.

While the Chandrayaan-2 mission still has a long way to go, scientists had the satisfaction of seeing the GSLV Mk-III rocket, ISRO's launch vehicle for the future, complete its job successfully on its maiden operational flight.

The GSLV Mk-III, which has an interesting history of how technology denial impeded India's progress in space, has taken ISRO decades to build. Meant to carry heavy spacecraft, in the range of 4000 to 6000 kg, deeper into space, GSLV Mk-III had earlier completed an experimental flight and two development flights. Chandrayaan-2 is its most important mission so far.

"The launch vehicle was also special for this mission. In this mission, the performance of GSLV Mk-III has been increased by 15 per cent compared to earlier missions," Sivan said.

"Actually, it is just the beginning of India's historic journey towards the moon, and to

land at a place near the south pole (of the moon) to carry out scientific experiments to explore the unexplored," he said. Sivan congratulated the mission team for recovering quickly from last week's setback and applying corrective action in quick time.

"ISRO has bounced back with flying colours. Immediately after the technical snag was observed (on July 15), we pulled it (the mission) back, and the entire Team ISRO swung into action. The work done in the next 24 hours at this centre (Satish Dhawan Space Centre) was mind boggling. The launch vehicle was quickly brought back to normal. Everything happened in just 24 hours. In the next one and half days, the required tests were conducted to ensure that the corrections made were proper, the right corrections... and we confirmed that. The mammoth task was accomplished due to very hard work put in by Team ISRO," he said.

Chandrayaan-2 is attempting to become the first spacecraft to land near the lunar

south pole. All 28 previous landings on the moon, including human landings, have happened in and around the equatorial region. Recent studies, however, point to a greater science potential in exploring the polar regions of the moon. This region is supposed to be filled with small and large craters, ranging from a few centimetres in size to those extending to several thousands of kilometres (these craters make it extremely hazardous for a spacecraft to land here). This region is also extremely cold, with temperatures in the range of minus 200 degree Celsius.

Unlike the earth, the moon does not have a tilt around its axis. It is almost erect, because of which some areas in the polar region never receive sunlight. Anything here remains frozen, almost for eternity. Scientists believe that rocks found in these craters could have fossil records that can reveal information about the early solar system. In addition, there is also evidence of large amounts of ice trapped in the craters of this region.

other. He also referred to the Congress approaching the top court during the formation of the state government last year and securing an order to hold the floor test in 24 hours.

The Governor's direction to seek a trust vote had been ignored, he said. The Governor had also mentioned that he had received information of horse-trading, the plea said.

Trump on Kashmir

resolve all issues between India & Pakistan bilaterally," Raveesh Kumar, spokesperson for the MEA, tweeted.

The statement by the US President is likely to create a diplomatic and political firestorm given that Parliament is in session. Prime Minister Modi is also likely to travel to the US in September.

At the White House, Imran Khan, responding to a question on Kashmir, said he will be asking Trump's support to push for dialogue with India.

"He is... It is the most powerful country in the world, the United States. It can play the most important role in bringing peace in the subcontinent. There are over a billion and a quarter people in the subcontinent. They are held hostage to the issue of Kashmir. And I feel the most powerful state, headed by President Trump, can bring the two countries together. From my point, I can tell you — we have tried our best. We made all overtures to India to start dialogue, resolve our differences through dialogue. But, unfortunately, we haven't made headway as yet. But, I am hoping that President Trump can push this process," he said.

Trump then said: "I was with Prime Minister Modi two weeks ago. We talked about this subject, and he actually said would you like to be a mediator or arbitrator? I said: Where? He said: Kashmir. Because this has been going on for many many years. I was surprised at how long it has been going on."

At this point, Khan said, "70 years".

Trump continued: "I think they would like to see it resolved. I think you would like to see it resolved. And if I can help, I would love to be a mediator."

"It's impossible that two incredible countries that are very very smart, with very smart leadership can't solve a problem like that. But if you want me to mediate or arbitrate, I would be willing to do it," he said.

Khan then said, "President, I can tell you that right now you will have prayers of over a billion people if you can mediate and resolve this issue."

Trump responded, "It should be resolved. He asked me the same thing. So, I think there is something. So, maybe we will speak to him, or I will speak to him and we will see if we can do something... because I have heard so much about Kashmir. Such a beautiful name. It's supposed to be such a beautiful part of the world. But right now, there are just bombs all over the place. Everywhere you go, you have bombs and it's a terrible situation and has been going on for many years. If I can do anything to help, let me know."

This is the first time Trump has claimed that Modi asked him to mediate on Kashmir. The two leaders met in Osaka on the sidelines of the G-20 summit on June 27.

How Indian firms tapped Mauritius route

Beginning today, *The Indian Express* investigation will bring details of how the Mauritius route was used by corporates. These include:

■ Records of Conyers read with those of Paradise Papers show how Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL), a listed company in India, routed funds into a Jersey firm owned by Malvinder Singh and Shivinder Singh. Details confirm how the Singh brothers and companies promoted by them were incorporated in tax havens and raised funds, invested in Indian entities and routed these.

■ Conyers was legal facilitator between Pune-based real estate company, Kolte Patil Developers Limited (KPDL) and Portman Holdings LLC, a US-based real estate investment company for the construction of several residential

projects in India. There are details of the India Real Estate Fund of \$200 million being announced in 2010-2011 in which the two companies collectively invested \$20 million.

■ Records show dealings between a commodity trading giant and Jindal Steel and Power Ltd over ownership of four bulk carrier vessels through a Mauritian company Pancore. In May 2012, this company placed orders with Chinese builders for four bulk carriers for \$108 million.

■ Conyers was special legal counsel for iYogi Ltd, the Mauritius holding company of its India and US operations on its proposed NASDAQ listing in 2011, which didn't materialise. Eventually, a court ruling in 2018, almost shut down the company.

■ US-based Mayo Clinic

and its subsidiary, Mayo Foundation had in 2011 used the Mauritius route to enter into a partnership with Apollo Hospitals and GMR to set up a high-end hospital near Hyderabad airport. Mayo Clinic set up a company called Mayo Mauritius but the project eventually did not take off.

Responding to an ICJ questionnaire, Dharmendar Sesungkur, Mauritius Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance, said: "The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund as well as the OECD... are all unanimous to recognize that Mauritius is a cooperative and clean jurisdiction."

Senior officials from the Indian Ministry of Finance's FT&TR (Foreign tax & Tax Reform), however, spoke on the condition of anonymity to the ICJ and *The Indian Express*

and admitted that the post 1983 scenario (when the original DTAA with Mauritius was signed) certainly led to "treaty shopping."

A key Finance Ministry official said: "Due to this treaty shopping, no taxation took place. It was so significant that almost a third of FDI came through Mauritius. So there was quite a bit of concern raised in India. An effort was started in 1993 to revise the treaty. There was strong resistance from Mauritius. They were benefited in the sense that lots of support and infrastructure like accounting firms and firms that set up companies and get income from that. So Mauritius was not ready to renegotiate. Later, they agreed to join renegotiations but didn't agree to change it. In 2016, we convinced them."

Mumbai coastal road: BMC moves SC against cancellation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JULY 22

THE BRIHANMUMBAI Municipal Corporation (BMC) has moved the Supreme Court challenging the order of the Bombay High Court quashing the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearances granted for the southern part of the Rs 12,000-crore coastal road project. The apex court is likely to hear the petition Thursday.

Ruling on a clutch of petitions last Tuesday, a High Court bench of Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice N M Jamdar had underlined "a serious lacuna in the decision-making process" and "lack of proper scientific study".

The project had been given the go-ahead in 2017 by the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority

(MCZMA), Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF). The High Court said the BMC cannot proceed with the works without obtaining environmental clearance under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification.

In its 219-page judgment, the bench said, "It is obvious that a serious lacuna in the decision-making process has occurred. The lacuna is that neither MCZMA nor EIA nor MoEF took note of the fact that except for the environmental impact assessment study conducted by the consultants, all other reports themselves informed the recipient of the reports that they were not based on complete and exhaustive analysis of the data and material required to opine on the adverse environmental impact."

I held for 'beating up' Muslim man for not chanting Jai Shri Ram

**Kolkata:** One person has been arrested in Birbhum's Paikar area for allegedly beating up a 35-year-old Muslim man after he reportedly refused to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'.

Ismail Sheikh, who sells spices for a living, had lodged a complaint with police, alleging that he was beaten by one Gautam

Mondal at Kushmor village on Sunday when he went to sell spice there. "I had gone to Kushmor village to sell spices on Sunday when a man accosted me and asked me to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. When I refused to chant, he started beating me up," Sheikh told *The Indian Express*.  
ENS

Mainpuri: Man in police custody dies on way to hospital, kin allege torture

**Lucknow:** A 20-year-old man, who was sent to jail Saturday for allegedly selling illicit liquor, died while on way to the district hospital in Mainpuri Sunday. The au-

topsy report said "ante-mortem injuries" as the cause of death. The family members alleged he was tortured in police custody causing injuries, while the police claimed

the accused was sent to jail after medical examination.

However, an FIR on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder has been lodged

against sub-inspector (SI) Sohanpal Singh of Kisi police station and unidentified district jail staff. The SI was sent to police lines

Confirming that a judicial in-

quiry is taking place in the case, Mainpuri SP Ajay Shankar Rai said, "The man, identified as Vinay Kumar alias Chhotu, was arrested on Friday on charges selling of il-

licit liquor. He was brought to Kisi police station. The next day, he was sent to the district jail after being produced before a local court."  
ENS



## MODI GOVERNMENT 2014-19: SKOCH AWARD RECIPIENTS RETURNED WITH A MASSIVE MANDATE

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## JNU student files ragging complaint against senior

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A 19-YEAR-OLD JNU student has registered a complaint with Delhi Police and the anti-ragging squad (ARS) of JNU against one of his seniors for allegedly slapping him and asking him to do sit-ups in public.

The ARS has recorded the statements of both the complainant and his senior.

DCP (South West) Devender Arya said, "We received a PCR call and a complaint. We are inquiring and appropriate legal action will be taken as per the findings."

The complainant told *The Indian Express*, "I got admission on July 10 in BA German language and the incident took place on July 18 when I was in college. I came from Saraswathipuram gate and was near Narmada dormitory when I saw three students standing near a parked car. One of them, my senior, stopped me and asked for my 'introduction'. He then started making fun of my region."

He alleged he was mocked and abused, and when he resisted, his senior got aggressive.

"He started slapping me and asked me to do sit-ups. I was shocked and unable to understand what was happening. His

**The 19-year-old student has alleged the senior slapped him, forced him to do sit-ups in public, and made fun of his home state**

friends were laughing and he was abusing me," he alleged in his complaint.

He further alleged in the complaint, "He asked me to greet him whenever I saw him on college premises. He then again abused me and asked me to go. He also sat in his car and left. I then made a PCR call. I was taken to Vasant Kunj (North) police station where I gave my complaint."

The complainant then made a call to the anti-ragging helpline and filed a complaint with the ARS, vice-chancellor, chief security officer and proctor.

"I was summoned on Friday by the ARS and I recorded my statement. They also summoned my senior and are collecting more evidence," he said.

As per the norms, an ACP-rank officer is a member of ARS and an inquiry is conducted by the college committee.

After substantiating the allegations, a report is submitted to police.

## DELHI POLICE HAD SOUGHT SANCTION TO PROSECUTE Govt counsel against granting sanction in JNU sedition case

PRITAM PAL SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE DELHI government's standing counsel, in response to a query by the Delhi government on whether or not to grant sanction to Delhi Police to prosecute former JNU students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in a 2016 sedition case, has given the opinion that the police request be turned down, it is learnt.

Sources in the Delhi government's Home Department said the law officer, Rahul Mehra — after perusing the original complaint, the findings of JNU's High-Level Committee, and the transcript of the entire incident on February 9, 2016 — came to the conclusion that there was material error on the part of police in filing the chargesheet.

The Home Department has been conveyed that being critical of the government and its policies do not amount to sedition, and a clampdown on unpopular views will throttle democracy in the long run.

Referring to the filing of a chargesheet without prior sanction, the law officer is learnt to have pointed out that police were perhaps trying to take advantage of the hype surrounding the case.

It is learnt that two hours be-



Kanhaiya Kumar

fore filing the chargesheet at Patiala House Courts on January 14 against Kumar and others, the investigation officer had filed an application for prosecution sanction with Delhi government's Home Department.

The counsel is learnt to have said that sanction wrongly being accorded would severely affect the life of the accused, who are all students.

Mehra sent his opinion to Delhi government's Home Minister Satyendar Jain last week, after he was asked his view on whether or not speeches made by Kumar and nine others were seditious in nature.

The law officer is learnt to have said that the incident occurred on the spur of the moment and not in furtherance of common intention to incite violence and public disorder.

A Delhi court had on April 8 granted the Delhi government time till July 23 to decide on the issue of granting sanction to prosecute the accused.

Till date, the trial court has not taken cognizance of the chargesheet in the absence of prosecution sanction.

The accused have been charged with offences under IPC sections 124A (sedition), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 465 (punishment for forgery), 471 (using as genuine a forged document or electronic record), 143 (punishment for being a member of an unlawful assembly), 149 (being a member of an unlawful assembly), 147 (punishment for rioting) and 120B (criminal conspiracy).

IPC Section 124-A (sedition) requires prior sanction from a competent authority and in case sanction is not given, the court can raise objections after looking at the contents of the chargesheet.

Police has claimed in its chargesheet that Kumar was leading a procession and supported seditious slogans raised on campus during an event on February 9, 2016, held to mark the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru. Police also charged JNU students Umar Khalid, Anirban Bhattacharya, and others.

### THE CASE

**FEB 9, 2016:** Event held on JNU campus to commemorate hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru

**FEB 10:** JNU administration orders "disciplinary inquiry" into event

**FEB 11:** Delhi Police registers case against unknown persons following complaints by then BJP MP Maheish Girri and ABVP

**FEB 11:** Kanhaiya Kumar arrested, sparking massive outrage among students

**JAN 14, 2019:** Police files chargesheet against Kanhaiya, Umar Khalid, Anirban Bhattacharya and others under offences of sedition, rioting, criminal conspiracy

**APRIL 8:** Delhi court grants Delhi government time till July 23 to decide on issue of grant of sanction to prosecute

## Man poses with knife in video, uses it to kill hrs later

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy was stabbed to death after he tried to stop a fight between two people in Central Delhi Sunday night. CCTV footage showed two people arguing over right of passage in a narrow lane.

The accused had posted a video on a social media application, ostensibly posing with the same knife, just hours earlier.

According to police, the incident took place when the victim's brothers stepped out of

their home and one of them got into an argument with the accused. As they started fighting with each other, the 16-year-old boy came out of his house to intervene. Police said the accused pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim before fleeing. Another minor boy was injured.

The accused has been arrested. "We received a call at 9.45 pm about two minor boys being stabbed by a man. We rushed to the spot and found the boys, who were taken to RML Hospital. The 16-year-old was declared dead and his cousin suffered an injury to his abdomen," said an officer.



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# One Year of Happiness Class

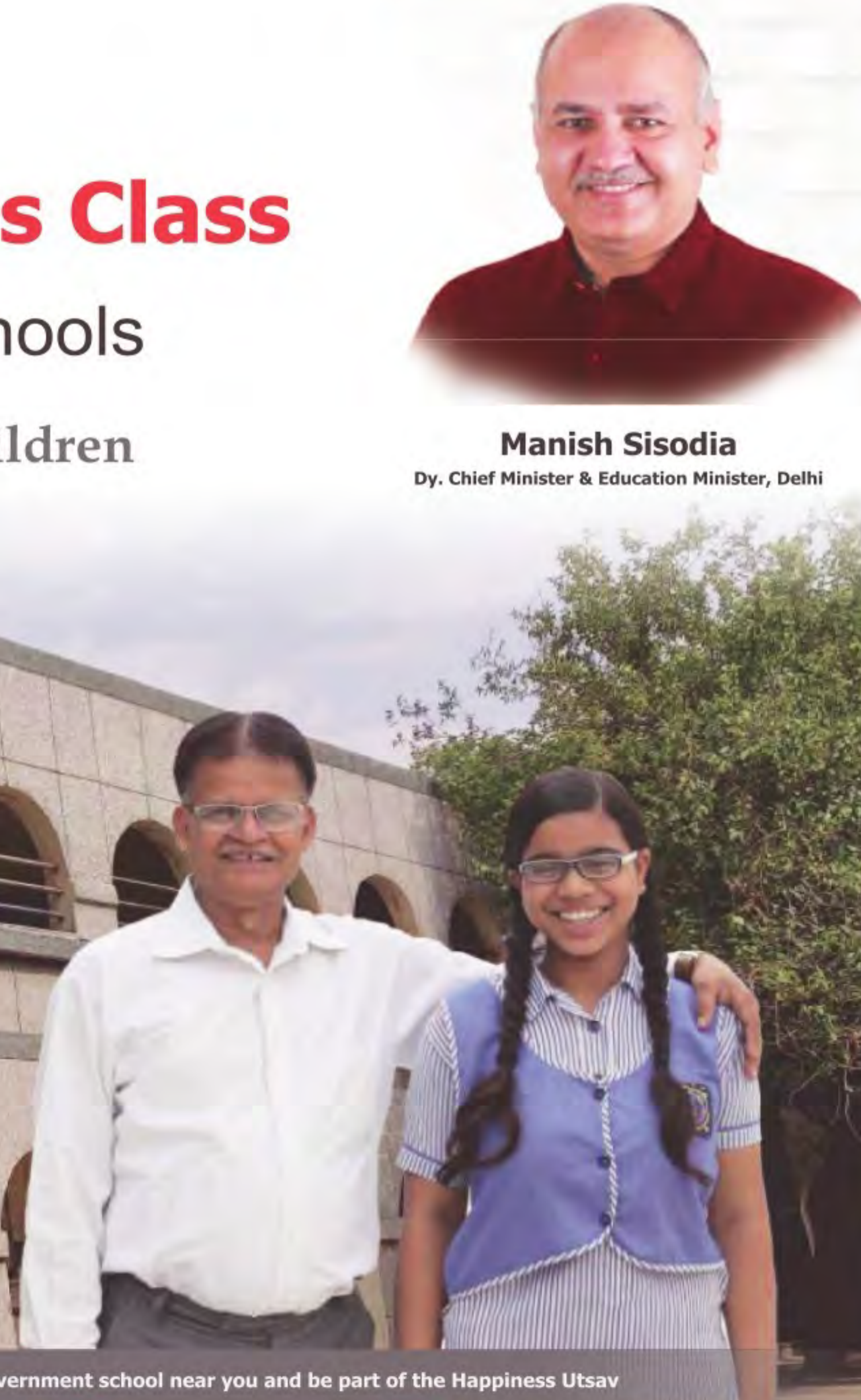
## in Delhi Government Schools

### Transforming lives of 8 lakh children

**How I learnt enjoy everything I do**

I used to be very distracted and found it really hard to focus on any task. A story called "Teen Mazdoor" that I heard in the Happiness Class helped me to understand the importance of being focused. I love to practice mindfulness meditation now as it makes me focus and give my 100% to everything I do.

Sneha, Class VIII

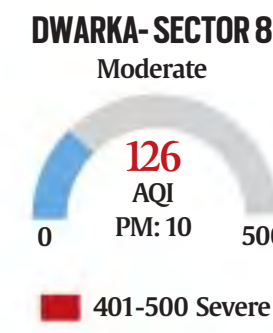
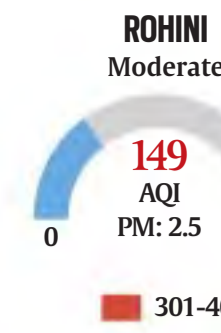
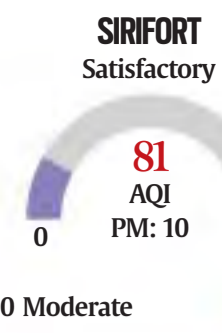
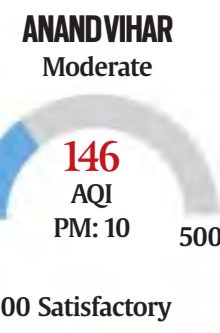


**Manish Sisodia**  
Dy. Chief Minister & Education Minister, Delhi

Delhi government is celebrating Happiness Utsav from 16 to 30 July | Join us at a government school near you and be part of the Happiness Utsav



0-50 Good



**BRIEFLY**

**Cop suspended over 'sexual harassment'**

**Ghaziabad:** A Ghaziabad traffic policeman was suspended over a sexual harassment complaint filed by a woman constable, who claimed he had promised to marry her. "She later found out that he was married and also had children," said the Circle Officer of the area.

**DDA to plant 4 lakh trees**

**New Delhi:** Starting July 20, DDA will begin a mass plantation drive in parks near the Commonwealth Games Village and B-5, B-6 Vasant Kunj Park, in association with the RWAs and eco clubs of nearby schools. Officials said they will plant 4 lakh trees.

**15 booked for rioting**

**Noida:** Fifteen people from Jewar were booked for rioting after a clash broke out between two groups Sunday. "The clash broke out in Chairauli after a man passed comments against women of a particular community. Several people were injured," said Sard Chand Sharma, CO Jewar.

**Wanted man arrested**

**New Delhi:** With the arrest of a 38-year-old man, who carried a reward of Rs 2 lakh, the Delhi Police claims to have solved eight murder cases in Delhi, Haryana and UP, over 100 cases of carjacking and one high-profile kidnapping of a doctor, involving a Rs 5-crore ransom. On Sunday, Sharad Pandey was arrested from outside his bungalow in Wood Land Township in Lucknow, where he was present for a land deal, said DCP (Crime Branch) Dr G Ram Gopal Naik.

**'Contractor held for raping labourer'**

**Gurgaon:** A 44-year-old contractor involved in construction of buildings was arrested by Gurgaon Police for allegedly raping a woman labourer working for him.

**Inmate found dead in jail**

**Gurgaon:** A prisoner was found hanging from the grill inside a toilet in the barracks of the Neemka prison in Faridabad Monday morning, with police suspecting he committed suicide.

**Man dies in police custody**

**Gurgaon:** A 27-year-old man accused of kidnapping a minor girl died in police custody at Outer Delhi's Mundka police station Monday. **ENS**

## Broken trees, waterlogging: It's raining complaints at PWD

**ASHNA BUTANI**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

AS THUNDER roars in the background, the number of calls received on six telephones in the Public Works Department's (PWD) 12th floor control room steadily increase. Fearing an impending accident, a resident sends a photo at 2.14 pm of a tree near JNU Campus, bent after heavy rain. Within two hours, another person WhatsApps the department a picture of a pit in Sangam Vihar, formed due to waterlogging. Many others call to inform officials about waterlogging in their localities.

"The PWD control room has been receiving approximately 17 complaints a day regarding waterlogging since June 15. Of these, around half pertain to PWD roads, which are wider than 60 feet, while the rest come under other departments such as MCDs and DDA," said a PWD official. The complaints are then forwarded to the department concerned.

The PWD control room works round the year, but from 9 am to 9 pm. Since complaints are almost double during the



A waterlogging complaint received at the control room

monsoon, the control room is functional round the clock. Three officials — two operators and a multi-tasking staff — work at any given point of the day.

The six landlines on the two desks are extensions of the two PWD complaint numbers (1800110093 and 23490323). Several tabs are open on the operators' computer screens. One responds to complaints received on the PWD WhatsApp complaint number while also reverting to tweets. The other operator handles calls and responds to complaints made on the PWD website. One of the complaints on the WhatsApp number was of a fallen tree, which was sent to the MCD concerned.

Coloured post-its with phone numbers of various departments

are stuck on the computer screens. "We are required to know which engineer is stationed at which spot. Only if we know the directory in and out can we redirect the complaint to the correct person," said one of the operators.

PWD claims to have completed desilting exercises on roads under its jurisdiction by June 15. But waterlogging continues to be a headache, with officials saying the biggest culprit is plastic. Once a complaint is received, the operator feeds data into their internal software and the executive engineer of the area concerned is notified. The officer concerned then visits the spot and ensures that necessary steps are taken — either pumping or removal of plastic waste from drains.

While several complaints are received through call and on WhatsApp, the number of complaints on Twitter have increased in the last year, said officials. Most complaints are about waterlogging or uncovered drains. Officials have also started maintaining an excel sheet of all complaints received via social media.

Most complaints are resolved in a few hours, and the complainant receives a message regarding the action taken.

## No dip in mercury as heavy rain lashes city

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE CITY witnessed a rainy Monday even as the maximum temperature continued to be above normal and humidity at 100%.

The temperature touched 36.4 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal.

The minimum temperature, however, dropped to 24.6 degrees Celsius, which is three degrees below normal for this period. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials, more rain is expected till Thursday.

At the Safdarjung Observatory, the official weather station for Delhi, 3.6 mm rain was recorded during the day. The gauge at Ridge, though, recorded 25 mm of rain, and Aya Nagar recorded 4.5 mm.

The city has been reeling under a severe rain deficit and this is the first week when IMD has forecast consistent rain.

Tuesday is expected to see light to moderate rain.

## AAP GOVT CONDUCTING STUDY ON RENTED PREMISES

# Dispensaries may give way to mohalla clinics

**ASTHA SAXENA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE DELHI government is planning to convert rented dispensaries in the city into mohalla clinics and is conducting a study to gauge the financial viability of the project. Based on the number of patients visiting the OPDs at these rented dispensaries, and the salary of the staff employed there, the government is planning to replace the project with Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics (AAMCs), said officials.

According to officials, the move is being considered as running mohalla clinics is more economically viable. There are 89 dispensaries being run on rented accommodations in the city, of which 52 are owned by private agencies. At present, the Delhi government is paying a monthly rent to the owner of the dispensary. The final report will be submitted to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by August 15, said a senior Delhi government official.

"We are analysing the money spent on the functioning of these dispensaries on a monthly basis. As per initial estimates, mohalla clinics are a better option as they do not require much financial support. Doctors are paid depending on the number of patients they attend and the set-up



Mohalla clinics see 150-200 visitors daily

does not require much spending," said the official.

On an average, around 300 patients visit the OPDs at dispensaries, while a mohalla clinic witnesses around 150-200 patients on a daily basis. At present, 195 mohalla clinics are operational in Delhi. The Delhi government has planned to open 530 clinics by the end of 2019.

A total of 1,040 sites were identified by the government for setting up the mohalla clinics, of which 740 were found unfeasible. The department of health, meanwhile, has identified 234 feasible sites to construct mohalla clinics. However, no progress has been made at the sites so far.

While the Public Works Department (PWD), Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the three municipal bodies

continue to spar over land to construct more mohalla clinics, the Delhi government has reached out to public to rent space.

Last month, in a public appeal through an advertisement, Kejriwal requested the public to send applications to the Department of Health by August 6.

"We have received 150 applications so far. It took us almost two-and-a-half years to get the locations approved from several municipal bodies. While 150 mohalla clinics are under construction, we are struggling to start work on the remaining ones," said a senior health official.

According to officials, even the sites identified for the construction of dispensaries will now first have a mohalla clinic set up there. A total of 48 such sites have been identified by the health department, said officials.

According to officials, staff at these rented dispensaries will be deputed to government hospitals, particularly the ones reeling under shortage of doctors and medical staff.

"All these doctors and nurses are working under the Delhi government, so they will be transferred to any of the government hospitals. For running a mohalla clinic, we don't need separate doctors," added the official.

## Three arrested for robbing Canadian pilot outside airport

**SOMYA RANJAN NAYAK**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THREE MEN who allegedly robbed a Canadian pilot working with IndiGo airlines on July 12 in Delhi were arrested by police from Meerut Saturday.

Police found that the men, identified as Mehraj Salmani (31), Asif (22) and Farman (22), were involved in three other robberies in Delhi and Noida as well.

"After the pilot was robbed outside the IGI Airport, a police team was deployed to investigate the case. We found that the same vehicle was used in several other robbery cases. Using technical surveillance and CCTV

footage near the area, we tracked the car's owner, who was based in Meerut. Raids were conducted outside Salmani's house and we found that the three men were arrested by Sahibabad Police on July 16," said Sanjay Bhatia, DCP (IGI Airport).

Salmani and his two associates followed the same modus operandi in all the cases, said police. The men allegedly offered lifts to people in their taxi and later snatched the passenger's phone and ATM cards and robbed their money.

Police said the men were arrested after they snatched a man's gold chain and ATM cards and withdrew Rs 90,000 cash before fleeing.

On July 12, police said the trio

approached Md Ghanzanfani, a 60-year-old Canadian citizen who was trying to find his office cab outside the IGI airport, and offered to drop him near his cab for Rs 100. After he got in the car, the accused allegedly snatched his money and ATM cards. The victim was robbed of cash, including foreign currency worth Rs 1.3 lakh.

Police said Salmani has a criminal record of multiple theft cases and two cases under the Arms Act. He has previously worked for a known cab aggregator. Asif and Farman have been involved in five criminal cases including robbery and attempt to murder, said police.

(The writer is an intern with The Indian Express)



## IN SINK

A waterlogged underbridge near the Old Delhi railway station Monday. Tashi Tobgyal

## Relief to CM, Sisodia in Rail Bhavan case

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A DELHI court Monday provided relief to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and AAP leaders Rakhi Birla and Somnath Bharti after it stayed proceedings against them in the 2014 Rail Bhavan protest case. On July 5, the court had charged the leaders for participation in an unlawful assembly and assaulting and obstructing public servants on duty during a dharna outside Rail Bhavan in 2014, in violation of the prohibitory orders under section 144 CrPc. After framing charges, the counsel for the accused had filed a criminal revision petition.

The judge, in his order, said,



Court stayed proceedings against Kejriwal and Sisodia

"Till the disposal of this criminal revision, proceedings before the trial court shall remain stayed."

The FIR in the case was registered on a complaint by sub-inspector Ghanshyam. According to the complaint, Kejriwal sat on dharna near Rail Bhavan and gave provocative speeches. Some policemen received injuries while trying to stop the crowd, it said.

## Mastermind behind string of armed robberies in city held

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE ALLEGED kingpin of the group behind more than 50 cases of armed robberies in the capital was arrested from UP's Rampur, police said. According to police, Burhan Ahmed (23) jumped into a sewage drain after spotting officers and was nabbed from Pakka Bag on Sunday. Two of his associates were arrested earlier.

According to DCP (Special Cell) Manishi Chandra, a team led by Inspector Shiv Kumar chased Ahmed as he moved to Ajmer Sharif dargah, Bharatpur and Rampur. "Ahmed had asked his associate to arrange a new room for him in Rampur. Police even-



CCTV grab of a robbery in New Friends Colony

ually found that he was travelling in a grey Swift. They spotted it at a workshop," said an officer.

According to Chandra, another team of the special cell was roped in and the car was found to be registered in Ahmed's wife's name. "He showed up at the workshop around 4 pm, but tried to escape after spotting police. He jumped into a 7-foot-deep sewage drain.

Police personnel also jumped in and pulled him out. A pistol and four live cartridges were recovered from his rented house in Jaffrabad," the officer added.

Police have attributed at least 22 robberies to Ahmed, though the figure is expected to be higher. Among key cases the accused were allegedly involved in was one in Model Town, where a man was robbed at gunpoint as his wife and children watched from inside their car. Days later, the men allegedly robbed a 24x7 medical store in New Friends Colony of Rs 1.2 lakh — again at gunpoint.

A probe has revealed that to sell off the valuables he robbed, Ahmed would allegedly go to a jewellery shop with his wife.

## E-challan boost to traffic police, commuters

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

"THE HASSLE of explaining to a violator that the payment server is down is gone... It's a big relief," said a traffic inspector (TI) about the new e-challan system and the e-payment gateway, launched by police chief Amulya Patnaik Friday.

The project, in collaboration with NIC, has begun with 1,000 hand-held devices and an Android-based operating system. "People will now receive violation details on SMS, which was not the case earlier. They can submit the fine online... this is for on-camera violations. In cases where they're caught violating by personnel, they can swipe the card and pay. The aim is to make

this process easy and cashless for commuters," said Special CP (Traffic) Taj Hassan.

Police said the e-payment option will be beneficial to residents of other states as "they won't have to visit Delhi to make the payment."

As per data shared by the Delhi Police, during the testing phase, "6,03,503 challans were issued and compounding amount of Rs 9.5 crore was collected."

A police officer said, "The challenging officer and the violator can track geo-location which can help establish the credibility of the prosecution. The data is updated regularly and sent to the NIC, which means the challenging officer will have access to vehicle and driver history instantly."

## IN MEHRAULI FROM AUG 30 TO SEPT 1

# Folk music to sweets, monsoon festival a throwback to Mughal times

**ASTHA SAXENA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

REVIVING MUGHAL emperors' ancient tradition of visiting Mehrauli during the monsoon season, the Delhi government's tourism department is set to organise a three-day monsoon festival from August 30-September 1 to give a push to the area as a tourist destination. From playing folk music, such as *malhaars* and *kajri*, to serving monsoon essen-

tial food like *pakodas*, *ghewar* and tea, the festival organised for the first time will be all about Delhi's love for the rainy season, officials said.

A series of activities, ranging from *melas* at Aam Bagh to heritage walks around Hauz-e-Shamsi, a 13th Century water body, are also being planned by the department. According to officials, the activities will later be extended throughout the year. A plan has been prepared by the department and work on it will be-

gin by the end of this month. "People visit Mehrauli only for Qutub Minar and are unaware about other architectural monuments in the area. We want to promote this part of the city as a tourist destination..." said Manisha Saxena, secretary, Delhi's Tourism Department.

The department has asked the Sahitya Kala Parishad to organise cultural events during the festival. It has also requested artists to write new '*dastaans*' (stories) on saints of Mehrauli.



Mehrauli is one of the seven ancient cities that make up the present state of Delhi. Derived from the Sanskrit word *Mihirawali*, it signifies the township where well-known astronomer Varahamihira of Vikramaditya's court lived. "In the Mughal era, the emperor used to visit Mehrauli during the monsoon to enjoy the lush green beauty and mango or-

The idea is to push Mehrauli as a tourist spot, said officials

chards. Known as their summer palace, Zafar Mahal was regularly visited by the last Mughals like Akbar Shah II and Bahadur Shah Zafar. Even earlier, the township was well-known as *Phoolwalon ki sair* used to happen in this season only," Swapna Liddle, author, historian and co-convenor of Delhi chapter of INTACH told *The Indian Express*.

The area houses several other monuments such as the mausoleum of a 13th century Sufi saint, Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, and the venue for

the annual *Phoolwalon ki sair* Festival. The dargah complex also houses graves of later Mughal emperors, Bahadur Shah I, Shah Alam II, and Akbar II, in an adjacent marble enclosure.

"Mehrauli grew into the city as the Sufi saint's shrine was there. Many people wanted to be buried near him... Archaeological ruins are scattered through Hauz-e-Shamsi on the bank of which Jahaz Mahal is built. It is the first urban settlement in the area..." said historian Sohail Hashmi.

# Poster war rages in JNU

### Admin calls it 'defacement', students to stick posters across campus today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE MOMENT one enters the academic block of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), one is greeted by vibrantly coloured walls covered in political posters of various organisations from the Left to the Right. Soon, that may not be the case as the JNU administration has decided to do away with the posters, terming it "defacement".

The move has not gone down well with the JNU Students' Union. On Monday, there was "mass poster and banner making" in campus and on Tuesday, they will march through the campus sticking these posters on the walls as a mark of protest.

"The wall posters of JNU have always been a powerful expression of art, reminder of oppression and resistance across the world. The JNU administration is determined to destroy the thinking and dissenting spaces in the university and we are determined to reclaim it," said JNUSU president N Sai Balaji.

The administration, meanwhile, has threatened action.

P K Joshi, Director Swachh JNU, in a circular dated July 20, said: "It has come to the notice of the university administration that some students are planning to hold march across campus and stick posters on the walls of buildings. Attention of university's campus residents is invited to circulars dated 10.06.2019 and 01.07.2019 issued by the Director Swachh JNU wherein all concerned had been called to strictly abide by the provision of Delhi Defacement of Property Act, 2007 and JNU executive council



Praveen Khanna



(Clockwise from top) Some posters have been removed from a bus stand on campus; old posters on campus; students prepare for Tuesday's protest

decision taken in its meeting dated 13.03.2018. Therefore, any person found violating above instructions shall render themselves liable for action/penalty in terms of the Act and university rules."

Former student union office bearers have also hit out at the move stating that the wall posters are intrinsic to JNU's culture and a part of the university's ethos. The Faces of Karl Marx, Periyar, Ambedkar and Lenin

have always greeted visitors, they said.

CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat, who was the JNUSU president in 1973-74, said wall posters have been a part of JNU from the 1970s, soon after it was established. "This is yet another attack on democratic rights and freedom of expression on campus. Posters and wall writing have always been a unique form of student politics in JNU since the inception of the university," he said.

Mona Das, who was the JNUSU president from 2004-2006, said wall posters could not be considered "defacement". "It was always part of JNU student life and it's what made the campus vibrant. We would make posters and stick them in July, just when new students are about to join. We also had poster workshops. They were about political education; highlighting issues in a creative way. It cannot be considered defacement at all," she said.

# Clear Centre's draft note on unauthorised colonies: CM to ministers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal has directed his Cabinet colleagues to approve the draft Cabinet note on unauthorised colonies circulated by the Centre without delay.

According to officials in the Chief Minister's Office, Kejriwal has directed the ministers to "accept all conditions" of the Centre on the proposal to regularise the colonies, which will ensure that its residents get ownership rights over their properties.

However, the CMO did not elaborate on what the "conditions" are. Officials in the Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs claimed there are no conditions as such, but the draft note has been shared "as part of the laid down process of its finalisation involving all stakeholders".

The current proposal is to regularise 1,797 colonies, housing an estimated population of around 40 lakh. "It is not the time for a blame game. Even a delay of a minute will not be tolerated. We will have to cooperate on this very important issue with the central government to every extent possible," Kejriwal is learnt to have said.

Following Kejriwal's instructions, ministers have sent their inputs, which are now being finalised as a comprehensive response, for the CM's final approval. The consolidated response will be forwarded to the Centre. "The CM has directed the revenue department to be prepared to provide ownership rights to residents of unauthorised colonies as soon as Centre accords approval to the Cabinet note," an official added.



We will have to cooperate on this issue with the Centre: CM

# Taxi driver beaten to death

Gurgaon: A 40-year-old taxi driver was beaten to death, allegedly by four men, in a case of road rage in Faridabad Monday morning, said police. Three men have been apprehended so far, added police. The incident took place around 10.30 pm near hotel in Gurgaon. **ENS**

## FOCUS ON LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY

# Constitution campaign in Delhi schools soon

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

STARTING AUGUST, the Delhi government is set to launch a three-month-long 'Constitution Campaign' in all its schools, with a focus on 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity', to commemorate 70 years of India's Constitution.

In January, *The Indian Express* had reported that the government was planning to start a campaign to help students connect with "constitutional values". On Monday, Education Minister Manish Sisodia sent a detailed note to the Director of Education spelling out the details of the campaign which will be launched on August 8.

According to the note, "This campaign is a unique approach to educate students about the values enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution of India — not just as a theoretical but as a practical concept."

The campaign will be taken up for one hour per week for three weeks. Each month will be

devoted to Liberty, Equality and Fraternity and all students from classes VI to IX and XI will participate in it.

The government has tied up with organisations such as We the People, ComMutiny — The Youth Collective, Hubhopper and NewsLaundry to develop programme content and podcasts around each of the themes, which will be shared with the teachers for their understanding.

The first week of each month is for the teachers to explain the theme of the month to the students. Students will also be given worksheets for each theme that will include "questions which are based on self-exploration with reference to each concept, survey of others, reflection of survey".

The remainder of the month is for the student to reflect on the findings of the assignment. At the end of each month, an event is to be organised on the theme for which students may also invite parents, alumni and other members of the community.

The note on the campaign also includes outreach to the

public through different media. Mentor teachers are to create podcasts or videos with students, teachers and parents on conversations being created during the campaign, to be shared on YouTube. Radio and newspaper advertisements are also to be circulated at the end of each month based on key findings of the students for each theme.

The Delhi government has also chosen to weave symbolism into its selection of dates for the launch and conclusion of the campaign. The launch date is August 8, which the government claims was chosen as it marks the launch of the Quit India Movement of 1942. The concluding ceremony will be on November 26, the day the Constitution was adopted in 1949.

The concluding ceremony will include a declaration by students selected on the basis of their level of participation during the campaign. This declaration will be "on the society that they wish to create based on the principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity..."

# Delhi zoo gets white tiger from Lucknow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A WHITE tiger arrived Monday at the National Zoological Park, also known as the Delhi zoo, as part of an exchange programme with the Lucknow zoo in UP.

A zoo official said Vijay, who is around three years old, would be helpful in their conservation efforts for tigers. A female white tiger has been sent to Lucknow in exchange. "This was done to change the bloodline... which prevents mortality. When tigers from different bloodlines mate, their offsprings are genetically viable," the official said.

The official added that the zoo has 10 tigers at present, of which seven are white tigers.

This would be the first time a white tiger has been acquired by the zoo in at least the last two years, the official said.

Geeta, who was born around 2015, will be sent to Lucknow Tuesday. "This exchange is very crucial for the conservation programme in the zoo... the last two tiger cubs that were born in August (2018) couldn't survive due to some complications... we are more hopeful this time," the zoo official said.

## HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134151 (www.hssc.gov.in)

### CORRIGENDUM FOR THE POST OF JUNIOR SCALE STENOGRAPHER (BOTH LANGUAGE) AGAINST ADVT. NO. 12/2015 CAT. NO. 06, VARIOUS DEPARTMENT, HARYANA.

It is for the information of candidates that the Commission has declared the result for Scrutiny of Documents for the post of Junior Scale Stenographer (Both Language) against Advt. No. 12/2015, Category No. 06 on 18.07.2019. In the result "Advt. No. 12/2015, Cat. No. 06, Junior Scale Stenographer (Both languages) (Total 28 Posts)" was mentioned inadvertently/ due to clerical mistake, and the same may be read as "Advt. No. 12/2015, Cat. No. 06, Junior Scale Stenographer (Both Languages) (Total 62 Posts)."

Place: Panchkula Haryana Staff Selection Commission  
Dated: 20th July, 2019 77701/HRV Panchkula

## EXPRESS Careers

### Walchand College of Engineering Sangli (Maharashtra)

Addendum to the advertisement for the post of Director Reference our advertisement for the post of Director, Walchand College of Engineering, Sangli published during 1<sup>st</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in the nationwide editions of Indian Express. Accordingly Nominations / applications of suitable candidates containing a current curriculum vitae, salary expectation and contact details of two references was expected to be sent on or before Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019, by e-mail at [wcedirectorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:wcedirectorsearch@gmail.com) or by mail to: The Search Committee for Director-WCE, C/o The Chairman's Office, Hindustan Construction Company Limited, Hincon House, L.B. Shastri Marg, Vikhroli (West), Mumbai-400 083.

### MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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### REQUIRED TECHNICAL ASSOCIATES

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) is proposing to recruit two Technical Associates on contractual basis for eleven months assisting in implementation of Air Pollution Control & Mitigation.

Last date for submission of online application is 31/07/2019 upto 5.00 PM. For detailed advertisement visit [www.mpcb.gov.in](http://www.mpcb.gov.in)

### INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT NAGPUR

IIIM Nagpur invites applications for the position of **MANAGER ICT & IN-CHARGE EEP**. IIIM Nagpur is looking for Experienced individuals for the following positions: **MANAGER ICT** The role is to plan, direct and coordinate the design, installation, operations of ICT requirements for Mihan Project. **IN-CHARGE EEP** Business development and relationship management for Executive Programmes.

### NABVENTURES Limited

Registered Office : Plot No. C-24, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai - 400051  
CIN: U74999MH2018GOI308427  
**Recruitment of Accounts Officer**  
NABVENTURES Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of NABARD, incorporated to operate and manage SEBI registered Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), invites application for the post of Accounts Officer. Please visit "career" page on [www.nabard.org](http://www.nabard.org) for details of the advertisement.  
Last date of submission of application is August 2, 2019. CEO

### BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001  
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of **OA No. 785/2017/DRT-III**  
**ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE Vs. MIS SHARNAM INDUSTRIES PVT LTD. & ORS.**  
Applicant: Mis Sharnam Industries Pvt. Ltd. (Through its Directors) at: 4A, JD Block, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034. Also at: -414, Best Sky Tower, Netaji, Subhas Place, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. Also at: -B-10/1, Rajouri garden, Delhi-110027.  
D-2: Mr. Deepak Goyal S/o Sh. Jagdish Goyal@Deepak Goyal At: B-5/1, Jwan Jyoti Apartments, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034. Also at: -House No. A3/27, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085.  
D-3: Sh. Ravi Kumar Gupta S/o Sh. Anad Kumar Gupta. At: -G-789, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi. Also At: -A-5/51, 1st Floor, Sector-16, Delhi-110085. Also at: -1885, Gali Ahiram, Malika Ganj, Delhi-110007.

### NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

### NOTICE OF REMOVAL FROM SERVICE

To, **Ku. Mala verma**, Booking Clerk, Agra Cant. I have carefully considered the enquiry report and the findings submitted by the enquiry officer appointed to enquiry in the charges framed against you vide memorandum of even no. dated 22.02.2019 and your representation Not received in this office. enquiry report sent to you vide letter of even no. dated 05.12.2017. I hold you guilty of the articles of the charges imputations of the conduct of his behavior, viz. as shown in charges memorandum leveled against you. I have decided to impose upon you the penalty of Removal from service with immediate effect. Under (D&A) Rules (18) & (19) of the RS (D&A) Rules 1968, an appeal against these orders lies to ADMR/OP/AGRA. The appeal shall be preferred in your own signature and presented within 45 days from the date you receive the orders to the Appellate Authority sending a copy of the same to the undersigned. The appeal shall be complete in itself, shall contain all material statements and arguments on which you rely and shall not contain any disrespectful or improper language. Please acknowledge receipt. 1052/19

### HARYANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BAYS NO. 1-10, BLOCK-B, SECTOR 4, PANCHKULA

### ANNOUNCEMENT

It is hereby announced for the General Information of the Candidates who have applied for recruitment to 18 posts of HCS (Ex. Br.) from Register A-II of members of Group 'C', Service against the vacancies of the year 2019 advertised vide Advt. No. 4, 2019 that the Haryana Public Service Commission is going to conduct the Written Examination, Screening Test for these posts on 24.07.2019 (Wednesday) from 03.00 PM to 05.00 PM at Panchkula.

The Admit cards along with necessary Instructions to the Candidates for the aforesaid Examination will be available on commission's website from 19.07.2019 evening and the candidates can download the same from the Commission's website i.e. [hpsc.gov.in](http://hpsc.gov.in) by filling the details of their Name, Father's Name & Date of Birth. Admit cards are not being sent separately to individual candidates.

The candidates who find any error which is attributable to the Commission, with respect to their Name, Father's Name, Date of birth etc. in their Admit Cards, can contact the Commission's office "in person upto 22.07.2019" for necessary rectifications in the Admit Card. It is made clear that any error committed by the applicant himself/herself in the application form will not be rectified. Any type of rectification in the admit cards will not be carried out after 22.07.2019 by the Commission.

It is made clear that admission to the Examination is provisional. At this stage, all the candidates are being allowed provisionally subject to the fulfillment of all eligibility conditions. The parameter with regards to the fulfillment of eligibility conditions and correctness of facts submitted by the candidates in their application forms will be checked when the candidates come in the zone of consideration for interview i.e. three times the number of advertised vacancies including bracketed candidates (if any).

Notes: 1. Candidates are directed that they may download the admit card on A-4 size paper so that their photos & other particulars can easily be seen/verified. Candidates having small size Admit Cards with illegible photos/signatures will not be allowed to enter in the Examination centre. This announcement is also available on the website of H.P.S.C. i.e. <http://hpsc.gov.in> and [www.hpscsonline.in](http://www.hpscsonline.in)

FROM THE GALLERY

# Amid Oppn uproar, Lok Sabha nod to RTI amendment Bill

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

AMID LOUD protests from the Opposition, claiming that the government was trying to "dilute" and "eliminate" the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Lok Sabha, where the BJP has a brute majority, cleared the changes to the landmark transparency law on Monday.

Termining the BJP-led NDA government's move to amend the RTI Act to give the Centre the power to fix salaries, tenure, terms and conditions of the role of Information Commissioners (ICs), as "an insult to Parliament, Constitution and judiciary", the Opposition called for a vote on the The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill was passed with 218 votes in its favour and 79 against.

During the debate on the Bill, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh rejected the Opposition's charges, saying the amendment Bill was an enabling one and that the autonomy of ICs would not be impacted. He added that the Bill aimed at institutionalisation, streamlining and ease of delivery of the RTI Act.

The Opposition attack was led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who called the Bill an "elimination Bill". Claiming that the government was trying to dilute the "path-breaking" Act, passed during the Congress-led UPA regime, Tharoor said the NDA government is trying to change it without "public consultation" or a scrutiny by parlia-



TMC MP Saugata Roy with BJP MP Diip Ghosh at Parliament House. Anil Sharma

whereas the RTI derives from Article 19, which is a fundamental right and cannot be changed. "Without election, democracy can still function with an administrator, but without information, citizens cannot be empowered," he said.

Termining the move to amend the Act as a "retrograde step", Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy contended that independence and autonomy were keywords for the RTI but with the changes to the Act, they have been taken away. "Government does not like free information," Roy said.

Danish Ali of the Janata Dal (Secular) accused the Centre of "bulldozing" national institutions. "In a few days, they will bring a law to ban speech also. You want to bulldoze every institution," he alleged.

N K Premachandran of the RSP also came down heavily on the government. He opposed the Bill on three grounds. "First, it is an insult to the Constitution of India because the independent and autonomous character of the Information Authority is being taken away. It is an insult to the Parliament of India because the legislative supremacy of the Parliament is being taken away by the Executive. I will elucidate this point afterwards. Thirdly, this violates the judgments of the Supreme Court. There are a series of judgments on this. That means, it is an insult to the judiciary; it is an insult to the Parliament and above all, it is an insult to the Constitution of India. That is why I am saying that this is the blackest day in the legislative history of the Indian Parliament," he said.

mentary standing committees. "Why is the government desperate to rush through the Bill? Is it because the Central Information Commission (CIC) delivered an order on the Prime Minister's educational details," Tharoor asked. He demanded that the Bill be sent to a standing committee for further study.

The BJP's Jagadambika Pal said the Opposition was trying to mislead people.

DMK's A Raja alleged that the NDA government was trying to use its "numerical strength to dictate Constitutional values". Countering the government's argument that the post of the CIC could not be compared to the Election Commission, Raja said the EC directly draws its powers from Article 324



Members protest in the Well in Rajya Sabha on Monday. PTI

# Bill to speed up rights panel appointments cleared in Rajya Sabha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE RAJYA Sabha on Monday passed a Bill to expedite appointments of chairpersons and members of the national as well as the state human rights commissions. The Bill was passed by a voice vote.

During the session, the Opposition demanded that the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which was passed by Lok Sabha on Friday, be sent to a parliamentary panel for scrutiny.

Several Opposition MPs claimed that they were not given enough time to move amendments.

Participating in the debate, Congress MP Vivek K Tankha expressed an apprehension that the proposed changes in law would empower the government to handpick members. He suggested that the human rights track-record of experts appointed should be checked. He added that if the Bill was sent to a select committee or a standing committee, larger issues would be addressed.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in response to the Opposition's demands, said the age limit for appointments had been reduced to fill vacancies. The new Bill provides for a reduction in the tenure of chairpersons of national and state human rights bodies to three years, from the current five years. It also stipulates that besides a former chief justice of India, as is the current requirement, a former Supreme Court judge can also be appointed as NHRC chairperson.

"There have been apprehensions that it will be a government committee... or members could be re-appointed after three years," Shah said, pointing out that there was a panel for appointments.

If appointments are viewed with suspicion, then no democratic body can function, he said.

Opposition leaders who raised demands similar to Tankha include CPM's Elmaram



Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad raised objections on the "procedure" being followed on the Bill. PTI

Kareem and TDP's K Ravindra Kumar.

Raising a point of order, Trinamool MP Sukhendu Sekhar Ray said that according to Rule 130, members should be given two working days to move amendments on a Bill. In the case of the current bill, the House was informed about the passage of the Bill only after 5 pm on Friday, he said, and asked if Rule 130 has been "disposed of".

Leader of the Opposition and senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad raised objections on the "procedure" being followed on the Bill.

"Members of Parliament should be given time to move amendments," he added.

To this, BJP's Bhupender Yadav said amendments could be moved till 12 noon. He added that a member had moved one as well and that it had been circulated.

SP's Ram Gopal Yadav pointed out "discrepancies" in the Bill. The senior SP member was of the view that if people in the administration are hopeful of appointments in these commissions, they would shy away from issuing adverse reports against the government.

Meanwhile, BJD's Prasanna Acharya highlighted the large number of vacancies in these commissions.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament on Monday. Renuka Puri

# Oppn takes on govt for 'rushing through' Bills without scrutiny

ABANTIKA GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

TENSION IS brewing between the government and the Opposition over the alleged attempt by the government to push through 17 Bills in the Rajya Sabha without legislative scrutiny, and also without allowing members sufficient time to move amendments.

On Monday, Trinamool Congress boycotted the House after its amendment to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019, was not admitted.

Opposition parties, upset at the way the House is being run and Bills "pushed", are now set to meet before the start of the House on Tuesday to decide their strategy. During Monday's morning session, the House was adjourned twice as Opposition members flocked to the Well, shouting slogans on issues such as atrocities against Dalits and the Karnataka impasse.

On Friday, Minister of State V Muralidharan had read out a list of 19 Bills (including two money Bills), for which he said that the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), which has representation from all parties, had allocated time.

The flashpoint on Monday, though, was the human rights Bill, transmitted to the Upper House from the Lok Sabha at 5 pm on Friday. Members protested that in listing the Bill on the very next working day no time had been given to move amendments. Instead of the customary 24 hours, just one hour was allotted on Monday morning.

Opposition MPs are also seething over the fact that only one short-duration discussion has so far been allowed in this session — on electoral reforms. Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu has informed the Opposition that the government is not keen on a discussion on how to protect media freedom, so that notice would not be admitted.

The notice, with NCP's Sharad Pawar as the first mover, is signed by 16 parties, and also by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy.

A leader from an opposition party said:

"Democracy and Parliament are being murdered. Eleven Bills have been passed so far without scrutiny in the last 25 days; 16 more Bills were announced on Friday and the government has conveyed nothing to us on extension of the session. Opposition parties will meet tomorrow at 9.45 am to discuss the matter and how best to take this up."

In the 15th Lok Sabha, 161 of 225 Bills were sent to Standing Committees for scrutiny. In the previous — 16th — Lok Sabha, the number came down to 47 of 185 Bills, according to figures collated by PRS Legislative Research, an independent organisation that tracks the functioning of Parliament.

The government's defence has been that Standing Committees are yet to be formed since parties have not submitted the names of their nominees to these committees. But Opposition leaders maintain that even without Standing Committees, there is a provision for Select Committees that can be exercised.

Opposition parties are also unhappy about quick adjournments during the morning session, during Zero Hour and Question Hour, which is members' time. But proceedings, they point out, continue in the afternoon even amid a din, against established practice, when there is government business to be disposed of. On July 10, the Upper House had discussed the Union Budget for 80 minutes when nothing had been audible in the din, they said.

Sources do not rule out the possibility of the opposition parties writing jointly to the Chairman, flagging these concerns.

Trinamool's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien said: "BAC (Business Advisory Committee) has become a toothless, time-allocation committee. We are fast losing confidence in the way the two Houses are being presided over."

On the party's decision to boycott the House over the human rights Bill amendments not being allowed to be moved, TMC member Sukhendu Shekhar Roy said: "The Upper House is run on rules and procedures, not on whims and fancies. Rule 95 does not give the Chair the power to take away a member's right to move an amendment."

ROLL CALL  
**PRIME MINISTER:** Not Present  
**SONIA GANDHI:** Present  
**RAHUL GANDHI:** Not Present

5 QUESTIONS



Anil Sharma

CONGRESS MP FROM SIVAGANGA **KARTI P CHIDAMBARAM** SPEAKS TO LIZ MATHEW ON THE DEBATE ON RTI AMENDMENT BILL

Why did you oppose the RTI amendments?

With the amendments, the central government wants to control the tenure, salary and allowances of the information commissioners. It will no longer be an independent body... And it's a mechanism for an average citizen to seek information. If you are gatekeeping the information, how will it come out freely?

But the government said the opposition was trying to mislead the people and that the changes would not affect the autonomy of the CIC?

The government keeps saying this about the changes it brings to every Bill. The government had said the NIA would not be misused. But we know what's happening. There is a clear agenda of the government to build a super state where it can interfere, monitor and control every aspect of life. It's their agenda. There have been coherent arguments from the Opposition to prove that.

If the amendments get implemented, what would be the implications?

It is very clear that any information embarrassing to the government will be denied. They will be at the mercy of the central government.

The ruling BJP does not have a majority in Rajya Sabha. Do you think your party will use its strength to stall the Bill there?

It is very likely, going by the position many opposition parties have taken. As of now, the opposition has the scope to do it, although the composition of the Upper House is going to change soon.

Senior MP N K Premachandran called the government's move an insult to Parliament. Do you agree?

Yes. Premachandran's is one of the strongest and sober voices in the Lok Sabha. The government introduced the Bill on Friday and wanted it to be passed on Monday. There was no time for the MPs to study it.

**EXPLAINED**

## E

### Why oppn parties are unhappy

AFTER SEVERAL disrupted sessions during NDA-I, the current session of Parliament has been among the most productive in terms of legislation, but there has been just one short-duration discussion so far. Eleven Bills have been passed by the Upper House, where many Bills had stumbled and fallen under the last government.

Opposition MPs say this is not because the Bills are perfect but because established procedures of legislative scrutiny though Standing or Select Committees have been bypassed.

**IN 15TH LOK SABHA**

**161** Bills referred to Standing Committees

**64** Bills not referred to Standing Committees

**IN 16TH LOK SABHA**

**47** Bills referred to Standing Committees

**138** Bills not referred

Data: PRS Legislative Research

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE RAJYA Sabha was adjourned twice during the morning session on Monday as the Congress, Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party MPs agitated over the non-admission of notices on various issues, including the killings in Sonbhadra, political crisis in Karnataka and incidents of mob lynchings.

While Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu adjourned the House within few minutes during Zero Hour, Deputy Chairman Harivansh resolutely ran the House through tough questions during Question Hour as members raised slogans, first in the aisles and then in the Well. He was forced to adjourn proceedings after some time.

Chairman Naidu on Monday allowed a Short Notice Question after a long gap of over four years. Congress MP Motilal Vora's question about incidents of toddlers falling into unattended borewells during the last three years, action taken against agencies concerned etc was deemed asked and the reply tabled. Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Shekharwat replied that a total of 43 children died after falling in borewells during 2014 and 2015. The number includes 34 children below 14 years and nine between 14 and 18 years of age.

The last such Short Notice Question was raised by Mansukh L Mandaviya, now a minister, on March 19, 2015. It was about demand supply gap in terms of skilled manpower.

As soon as the House resumed at 2 pm, the Deputy Chairman asked the Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai to move The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019, for passage in the House.

Opposition members soon trooped into the Well and started raising slogans, highlighting various issues.

Deputy Chairman Harivansh told members that the Chairman has already given a ruling on the political crisis in Karnataka and that the issue cannot be discussed here as the matter is sub-judice.



Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh conducts proceedings in Rajya Sabha on Monday. PTI

Raising a point of order under Rule 95, TMC leader Derek O'Brien said members did not get sufficient time to submit amendments to the Bill as the draft law was passed by Lok Sabha last week and sent to the House on Friday evening.

The Deputy Chairman said members had time till noon to file their amendments to the Bill.

BJP's Bhupender Yadav said the Chairman has power to allow amendments of members.

Raising a point of order, Congress leader Anand Sharma said members should get at least two days notice to file their amendments, alleging that the members' right to move amendments is being violated in the absence of legislative scrutiny by parliamentary panels.

Raising point of order, DMK member Tiruchi Siva said members, who wanted to move amendments, asked the Chair to bring the House in order, "but you presumed that they did not move amendments".

The Deputy Chairman expressed dismay over members throwing pieces of papers on him and other officials sitting below him.

Derek O'Brien blamed the Chair for not conducting the business in a congenial environment.

Amid the din, the Deputy Chairman adjourned the House till 3 pm.

# 9 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## HOLY BIRTHDAY

LAST WEEK was Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank's 60th birthday. The minister, who represents Haridwar in Lok Sabha, thanked everyone who wished him in a novel way. Whoever dropped by at his office in Shastri Bhawan on July 15 left with a small metal jar containing Ganga jal and a string of rudraksha beads.

## EYE ON UNITY

WITH THE Left facing a political-electoral crisis after a dismal performance in Lok Sabha elections, there have been talks about better coordination between the many Left parties. In this context, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury recalled a past incident in which the CPI(M) and the CPI had decided to come out with a joint statement. In order to ensure equal prominence to both parties, the statement had to be on a letterhead with both parties' names. There were no computer facilities available back then, so the leaders had to photocopy the page after pasting the name card of both the parties on a single page in order to create such a letterhead. If it was possible decades ago with no technology available, such a unity is easier now, Yechury told comrades.

## MEETING THE 'ENEMY'

SHATABDI ROY, the Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha member from Birbhum, was seen engaged in an animated discussion with BJP leader Mukul Roy in Parliament complex for nearly half-an-hour on Monday. A daring act, considering it was in full public view, Roy being a master of most defections from the Trinamool to the BJP camp, it is anybody's guess how the party boss, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, would have received reports of the Roys' meeting.

## SHAMLI POLICE SET TO BOOK NAHID HASAN

# Boycott shops of BJP supporters: SP MLA

AMIL BHATNAGAR  
NOIDA, JULY 22

THE POLICE in Shamli district of western UP are set to file an FIR against Samajwadi Party MLA from Kairana, Nahid Hasan, for allegedly trying to disrupt harmony in the region with his appeal to local people to "boycott" shops run by BJP supporters.

Hasan was seen making the appeal on a video, which has gone viral on social media.

"Some BJP people are conspiring; they have forced people to run their stalls at a particular place," Hasan is heard saying. "Who will buy their (people purportedly asked to set up shop outside the local market) products here? Their employment has been snatched.... I request people of Kairana to boycott products from BJP supporters. It will be a pain for few days, but they will soon realise."

Shamli SP Ajay Kumar Pandey said the police found it was not a doctored video. "At the end, he said 'phaila do', which meant he wanted the video to go viral," Pandey said. "In view of

## 'If Gujarat can get Narmada water, why can't MP get lions?'

MILIND GHATWAI  
BHOPAL, JULY 22

AS BJP RULED Gujarat and Congress-ruled Madhya Pradesh engage in war of words over Narmada waters, MP's forest minister has added another point to the controversy—Gujarat's refusal to part with Asiatic lions despite Supreme Court's ruling.

"When Gujarat can get Narmada waters, when they can get greenery (due to Narmada waters), why can't MP get lions? It's Hindustan (one country) and it's a union of states," MP forest minister Umang Singh said in the Assembly, during a debate on budgetary demands for forest department.

The minister said the SC wants Asiatic lions to be shifted to different places to save them (in case of an epidemic in Gujarat) and crores have been

spent to develop an alternate home for the animals at the Kuno-Palpur sanctuary in Sheopur district of MP.

"But the government in Delhi (Centre) does not want that to happen despite apex court rulings," he said, alleging that many lions have perished to diseases. Requesting BJP MLAs to take up the matter with the Narendra Modi government, Singhar reminded that many contempt petitions have been filed in the matter.

The minister's comments have come in the wake of the controversy over release of Narmada waters to Gujarat. MP's Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA) minister Surendra Baghel had said that MP will not release water because Gujarat was not utilizing it for power generation and there was no proper rehabilitation of the project-affected.

## GOVERNMENT'S 50-DAY REPORT CARD

# Reform, welfare and justice for all the driving force, says Javadekar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE UNION Minister for Information & Broadcasting, and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, has presented a 50-day report of the Union government. Javadekar said that government's resolve for "reform, welfare and justice for all" is its driving force and some of its areas of focus have been farmers, soldiers, youth, labourers, businessmen, research, investment and infrastructure development.

He mentioned policy deci-



'Rs 100 lakh crore investment in infrastructure in next 5 yrs'

sions like the Rs 6,000 annual payment to all farmers, and claimed that the Minimum Support Price has doubled compared to the 2014 rates for several crops, and stated that in

some cases it had even tripled. The changes to the labour code, he claimed, will benefit 40 crore workers of informal sector.

The I&B Minister reiterated the government's push towards achieving a \$5 trillion economy and said it was not just a dream, but a roadmap has been prepared for it. He added that over the next five years, Rs 100 lakh crore will be invested in development of infrastructure. He also emphasised the government's focus to resolve water-related problems. "With Rs 100 lakh crore of investment to be made in roads, railways, ports, airports and other infrastructure, the for-

mation of Jal Shakti ministry, the mission to reach out to every house by 2024 with assured water supply, we are walking the talk with speed and many historical decisions," the minister said.

Regarding the promises on development and reforms, the minister said the government was already "walking the talk". "Speed, skill and scale" have been "manifested" in the first 50 days of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's second term, he said, and stated that the second term will build on the successes of the first and will be more successful.

## Only courts can decide fate of people in detention camps, says Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that only courts have the right to decide the fate of people in detention centres in Assam under the National Register of Citizens, and the government could only take care of the basic amenities provided there. He was responding to concerns raised by an Opposition member in Rajya Sabha.

After the House passed the Protection of Human Rights Amendment Bill, Congress's Pradeep Bhattacharya raised the issue of detention of people in Assam.

"Some people in Assam are in detention camps. Workers and soldiers of the Government of India are also in the camps. Can they get any justice," he said.

To this Shah replied, "Nyaya mein nahi kar sakte, adalat kar sakti hain (I can't do justice, only courts can do that).

"But if there is anything lacking in food, lodging and other facilities, bring it to my notice. The government would try to improve it," he added.

# Mamata slams Centre over I-T notices to Durga Puja organisers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JULY 22

STATING THAT religious festivals should be exempted from Income Tax, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday slammed the BJP government at the National Register of Citizens, and the government could only take care of the basic amenities provided there. He was responding to concerns raised by an Opposition member in Rajya Sabha.

"Festivals are festivals. Many political parties do not have to pay Income Tax for the funds they spend during the elections. Then why would Durga Puja committees have to pay tax? I condemn this attitude. Moreover, these pujas are mostly organised after collecting donations from people and through sponsorships. People who give subscriptions to these puja committees already pay Income Tax, and also the companies that sponsor the pujas give GST. Durga Puja is not a commercial function, it is a social function. So the government cannot levy Income Tax from them," Mamata told mediapersons at the state Secretariat here.

In January, the I-T Department had sent notices to over 20 Durga Puja committees



Mamata Banerjee at a meeting of panchayat leaders in Kolkata on Monday. Express

of Kolkata. Recently, there were reports that more Durga Puja committees were issued similar I-T notices.

Hitting out at the BJP for "insulting" the Durga Puja festivals by asking puja committees to pay tax, Mamata said, "When the election comes, they (BJP) indulges in Hindu-Muslim politics. When elections are over, they do this side and that side. They are asking puja committees to pay Income Tax. This is not right. They are being harassed. People

of all religions attend the Durga Puja. This should not happen. It is an insult to Durga Puja."

The Chief Minister said her government had paid an honorarium of Rs 10,000 to the Durga Puja organisers last year as "it's a social obligation to support them".

"One can capture the walls, capture the EVM machines, but one cannot capture peoples' hearts with money. BJP should first learn to win over peoples' hearts," Mamata added.

# Manipur V-C absent from campus for almost 200 days, finds govt inquiry

RITIKA CHOPRA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A GOVERNMENT inquiry against the head of Manipur University (MU) has found that Adya Prasad Pandey remained absent from the campus for almost 200 days out of the 583 he served as vice-chancellor (V-C) from October 26, 2016 to May 30, 2018.

Prasad's absence, a large part of which was on account of his visits to his hometown Varanasi, could not be justified from the university records, the inquiry has concluded. Worse, it cost MU over Rs 20 lakh as payment of travel and dearness allowance.

Pandey, who was a professor of economics at Banaras Hindu University before his appointment, has been on leave since August 2, 2018. Former Manipur chief secretary Jarnail Singh was subsequently appointed as administra-

## EXPLAINED Another NDA V-C pick under scanner

ADYA PRASAD Pandey is the third head of a central university appointed by the Modi government who has come under scanner for irregularities. The first was HNB Garhwal University V-C Jawahar Lal Kaul, who was fired in December 2017. A show-cause notice has been served to the incumbent head of Allahabad University V-C Rattan Lal Hangloo for alleged financial, academic and administrative irregularities. If the HRD Ministry accepts the findings of the two-member inquiry against Pandey, then most likely it will seek the President's permission to issue him a show-cause notice as well.

tor to discharge the V-C's functions.

The HRD Ministry had instituted a two-member inquiry against Pandey on August 17, 2018, after an agitation by students and teachers paralysed the university for over a month. The students had alleged that Pandey is inaccessible, spends little time on

campus, misuses university funds and meetings of the university's Executive Council. The V-C, on the other hand, attributed the agitation to him rejecting the students' union demand for Rs 10.7 lakh to print their annual magazine.

In addition to his unjustified absence from the university, the

## MESSAGE OF CAUTION

# Behind Army's WhatsApp order: Secret map, other faux pas

SUSHANT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A FEW months ago, a Brigadier was in an operations room where he opened his smartphone to photograph a fully-marked operational map. The officer, commanding a brigade, then sent it on WhatsApp to his principal staff officer at the brigade headquarters to get a similar map made. The staff officer in turn sent the picture to commanding officers of battalions, and the secret operational map was soon all but public.

It was this incident — and a

host of similar incidents of security breaches over WhatsApp — which triggered last month's order from Army Headquarters to all officers to desist from indiscriminate use of any social media platform.

The order said "no Indian Army personnel shall be part of any large group(s) on internet based messenger/chat/email services. One to one messaging is however permitted in a closed knit group, wherein the members/subscribers are whose credentials can be ascertained, may be allowed".

A serving military officer told



Suvajit Dey

The Indian Express: "We have always had clear existing orders on the subject of use of social media platforms by Army personnel. But technological changes and study of evolving usage patterns necessitates updation of orders and new directions. That is why this new order was issued for main-

taining the security of classified information — that was the only purpose."

The order, issued by the military operations directorate, stated the rationale: "Rampant use of personal IT devices, specially smartphone and other messaging service including WhatsApp, for exchange of official information has been identified as primary source of pilferage of information."

According to the officer, the fact that WhatsApp has end-to-end encryption has lulled many Army officers into a false sense of security while using the

# Nadda warns Pragya of strict action against controversial remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

AFTER REPEATED controversial statements by BJP's Bhopal MP Pragya Singh Thakur, the party's working president JP Nadda has warned her of strict action unless she restrains herself, sources said.

The latest provocation was Thakur's comment that the job of an MP is not to clean drains, which was interpreted as remarks mocking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat campaign.

Thakur was summoned to the BJP headquarters, where Nadda conveyed the party leadership's displeasure with her comments made at Sehore in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday, party sources said. An accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case and currently out on bail, Thakur was pulled up and asked to refrain from making statements that go against the party's programmes and ideology, they said.

However, there was no official statement on it. Thakur refused to speak to reporters outside BJP headquarters.

Addressing a meeting of BJP workers in Madhya Pradesh, Thakur had said that the job of



JP Nadda, Pragya Thakur

an MP is to work with MLAs, corporators and public representatives to ensure development. "So keep this in mind... We are not here for cleaning a drain. Is it clear? We are absolutely not (here) for cleaning your toilets. The work which we are supposed to do and elected for, we will do it honestly. This we had said in the past, saying it today and will stick to it in future as well," she was quoted as saying.

BJP leaders admitted that repeated controversial remarks by Thakur had become an embarrassment for the party. PM Modi had publicly expressed his displeasure over her remark praising Nathuram Godse during the poll campaign and said he would never forgive her. She had hailed Mahatma Gandhi's killer Godse as a "patriot", and later apologised. The BJP had said that its disciplinary panel had sent a show-cause notice to her.

# BJP panel head spoke at dharna to support Vijayvargiya son

MILIND GHATWAI  
BHOPAL, JULY 22

BABUSINGH RAGHUVANSHI, convenor of Madhya Pradesh BJP disciplinary committee who has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi may not have had Indore-3 MLA Akash Vijayvargiya in mind when he criticised "arrogance and misbehaviour" of party leaders, had participated in a dharna in Akash's support soon after he assaulted a civic official with a cricket bat.

Akash, son of BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, had assaulted an official of Indore Municipal Corporation while opposing the demolition of a building that had been declared unsafe. The act was caught on camera and a video clip of the incident went viral. The legislator, who refused to apologise, was subsequently arrested and later released on bail. Days after the incident, Prime Minister Modi said that arrogance and misbehaviour will not be tolerated irrespective of "whoever it may be, whoever's son he may be". He had also hinted that action should be taken against the leaders who welcomed Akash after he was released on bail. The statement was seen as condemnation



Babusinh Raghuvanshi, convenor of Madhya Pradesh BJP disciplinary committee

of the assault by Akash. Raghuvanshi, the former chairman of Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Nigam, was one of the speakers at the dharna and there he said the 33-year-old MLA was provoked by the civic officials to take the law in his own hands.

When *The Indian Express* approached him about his participation in the dharna, the BJP leader claimed that the dharna had been planned in advance against "Congressikaran" of the municipal corporation, the local administration and the police machinery after the change of guard in the state last year. He said some leaders spoke about the Akash episode because it had taken just two days before the dharna.

An Indore-based BJP leader, however, contradicted Raghuvanshi, saying the dharna was planned only in support of Akash.

## SC rejects plea to extend Vishakha guidelines to religious places

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a plea seeking extension of Vishakha guidelines that deal with sexual harassment at workplaces to religious institutions.

"How can we extend it to religious bodies?" Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi sitting with Justices Deepak Gupta and

Aniruddha Bose wondered.

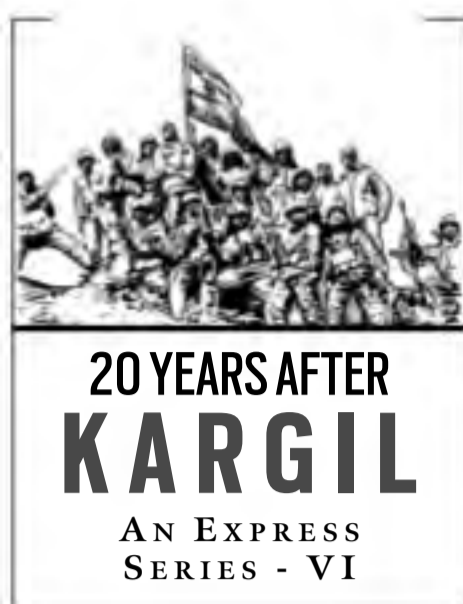
Advocate Maneesh Pathak, who filed the PIL, said "If the Vishakha guidelines are extended to these religious institutions, it would assist a lot in reducing sexually related crimes against women at religious places by various religious gurus or leaders of that particular institution." **ENS**

But he agreed that even this order is not a perfect solution as the challenge goes beyond WhatsApp and "needs creation of a new culture where security of information becomes paramount and deeply ingrained".

Facebook-owned social media platform. He said it had become common for some Army officers to use WhatsApp to send classified information, documents and presentations, which is a clear violation of the Official Secrets Act and jeopardises operational security.

But even if the data is encrypted and safe during transmission, the officer said, the same cannot be said about the mobile handset or the device which may be compromised. There have been cases of handsets with spying software and apps which may have provided highly

# Holding on to memories, a martyr's family on a long journey to rebuild their lives



20 YEARS AFTER KARGIL  
AN EXPRESS SERIES - VI



Naik Mangat Singh Bhandari's wife Rekha (above) with their youngest daughter Monika at their residence in New Delhi. *Abhinav Saha*

**ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE LETTERS have been her constant companion. The letters that began with 'Priye Rekha', and sometimes 'My dear Rekha', have given her strength when the times got tough, consoled her when she broke down and guided her when she felt alone.

Twenty years after Rekha, now 46, lost her husband Naik Mangat Singh Bhandari in Operation Vijay during the Kargil war, the bunch of letters he wrote to her from remote Army bases in their eight years of marriage lie safely in her closet.

"In the first few years after his death, I read them very often. They were all I had. Now, sometimes, when my children are at school or college, I pull out a few and read them," smiles Rekha, who was 26 when her husband passed away. Her children, Neeraj and Neelam, were four and two then, and she was pregnant with her daughter Monika.

Dressed in a red salwar kameez, Rekha browses through the letters scattered on a coffee table in her living room, and adds, "Do you see this, some of them are written on red inland letters and the others on green. Red meant he was writing from a conflict zone, green meant peace zone. I always hoped for green."

On December 24, 1998, she received his last letter. After being posted to Udhampur in Kashmir, where he served for three years, Mangat's 18 Garhwal Rifles unit was moved to Kargil in 1999. On June 29 that year, when his contingent was engaged in combat with enemy troops to capture the bunkers at Point 4700 in Dras

sector, he was seriously injured and later succumbed.

Due to the absence of a motorable road to his village Kirmolia in Pauri-Garhwal district of Uttarakhand, his body was buried in Daugadda, a nearby village, with full state honours.

Sitting at her home in Delhi, at the Veer Awas residential colony in Dwarka's Sector 18, Rekha pauses as she recalls the events of June 29, when she was informed of her husband's death.

"Some Army men had come to the house. They told me... I was eight months pregnant. I didn't know how to react. I didn't go for the funeral... I just felt helpless," she recounts, now walking around the house where many shelves are filled with mementos and pictures of her late husband.

Rekha says her struggles really began a month after her husband's death, and when her youngest daughter Monika was born. "Living in the village was difficult. The home, the relatives constantly reminded me of him... Also, people looked at me with pity," she says. "There was also talk of remarriage, but I was firmly against it."

So, in 2003, along with her three children and in-laws, Rekha moved to Dehradun. The family lived there for three years. But as her children grew older, she says, she wanted them to attend better schools.

In 2006, when the option to get a home in Veer Awas, dedicated to

families of Kargil War heroes by the Delhi Development Authority, came up, she agreed. "Even to get my children admitted to the Army School needed a lot of work. I have only studied till Class VIII and it was very difficult for me," she says, as Monika arrives.

The 19-year-old, who nurtures ambitions of acting and modelling, has never seen her father and listens intently as her mother narrates his stories, many of which she has heard while growing up. Rekha's son Neeraj, 24, runs a gas agency in Pauri-Garhwal, given to the family by the government after Mangat's death. Her elder daughter Neelam, 22, is pursuing her Master's from Delhi University's Hansraj College.

Rekha says she never had any specific conversation with her children about their father's death. "They got to know in bits and pieces..." she says.

"It was in 2006 that I finally learnt that my father was a martyr," recalls Monika. "Since then I have missed him everyday."

As Rekha stacks her husband's letters in a pile to keep them away, Monika pulls out one and says, "Every letter of his ended with 'I will try to come home soon.'" Then, she adds, "The letters also always mentioned my older brother and sister. My name was never there. I wasn't born then."

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



(Left) Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnesses the launch of Chandrayaan-2 from his office in Delhi; a boy waves the Tricolour during the launch in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on Monday.

# Determination of 130 crore Indians to scale new frontiers of science: PM

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind on Monday called the successful launch of Chandrayaan-2 a historic event and congratulated the ISRO, as congratulatory messages on the event came from Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and many chief ministers and political leaders.

Kovind tweeted, "The historic launch of #Chandrayaan2 from Sriharikota is a proud moment for all Indians. Congratulations to our scientists and engineers for furthering India's indigenous space programme. May @ISRO continue to master new technologies, and continue to conquer new frontiers..."

In Rajya Sabha, Naidu congratulated the ISRO and said scientists behind the project deserved special compliments. Pointing out that a successful landing will make India the fourth country to achieve the feat, Naidu said, "No man-made object has ever reached the landing site chosen for the lander module of Chandrayaan-2."

In multiple tweets, Prime Minister Modi said the mission will encourage younger people towards science. He said these "spe-



ISRO chairman K Sivan speaks after the launch. *PTI*

cial moments" will be "etched in the annals of our glorious history", and that the launch "illustrates the prowess of our scientists and determination of 130 crore Indians to scale new frontiers of science".

Modi tweeted, "Indian at heart, Indian in spirit! What would make every Indian overjoyed is the fact that #Chandrayaan2 is a fully indigenous mission. It will have an Orbiter for remote sensing the Moon and also a Lander-Rover module for analysis of lunar surface."

Modi spoke with ISRO chief K Sivan and congratulated him and his team. "Last week, the launch had to be postponed due to technical reasons. You found the technical glitch with alacrity and took steps to solve it. Now, within a week you achieved suc-

cess in the launch. You deserve a special congratulations for this," Modi said, according to PTI.

He also said, "The bigger the challenge, the intention gets equally big. I am told despite a delay of a week, the date of Chandrayaan-2 reaching the moon will remain the same."

Congratulating the ISRO and the scientists, Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted, "I also thank PM Modi ji for encouraging our institutions for setting new standards every time..."

Opposition Congress credited Jawaharlal Nehru for funding space research. The party's official handle tweeted, "Congratulations Team @isro for the successful launch of #Chandrayaan2... a good time to remember the visionary move of India's first PM Pandit

Jawaharlal Nehru to fund space research through INCOSPAR in 1962 which later became ISRO".

The party also mentioned former PM Manmohan Singh "for sanctioning #Chandrayaan2 project in 2008".

In a statement, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "Successful launch of Chandrayaan-2 has enhanced the pride and honour of India at the global level. This success is inspiring for every Indian. The countrymen are proud of the talent and capability of Indian scientists."

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee tweeted, "Indian scientists and ISRO, we salute you...Jai Hind." While Tamil Nadu CM K Palaniswami said the achievement is a matter of great pride for the country and would inspire many young minds, his Andhra Pradesh counterpart Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy called it a historic occasion "as a billion dreams are being carried to the moon". Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan tweeted, "This is the greatest technological achievement in Indian history..."

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar said in a statement, "ISRO has made history with successful launch of Chandrayaan-2 from Sriharikota. It is a matter of pride for the entire nation. It is the result of hard work of ISRO scientists..."

## HRD promotes courses in aerospace engg

New Delhi: Lauding the successful launch of Chandrayaan-2, the HRD Ministry on Monday encouraged students to take up careers in aerospace engineering and said its 'Swayam' portal will offer online courses on the subject from July 29. "ISRO will go 'back to the moon' today. Learn Aerospace Engineering with Swayam, who knows, if you are a part of the journey the next time," the Ministry tweeted.

The ministry's 'Swayam' portal will offer six online courses in aerospace engineering and these will help students acquire skills and knowledge on designing, manufacturing and maintenance of spacecraft, aircraft, missiles and weapons systems. The courses being offered on the portal include the 12-week 'Aircraft stability and control' course and 'Design of fixed wing unmanned aerial vehicles' course of eight weeks. Both courses will be conducted by IIT-Kanpur, which is conducting two more courses.

IIT-Bombay and IIT-Kharagpur are offering a course each. **PTI**

**ROURKELA SMART CITY LIMITED**  
(A SPV of Govt of Odisha, RMG & RDA)  
Udit Nagar, Rourkela-769012  
Email: [rourkelascl@gmail.com](mailto:rourkelascl@gmail.com)  
Tel No: -(0661)-250388

ROURKELA SMART CITY LTD.

BID ID:- RSCL/446(1)/2019 DATE: 22/07/2019

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**  
Invitation for Bid of Development of Command Control Centre, Convention Hall, Auditorium & Tribal Museum Project in Rourkela Smart City Limited (ABD area) under Smart Cities Mission on Turnkey Basis

The Rourkela Smart City Limited is engaged in the development of Urban Infrastructure Projects in Rourkela Area Based Development Area and as part of this endeavour, it has been decided to undertake abovementioned Projects in Rourkela Smart City Limited under Smart Cities Mission through Turn Key (Architectural planning with Design, Execution) Basis. The Chief Executive Officer, RSCL now invites bids from eligible contractors for the following project.

Package No	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost of the Project	Bid Security	Cost of Bid Document	Period of Completion
1	Architectural Planning with (Design, Execution) of Command Control Centre, Convention Hall, Auditorium & Tribal Museum at Rourkela on Turn key Basis in the State of Odisha	Rs.104.33 Crore	Rs.104 Lakhs	Rs. 11,200/- (Demand Draft in favour of RSCL (Smart City Mission Grant Fund))	24 (Twenty Four Months)

The complete BID document can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of Rourkela Municipal Corporation (<https://www.rmc.nic.in/>, <https://smartnet.niua.org> or e-procurement portal of Odisha <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 23/07/2019 to 22/08/2019 (upto 17:00 Hrs. IST). Bid must be submitted online only at [<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>] on or before (up to 22/08/2019 Up to 17:00 Hrs IST). Bids received online shall be opened on 27/08/2019 (at 16:00 hours IST). Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, document fee & Power of Attorney and other documents as per SBD shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 27/08/2019 (at 15:00 hours IST). Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 30/07/2019 at 11.00 A.M. in the Conference Hall of RSCL. Please note that the RSCL reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever. For queries, intending bidder may contact Dy. Executive Engineer vide Phone No. 8249833105 and Email Id: [rourkelascl@gmail.com](mailto:rourkelascl@gmail.com)

Sd/-  
**CEO, Rourkela Smart City Limited**

13080/11/0004/1920

**Classifieds**  
FROM ANYTHING TO EVERYTHING

**COURT NOTICE**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (ORDER 5, rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) In the court of Sh. Manish Yaduvanshi Addl. Dist. & Sessions Judge (Central) Room No. 318, 3rd Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54  
SUIT NO. CS/1790/17  
ICICI Bank Ltd.  
Vs.  
Sachin Kukreja  
To, Sachin Kukreja S/o Sh. Mahesh Kukreja R/o D-2, 121-122, 3rd Floor, Sec-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085 Office at: Prop. of Nimit Embroidery RZ-222, Ravi Nagar Extn., Keshopuram Mandi, New Delhi-110018

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 30-07-2019 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the court, this 21-06-2019.  
Addl. Dist. & Sessions Judge (Central) Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5, rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) IN THE COURT OF MANISH YADUVANSHI ADDL. DIST. & SESSIONS JUDGE (CENTRAL), ROOM NO. 318, 3RD FLOOR, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-54  
SUIT NO. CS/CMM/192/18  
ICICI BANK LTD., PLAINTIFF VS. MOHD WASEEM - DEFENDANT  
To, Mohd. Waseem S/o. Hakeem Sayed R/o. X-13/14, Gali No. 10, X-Block, Brahmapuri, Near Monbi Baba Mandir, New Delhi-110053

Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 29.07.2019 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. GIVEN Under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 21.06.2019.

Sd/  
ADJ. CENTRAL-11, Additional District & Sessions Judge Central, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

## Cong MP's plan to buy car with money from party workers hits roadblock

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 22

THE DECISION of Congress MP Ramya Haridas to mobilise money from party workers to buy a Multi-Utility vehicle (MUV) has hit a roadblock after an objection from the party's state leadership on Monday.

Haridas, who hails from a poor family of farm workers, wanted to buy an MUV worth Rs 14 lakh. She planned to collect the amount from 1,400 booths under her constituency Alathur. The idea was to take donations, with a minimum amount of Rs 1,000, from Youth Congress workers. Haridas, the first Dalit woman MP from Kerala, thought her salary as MP would not be enough to buy a new car.

Although during the poll campaign, she had raised Rs 67 lakh from the public, raising money for the car from Congress workers triggered a controversy in the party, with one section questioning the propriety of

## She raised Rs 67 lakh during the poll campaign, but a section in the party questioned propriety of raising money for the car

the decision.

After Congress state president Mullappally Ramachandran took strong objection, Haridas on Monday said, "As an obedient worker, I take the words of party president to my heart. My decision may not go down well with those who love me. I have gone through several hardships in my life. In such occasions, the solace was the support I got from the public sphere of life," she said.

Ramachandran said the decision of Haridas would be welcomed by party workers.

"She has come to public life after getting attracted to Gandhian values. Every Congress worker should strive not to lose righteousness," he said.

## J&K Bank deal: ACB searches insurance firm

Srinagar: Continuing investigations into the Jammu and Kashmir Bank and its former chairman Parvez Ahmed, the state Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday searched offices of the IFFCO TOKIO insurance company in Srinagar. The raids followed what the ACB said was a "source report" on an insurance deal "in violation of norms" leading to "undue benefits" to a relative of the bank's former chairman and the insurance company.

In a statement, ACB said that investigations have revealed that the said insurance deal has conferred IFFCO TOKIO the business of insurance in Srinagar and Anantnag "at the cost of bank resources" and that of Bajaj Allianz company Ltd, which already has an arrangement with J&K Bank since 2002.

"The initial probe further revealed that in the first quarter of financial year 2018-2019, April to June, J&K Bank received commission from Bajaj Allianz to the tune of Rs 159 lakh, whereas commission received from IFFCO TOKIO General insurance Company Ltd for the first quarter of current financial year is Rs 88 lakh only, which is less by Rs 71 lakh, thereby a loss in the form of commission to J&K Bank Ltd has been caused." **ENS**

**HARYANA GOVERNMENT**

**CORRIGENDUM NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	CAD DIVISION HISAR	NO 1801-30/10-A DATED 05/07/2019	OPENING OF TENDER ON DATED 06/08/2019 INSTEAD OF 26/07/2019	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xenhisaracd@gmail.com
2.	HVPNL	GDP NO. 1167, NIT NO. 1029 DATED: 31.05.2019	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UP TO 02.08.2019 UP TO 17:00 HRS.	<a href="http://www.hvnpn.org.in">www.hvnpn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 (pro@hvnpn.org.in)
3.	UHBVN	E-8/XEN/VIG/ROHAK/2019-20	TENDER CANCELLED DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE REASON	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	01262-245036 xenvigilrohtak@uhbvn.org.in
4.	UHBVN	NIT NO. 23/XEN/PROJECTS/AMI/2019	DATE EXTENDED	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	9317554907 seprojectsuhbvn@gmail.com
5.	UHBVN	2/2019-20	DATE EXTENDED UPTO 29-07-2019	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	9356063248 xenciviluhbvnpanchkuta@gmail.com
6.	HSAMB GURUGRAM	LETTER NO-2986 DATED 08.07.2019	POSTPONED DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE REASON	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9416631365 xengurgaon.hsamb@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

77693/HRY



SP MLAs walk out of UP House over killings of local leaders

Sonbhadra: Arrested pradhan had grabbed pond for own use

District administration decides to seal pond and remove pradhan's equipment

ASAD REHMAN SONBHADRA, JULY 22

ALLEGING THAT 50 Samajwadi Party (SP) leaders were killed in 28 districts of Uttar Pradesh since the Lok Sabha elections and claiming the "patronage" of the BJP behind these killings, MLAs of the Samajwadi Party (SP) MLAs staged a walk-out from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly Monday.

SUCH WAS the clout of village pradhan Yagya Dutt — the main accused in the July 17 killing of 10 people in clashes over a disputed land in Ghorawal area of Sonbhadra district in Uttar Pradesh — that he allegedly usurped a pond near his house in Sapahi village, using it exclusively to irrigate his field and selling its fish.



Lekhpal removing encroachments from the pond in Sapahi village of Sonbhadra on Monday. Vishal Srivastav

On Monday, the district administration decided to seal the pond and remove the equipment that the pradhan had installed to carry water to his own farm land.

Lekhpal Rajkumar Srivastava, who was at the site, said: "We have removed the pradhan's equipment. Locals have told us that the pradhan didn't let anyone use water from the pond and also kept fish in it."

On Monday, the district administration decided to seal the pond and remove the equipment that the pradhan had installed to carry water to his own farm land. District Magistrate Ankit Kumar Agarwal told *The Indian Express*: "I will instruct the official concerned to get the pradhan's equipment removed and seal the pond."

Ghorawal tehsildar Suresh Chandra said: "I got a call from the DM regarding the pond and sent the local lekhal to seal the pond. The pond will be used by the residents of the village for fishing and irrigation."

Yagya Dutt's lawyer, K N Mishra, rejected the allegations against the pradhan as "baseless". He maintained that the pradhan's land had been encroached upon.

approximately 300bighas of land in three villages. They have influence in the villages because of their political connections. He used to also collect rent on the land and took a cut from that. He did that for several years.

The three villages — Umbha, Sapahi and Moortiya — are near each other, within a 6 km radius. Yagya Dutt's lawyer, K N Mishra, rejected the allegations against the pradhan as "baseless". He maintained that the pradhan's land had been encroached upon.

"The people who encroached upon the land of Yagya Dutt and his family members belong to a Gondwana outfit. The media and political leaders are giving them shelter. The Gond are the encroachers and trespassers on the land owned by the pradhan and his family," Mishra told *The Indian Express*.

usurping the pond, he said: "These are baseless allegations. His land has been taken away by the encroachers." Asked about the July 17 incident, Mishra said: "The Gond attacked and severely injured members of Yagya Dutt's family when they went to plough their land... They tried to snatch the weapons. This is when they (Dutt's family) had to fire to save themselves."

In 2017, Yagya Dutt and 10 others of his family bought 145 bighas of the disputed land from the wife and daughter of a retired Bihar cadre IAS officer (the daughter is also married to an IAS officer). Since then, they had been trying to take possession of the land from its Gond tillers. Calling the sale illegal, the tillers complained first to the revenue authorities and then filed a case in the civil court this year.

"I can tell you that his family owns approximately 300 bighas of land in three villages. They have influence in the villages because of their political connections. He used to also collect rent on the land and took a cut from that. He did that for several years.

Last year, the gram pradhan and his family lodged three FIRs against members of the Gond community at the Ghorawal police station. Two FIRs named 25 people each while a third was against five persons.

Arvind Mishra, who is holding acting charge as SHO of Ghorawal police station, said in all three cases, no arrest has been made so far. The land dispute dates back more than five decades. Following the UP Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950, around 600 bighas, owned by a local estate, was recorded as infertile in revenue records in 1951 and registered as gram sabha land. Locals later started tilling the land.

Advocate Nityanand Dwivedi, who is representing the Gond tillers, said in December 1955, 463 bighas was transferred by the tehsildar to a society called the Adarsh Sahkari Samiti. He said the society had 10 members and a Bihar cadre IAS officer's father-in-law became its president.

In 1989, after the society president passed away, 145 bighas was transferred to the IAS officer's wife and daughter by the SDM, Dwivedi said. This land, he said, was sold to Yagya Dutt and 10 others for around Rs 2 crore. He said the local residents objected and complained to revenue authorities but no action was taken.

According to Dwivedi, a case against the mutation done in January 2018 is pending in the civil court. On July 6, an application to district authorities, protesting the mutation, was rejected, he said. Eleven days later, clashes left 10 persons dead.



NOBODY LEFT BEHIND

Fire officials rescuing people trapped on the terrace of a nine-storey building that caught fire in Mumbai on Monday. The fire broke out in the MTNL building in Bandra, trapping 84 people on the terrace. All of them were rescued in an operation that was one of the biggest in recent times, officials

said. About 150 fire department officials were involved in the operation, nearly 160 breathing apparatus sets were used and up to 100 people were rescued from different parts of the building. The cause of the fire is under investigation, according to fire department officials. Nirmal Harindran

Chargesheet filed in Surat fire case

Surat: The Surat Crime Branch Monday submitted a chargesheet against 11 accused in the arcade fire incident that claimed the lives of 22 students.

Officials said the chargesheet had statements of the 11 arrested and 251 witnesses, a Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report and Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Ltd (DGVCL) documents claiming that no legal connection was taken and documents proving that the construction was illegal.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Surat Crime Branch, Rahul Patel, said, "In the copy, we have mentioned that Hasmukh Gajjar, retired engineer of the Surat Municipal Corporation, Atul Gorsawala, SMC officer, and Dinesh Patel, a relative of the builder, have been declared wanted." ENS

532-KG DRUG HAUL AT ATTARI-WAGAH BORDER

Drug case accused dies in custody, SAD demands probe

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR AMRITSAR, JULY 22

THE LAST rites of Gurbinder Singh, key accused and crucial link to solving the mystery behind the 532-kg drug bust at the Attari-Wagah border, were performed in Amritsar on Monday. Gurbinder had died on Sunday while in judicial custody.



Gurbinder Singh

The hospital. It was on Gurbinder's licence that the rock salt consignment carrying heroin was imported from Pakistan for a Kashmiri trader, Tarik Ahmad Lone.

The autopsy performed before the cremation showed no internal injury, but pointed to excessive bleeding as the cause of death. The Akali Dal Monday demanded a High Court-monitored probe into his death, along with sacking of Jails Minister Sukhjinder Randhawa.

Gurbinder was a diabetic and his blood sugar levels had started fluctuating soon after the arrest by Customs. He was hospitalised for four days after his arrest. His family has alleged that Gurbinder's health was neglected in custody, resulting in his death. Talking to *The Indian Express* on Sunday, Kanwaljit Kaur, Gurbinder's mother, had alleged: "Gurbinder was diabetic and was under stress. He was not provided with necessary insulin inside jail

and during police remand. My son died due to negligence." Amritsar Jail Superintendent Arshdeep Singh Gill, however, had claimed that Gurbinder had a proper supply of insulin. On Monday, Gill said: "There were eight patients in the hospital ward. Tarik Lone was also in the same ward. Food was provided from the jail kitchen to all the prisoners."

"It was found that excessive bleeding was main reason behind his death. Multiple organs were bleeding. No internal injury was found in the body," said Dr Kuldeep Kumar, who conducted the post-mortem with a panel. Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had on Sunday ordered a magisterial probe into Gurbinder's death. However, Opposition SAD kept up its attack; in a statement, former SAD minister Maheshinder Singh Grewal said: "All this is happening under the nose of the Jails Minister. CM should take prompt action against Sukhjinder Randhawa."

Ten killed as van hits truck in Hapur

Noida: Ten people, including eight children, died after a pick up van ramed into a mini truck late on Sunday night in Hapur, police said.

The victims were returning to Salepur Kotla village in Dhaulana after attending a wedding in Hapur when the accident occurred. At least 18 people were injured in the accident and have been admitted to various government hospitals, they said.

"All the occupants of the pick up truck had come to attend a wedding. There were 10 casualties, while several people have been injured... There were almost 30 people in the pick-up.

The driver of the truck has fled," said Sarvesh Kumar Mishra, SSP Hapur. He said the accident took place at around midnight.

Eyewitnesses said the impact of the collision was such that children in the van were flung on to the road. An FIR under sections 279 (rash driving) and 304 A (death by negligence) of the IPC has been filed against the absconding driver.

"The entire car broke because of the impact. A lot of people died," said Muhammad Zaid, one of the passengers.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident. ENS

Advertisement for U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. featuring a logo and text regarding infrastructure projects and tenders.

JHARKHAND

8 held for 'lynching' 4 tribals on suspicion of witchcraft

ABHISHEK ANGAD RANCHI, JULY 22

EIGHT PEOPLE including two priests were arrested on Monday for allegedly lynching four tribals in Jharkhand's Gumla district on the suspicion that they were practising witchcraft, police said.

Piro Oraine, 74 — of Nagar Siskari village under Sisai police station of Gumla district. They were dragged to a nearby area and attacked with sticks and sharp objects until they lost consciousness. A case was registered under IPC sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 302 (murder) and under The Prevention of Witch (DAAIN) Practices Act, 2001, Jharkhand.

Police said they keep conducting workshops to spread awareness and fight superstition. However, in the last two months, 10 people have been killed in Saraikel, Khunti and Gumla in Jharkhand, according to Association for Social and Human Awareness (ASHA), which has been working for people branded as witches.

"The government needs to work tirelessly or else lynching in the name of witchcraft will continue in Jharkhand. In case of any death, the mukhiyas of the villages have to be held accountable," He added that they had done a survey where in 332 panchayats out of 4,000 in Jharkhand, around 332 women have been marked as "witches" by villagers.

Large advertisement for The Nehru Memorial Museum & Library 5th Mandala Dialogue, detailing the event's theme, date, time, venue, and speakers.

Advertisement for Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) featuring a list of 3000 recruitment posts and examination details.



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

**TELLING NUMBERS**

**In the processing of solid waste, Chhattisgarh, Telangana lead**

CHHATTISGARH AND Telangana processed the largest percentage of solid waste they generated in 2018 (until November), according to data provided to Parliament last week. Chhattisgarh generated a total 601,885 MTPA (metric tonne per annum) of waste, and was able to process 84% of it. The corresponding numbers for Telangana were 2,690,415 MTPA and 73%.



Indian cities are struggling to cope with their solid waste. File

The information was provided in Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Environment, Forest And Climate Change in response to a question from Kirit Solanki, the BJP MP from Ahmedabad (West).

Among the larger states, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir were those that had processed the smallest percentage of the total waste they generated — 5% and 8% respectively.

Maharashtra generated the largest quantum of solid waste — 8,22,38,050 MTPA — and processed 44% of it. Delhi, Gujarat, and Karnataka generated 38,32,500, 37,02,925, and 36,50,000 MTPA, and processed 55%, 57%, and 32% respectively.

The Ministry's reply said that according to an annual report prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for 2016-17, "it is estimated that the total generation of solid waste is approximately 1,50,000 T/day", of which 90% (1,35,000 metric tonnes/day) was collected. Out of the waste collected, 20% (27,000 MT/day) was processed while the remaining 80% (10,80,000MT/day) went to dump sites.

The House was informed that 7.17 million tonnes of hazardous waste was produced during 2016-17, of which 3.68 million tonnes (49.46%) was recycled. It was not possible to es-

**TOTAL SOLID WASTE PROCESSED (%) UP TO NOVEMBER, 2018**

**BEST**

Chhattisgarh	84
Telangana	73
Madhya Pradesh	65
Kerala	60
UP, Gujarat	57

**WORST**

West Bengal	5
Jammu & Kashmir	8
Odisha	12
Haryana	17
Andhra Pradesh (Major states only)	29

estimate the quantity of hazardous waste that ends up in landfills, the Ministry said.

**THIS WORD MEANS**

**BHABHA KAVACH**

India's lightest bullet-proof jacket

BHABHA KAVACH, billed as "India's lightest bullet-proof jacket", was launched at the International Police Expo 2019 in New Delhi last week (right). The bullet-proof jacket, developed jointly by the Ordnance Factories Board and the public sector metals and metal alloys manufacturer MIDHANI, can withstand bullets from an AK-47 assault rifle (7.62 mm hard steel core bullets), and the 5.56 mm INSAS rifle, according to a press release issued by the Expo.



and has a five-year warranty. "A large number of queries are coming from state police departments including Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Gujarat," the official was quoted as saying.

The Kavach weighs 9.2 kg, a half kilogram less than the weight for a bullet-proof jacket prescribed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the release said. It quoted a senior Ordnance Factories Board official as saying the jacket "is powered with nano technology from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre",

**SIMPLY PUT**

**In Cong crisis, recalling Kamaraj**

Kamaraj Plan required top Congress leaders to quit govt and work for the organisation. Nearly six decades on, as the party seeks to manage another crisis and leadership transition, it has a blueprint to consider

AMRITH LAL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

HISTORY WEIGHS heavy on India's Grand Old Party. Each time the Congress faces a crisis, it searches for solutions in the past. One such solution is the Kamaraj Plan, which was proposed in this month 56 years ago by the then Chief Minister of Madras, Kumaramswami Kamaraj, to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru as a blueprint to re-energise the Congress and the government.

According to Kamaraj's proposal, leaders in government would quit their ministerial offices and take up organisational work, while those in the organisation would join the government. With the Congress decimated in the 2019 general election and rudderless since the resignation of Rahul Gandhi as party chief, the Kamaraj Plan is back in conversation.

**'Who after Nehru?'**

In 1963, defeats in three successive by-elections were the immediate provocation for the Congress to worry about its situation. But the unease had set in earlier. The war with China the previous year had wrecked the morale of the leadership. Nehru's standing as a statesman had taken a beating. The Opposition was advancing everywhere: the bypolls had brought three stalwarts, Acharya Kripalani, Rammanohar Lohia and Minoo Masani, to Lok Sabha. After a decade in power, fatigue had set in among Congress functionaries and the cadre. The question, 'Who after Nehru?', was beginning to sound ominous. That's when Kamaraj, then 60, proposed to Nehru that he be allowed to quit office to take up organisational work. Under Kamaraj, the Congress had consolidated its position in Madras, but the leader who had his ear to the ground knew that the DMK was advancing and the Congress organisation might not be able to withstand the mobilisational and ideological challenge posed by the Dravidian Movement.

The proposal came up for discussion in the Congress Working Committee, where a large number of members, among them Chief Ministers and Nehru's Cabinet colleagues, supported it. All Union Ministers and Chief Ministers put in their papers to Nehru, who then accepted the resignations of six Union Ministers — Morarji Desai, S K Patil, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Jagjivan Ram, K L Shrivastava and B Gopala Reddy — and the CMs of Madras, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Kashmir. These leaders were to take up organisational posts and rejuvenate the Congress. Since then, the Kamaraj Plan is pro-



Under Indira Gandhi, the Congress moved away from Kamaraj's vision of collective leadership. Express Archive

posed as a remedy whenever the Congress party threatens to slip into a coma.

**Kamaraj, his Plan, and after**

Kamaraj was a self-made leader and a person of great integrity. He had built the party organisation in the Tamil-speaking regions of the Madras Presidency during the freedom struggle and, later, run the state government for nine years. A school dropout from a poor Nadar (a backward caste) family, he had risen from the grassroots as a Congress volunteer to head the party unit, and later, the government. Under Kamaraj, Madras became one of the most industrialised states in India. Nehru had immense respect for him.

The AICC resolution endorsed the Kamaraj Plan on August 10, 1963. Political scientist Rajini Kothari wrote in his classic work, *Politics in India*, that "the Plan, on the one hand, gave to Prime Minister Nehru an unprecedented opportunity to carry out a massive reshuffle of officeholders, but on the other hand asserted the principle of equal status of the party organisation with the government".

Later that year, Kamaraj, who had quit as Chief Minister of Madras, was elected Congress president. In his presidential address delivered in Tamil to the Bhubaneswar Congress session in January 1964, Kamaraj emphasised the achievement of the Congress goal of socialism without authoritarianism and class conflict. Nehru, by now ailing, could not attend the AICC session. On

May 27, 1964, Nehru passed away.

An astute Kamaraj knew that Nehru was irreplaceable, and the party needed a new leadership model to manage both power and its ambitious leaders. His first task was to ensure a smooth transition in the Prime Minister's Office, which he skillfully managed by rallying the party behind his choice for PM, the non-controversial Lal Bahadur Shastri. His next step was to infuse vigour in the party organisation, and thereby, the government. He sought to steer the party towards a federal system of leadership and won the confidence of powerful state satraps such as Atulya Ghosh, Sanjiva Reddy, Nijalingappa and S K Patil.

**Idea of collective leadership**

Kamaraj also preferred a collective leadership for the party, and saw himself as a consensus-builder. His biographer and a former editor of *The Indian Express*, V K Narasimhan, wrote in *Kamaraj: A Study*, "As a strict respecter of parliamentary conventions, Kamaraj did not seek interference by the Congress president or the Congress Working Committee in the day-to-day decisions of the Government. What he wanted was full coordination between the Cabinet and the Party organisation with regard to major policies. He felt that policy matters should be thoroughly discussed in the Working Committee before decisions were taken by the Government."

Kamaraj's emphasis on collective leader-

ship helped the Congress navigate a difficult time when it lost Nehru and Shastri in quick succession. Two wars and drought had left the economy in a bad shape. Kamaraj was instrumental in the Congress opting for Indira Gandhi as Shastri's successor instead of a more experienced Morarji Desai.

**Abandoning the Plan**

Under Indira Gandhi, the Congress moved away from Kamaraj's vision of collective leadership and consensus-building, and moved towards a leader-centric high command. It led to friction between Indira's supporters and the Old Guard or Syndicate, leading to the split in the party in 1969. Kamaraj's influence on the organisation had waned by then — the DMK had defeated the Congress in Madras state in the 1967 Assembly elections, and the Perunthalaivar (great leader) himself lost. It's another debate if the Congress would have lost Madras had Kamaraj stayed on as Chief Minister — but without the guiding hand of Kamaraj, the Congress government in Madras failed to handle the anti-Hindi agitation that rocked the state in 1965 and the food shortages of 1965-66.

The Indira years undid the gains of the Kamaraj Plan and the Congress transformed into a party that revolved around the Nehru-Gandhi family. Rahul Gandhi's suggestion of a non-Nehru-Gandhi leader follows in the spirit of the Kamaraj Plan. But does the Congress have a Kamaraj to steer the transformation?

**Forest Rights Act case: What is at stake?**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JULY 22

DISTRICTS with sizeable tribal populations saw several protests and demonstrations on Monday. The protests were organised by the Bhumhi Adhikar Andolan. There were two issues that the demonstrators were decrying.

One, the proposed amendments to the Indian Forest Act (IFA), 1927; the concerned amendments to the IFA have been sent to states for consultation. Two, a move to oust forest-dwellers from forest land; a case to this effect concerning the Forest Rights Act (FRA) comes up for its next hearing before the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

**What is the FRA case before the Supreme Court?**

On February 13 this year, the Supreme

Court ordered the eviction of lakhs of tribals and other traditional forest dwellers whose claims under The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act (or FRA), 2006, had been rejected following a three-tier process. Later, the SC temporarily put on hold the eviction by an order on February 28, giving state governments time to file affidavits on whether due process was followed before claims were rejected.

On July 24, the Centre and states are expected to file affidavits regarding the implementation of the FRA.

**Who are the petitioners, and what is their contention?**

The petitioners are Wildlife First, Nature Conservation Society, and Tiger Research and Conservation Trust. They contend that the protection of forests has been severely af-

ected due to bogus claims under the FRA, and that the bogus claimants continue to occupy large areas of forest lands, including inside national parks and sanctuaries, despite their applications being rejected under the appeals process of the FRA.

**What are the proposed amendments to the IFA?**

The FRA, enacted in 2006, envisions the forest rights committee of a village as the central unit in managing forest resources. The proposed IFA amendments will revert to giving overriding powers to Forest Department officials. The greater policing powers to the Forest Department include the use of firearms, and veto power to override the FRA. Further, if rights under FRA are seen as hampering forest conservation efforts, the state may commute such rights through compensation to the tribals. The changes also

propose to open up forest land specifically for commercial exploitation of timber or non-timber forest produce.

Across India, tribal rights activists are of the view that the proposed IFA amendments will divest tribals and other forest-dwelling communities of their rights over forest land and resources.

**What are the demands of those holding agitations ahead of the SC hearing?**

When the apex court passed its order on February 13, the central government had not represented itself in court. These agitations are primarily targeted at exhorting the Centre and state governments to present a defence of the FRA in court.

Other demands include shelving the proposed IFA amendments, which activists have called more draconian than the original colonial-era law.

**National Medical Commission Bill: What changes in medical education**

ABANTIKA GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

ON MONDAY, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan introduced the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill in Lok Sabha. An earlier version of this Bill was introduced in the 16th Lok Sabha, and had passed the scrutiny of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare. However, that Bill lapsed at the end of the term of the last Lok Sabha. Once the NMC Bill is enacted, the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, will stand repealed. The existing Act provides for the Medical Council of India (MCI), the medical education regulator in India.

**Why is the MCI being replaced?**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare examined the functioning of the MCI in its 92nd report (in 2016) and was scathing in its criticism: "The Medical Council of India, when tested on the above touchstone (of producing competent doctors, ensure adherence to qual-

ity standards etc) has repeatedly been found short of fulfilling its mandated responsibilities. Quality of medical education is at its lowest ebb; the current model of medical education is not producing the right type of health professionals that meet the basic health needs of the country because medical education and curricula are not integrated with the needs of our health system; many of the products coming out of medical colleges are ill-prepared to serve in poor resource settings like Primary Health Centre and even at the district level; medical graduates lack competence in performing basic health care tasks like conducting normal deliveries; instances of unethical practice continue to grow due to which respect for the profession has dwindled."

The Committee also said it was "shocked to find that compromised individuals have been able to make it to the MCI, but the Ministry is not empowered to remove or sanction a Member of the Council even if he has been proved corrupt. In a day and age when the need for sturdy systems and enhanced transparency based regimes are being increasingly emphasized, such state of

affairs indicate that the MCI has not evolved with the times. Such state of affairs are also symptomatic of the rot within and point to a deep systemic malice".

**How will the proposed NMC function?**

The NMC Bill provides for the constitution of a 25-member NMC selected by a search committee, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, to replace the MCI. The Bill provides for just one medical entrance test across the country, single exit exam (the final MBBS exam, which will work as a licentiate examination), a screening test for foreign medical graduates, and an entrance test for admission in postgraduate programmes.

The Bill proposes to regulate the fees and other charges of 50 per cent of the total seats in private medical colleges and deemed universities. A medical advisory council — which will include one member representing each state and Union Territory (vice-chancellors in both cases), chairman of the University Grants Commission, and the director of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council — will advise and make recommendations to the NMC.



Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in Parliament last week. PTI

Four boards — dealing with undergraduate and postgraduate medical education, medical assessment and rating board, and the ethics and medical registration board — will regulate the sector. The structure is in accordance with the recommendations of the Group of Experts headed by Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, set up by the Union Health Ministry to study the norms for the estab-

lishment of medical colleges.

The Bill marks a radical change in regulatory philosophy; under the NMC regime, medical colleges will need permission only once — for establishment and recognition. There will be no need for annual renewal, and colleges would be free to increase the number of seats on their own, subject to the present cap of 250. They would also be able to start postgraduate courses on their own. Fines for violations, however, are steep — 1.5 times to 10 times the total annual fee charged.

**What are the changes in the 2019 Bill?**

There are two crucial changes, following the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare (109th report in 2018). One, it has dropped the provision that allowed practitioners of homoeopathy and Indian systems of medicine to prescribe allopathy medicines after a bridge course.

**What is the so-called "bridge" course?**

This was one of the most contentious provisions of the Bill with even ruling party

MPs criticising it.

On the bridge course, the Committee (in 2018) had said it was of the view that the "bridge course should not be made a mandatory provision... However, the Committee appreciates the need to build the capacity of the existing human resources in the healthcare sector, to address the shortage of healthcare professionals so as to achieve the objectives of the National Health Policy, 2017. The Committee feels that every State has its own specific healthcare issues and challenges. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the State Governments may implement measures to enhance the capacity of the existing healthcare professionals including AYUSH practitioners, B.Sc (Nursing), BDS, B.Pharm etc to address their State specific primary healthcare issues in the rural areas."

**What did the panel say about exit exam?**

On the National Licentiate Examination, the Committee (in 2018) recommended that the relevant clause be redrafted "so as to make the final year MBBS examination as the licentiate examination".



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Moon-bound again

Humanity has neglected the moon for the last five decades. Now, Chandrayaan 2 takes on the challenge



AJEY LELE

INDIA'S SECOND MISSION to the moon was planned for July 15, but got delayed owing to technical problems just one hour before the actual launch. However, ISRO scientists identified the anomaly quickly and now, within a week, the Chandrayaan 2 mission has begun its journey towards the moon. The launch of the mission on July 22, is a successful first step towards realising a larger aim of the mission, which is to ensure that India's lander successfully makes a soft landing on the surface of the moon. Subsequently, from the belly of the lander, the rover would be released for making an assessment of the elemental composition of the moon's surface.

Chandrayaan 2 has been one of the most awaited missions of ISRO. After the success of Chandrayaan 1 in 2008, it was expected that the second mission would get moon-bound shortly. In fact, ISRO did plan the second mission for 2014. However, this was supposed to be a joint mission along with Russia. As per the plans, Russia was to provide the lander and rover system, but they failed to do so owing to the crisis within their space programme.

This resulted in a delay in the programme and now, after a gap of more than a decade, India's second moon mission has begun its journey towards the moon. There is both a negative and a positive angle to this delay. The negative angle is obvious — India's moon agenda has lagged behind significantly. Actually, by this time, India should have progressed towards undertaking its third mission to the moon. The good part is that Russia's non-participation made ISRO design and develop the entire lander-rover system indigenously. In the long run, this would make ISRO more self-sufficient.

After the successful launch of Chandrayaan 2, now the wait is for the soft

landing on the moon on September 6. For the next one-and-a-half months, ISRO scientists would be required to ensure that the mission remains in good health. It would be a phase by phase journey. ISRO would be undertaking five to six orbit raising manoeuvres, known as earth orbit burns, to take the craft close to the moon. Subsequently, they would be performing lunar orbit burns and would effectively establish the craft (orbiter) 100 km above the moon surface. This would be followed by the soft landing of the lander. This landing is going to be the most critical part of this mission, which ISRO is calling "15 minutes of terror", since they would need to drastically reduce the velocity of the lander, finally reaching zero.

Chandrayaan 2 would be travelling a distance of approximately 4 lakh km. Finally, after reaching there, they would view and study the moon from a distance of 100 km for one year, at the minimum. But, the lander-rover system on the moon would function only for one moon day (equivalent to 14 Earth days) and during this period the rover could travel a maximum distance of 500 metres on the moon's surface. All this would cost around Rs 1,000 crore. The obvious question would be: Is the effort worth the investments?

Now, compare India's mission with two similar missions in China: Chang'e-3 (2013) and Chang'e-4 (soft landing on January 3 this year). The rover of Chang'e-4 called Yutu-2 is still functional after six months. For its designed life of three months, Yutu-2 has managed to travel for 163 metres. The first Yutu rover of Chang'e-3 mission, managed to rove about 114 metres before the technical malfunction that left it unable to move. This rover continued to function while stationary until mid-2016. The lander for Chang'e-3 remained operational for more than 2,000 days

and could even be operational today.

Officially, the costs towards the Chinese mission are not known, but based on available estimates, they are much more than the ISRO's. In respect of Chandrayaan 2, there is a possibility that the mission could even last for more than the designed life period. Please remember, India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) has completed four years in its orbit on September 24, 2018, though the designed mission life was only six months.

Interestingly, during the 1970s, the Soviets had positioned the Lunokhod 1 rover to the lunar surface by the Luna 17 spacecraft. This was the first successful rover to operate beyond earth. It operated for 322 days and is known to have travelled around 10 km and sent thousands of images back. But this was the period when even humans went to the moon.

The 21st century challenges are different. Humanity is paying the price for neglecting the moon for the last five decades. The technology edge of the Apollo 11 era has disappeared. Americans are reinventing the wheel to get back to the moon. As the Chinese case indicates, today it is difficult to travel even a few meters on the moon successfully. During the last five decades, the world has witnessed an around 50 per cent success rate for such missions. Very recently, Israel's attempt for soft landing on the moon had resulted in failure.

In the backdrop of all this, ISRO has planned its mission. It has taken on the challenge upfront. Let us all wish India's lander (Vikram) and rover (Pragyan) happy-landings on September 6, and godspeed.

The writer is senior fellow, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi

ANOTHER GIANT LEAP

With successful launch of Chandrayaan 2, India has taken a significant step towards recognition as a space power

AFTER ABORTING A countdown because of a technical fault on July 15, the Indian Space Research Organisation has put its second lunar mission in earth orbit, using a challenging launch window. That's 11 years after the first moon-shot in 2008, which had sent back data answering one of the oldest questions about our satellite: Does it have water? This mission was originally planned for 2014, but was delayed because the Russian space agency, Roscosmos, a partner in the project, failed to deliver a rover. The setback has actually worked to the advantage of Indian space science. Just as it had developed indigenous cryogenic engines when it was starved of dual-use technologies, the industry has innovated an indigenous rover, Pragyan. On September 6, India expects to become the fourth nation, after the US, Russia and China, to make a soft landing on the lunar surface. Chandrayaan 1 had only crash-landed a probe on the moon, and a soft landing using retro-rockets would be a crucial demonstration of capabilities. A lander must arrive at its destination with its payload (the rover, in this case) and instrumentation intact in order to remain in service for extended periods. The next stage would be a demonstration of the ability to take off again from the lunar surface, necessary for a manned lunar mission.

Equipped with a rover, Chandrayaan 2 revisits many of the mapping projects of its predecessor, and retains an interest in water ice, an important resource in the long term. But the effects of a successful lunar mission will be felt immediately on Earth, as India gains prestige as a space power. India has a cost advantage in the space race, more so than China, the other Asian nation which has developed an ambitious programme taking advantage of the falling costs of reaching space. Chandrayaan 2, which will demonstrate the ability to navigate the lunar surface, is part of a series of achievements. The most publicised is ISRO's ability to send multiple payloads into orbit at the most competitive rates. But the most recent demonstration of power is equally remarkable: In March, an anti-satellite missile was tested live. Again, India was only the fourth nation to demonstrate the capability to deploy arms in space.

But as the Indian space industry booms, it may need to exercise fiscal prudence. Several projects are being talked about, including a manned mission to Earth orbit and the moon, and even a space station. Besides, Mangalyaan has already shown a commitment to planetary science. At some point, initiatives of immediate practical value, like the launch vehicle industry, must vie for funds with prestige projects like a manned lunar mission, and strategic considerations would have to be carefully calibrated.

GETTING AWAY

After 40 acquittals in 41 Muzaffarnagar riots cases, due process needs to be rescued, revived

IT COULD BE the story of any major case of communal violence in which the minority community bears the brunt. And in which the justice system fails the victims and their families in the aftermath. Though it broke a period of relative calm after Gujarat 2002, the violence that swept Muzaffarnagar in 2013, killing at least 65 persons, may not be unusual in a country inured to outbreaks of barbarity. What happened later, between 2017 and 2019, when Muzaffarnagar courts delivered verdicts in 41 cases linked to the communal violence and a conviction in just one case of murder — all 40 acquittals coming in cases involving attacks on Muslims — may not be unprecedented either. Nor is the fact that the registration of the cases and their collapse spanned two regimes, one "secular" and the other led by the BJP, a surprise, given that parties of all political hues have presided over violence between communities and the absence of justice that followed it. And yet, as an Indian Express investigation — which scrutinised court records and testimonies of complainants and witnesses and conducted interviews of officials in cases of murder, gangrape and rioting in Muzaffarnagar 2013 — showed, every time justice is miscarried, it is miscarried in its own chilling way.

The Express investigation has uncovered cases upon cases where witnesses executed u-turns or turned hostile, crucial evidence such as the murder weapon went missing and court records showed glaring holes in the prosecution, including the failure to ask the obvious questions, or to cross-examine. In the end, no one killed all members of the family that was burnt alive, or the three friends dragged into a field and killed, or the father hacked to death with a sword. Fifty-three men accused of murder in 10 cases walked free. The four cases of gangrape and 26 cases of rioting met a similar lack of closure. In Gujarat 2002, it took the Supreme Court to break the grim pattern of crime and impunity. It intervened in the cases that followed the killings, shone the spotlight on them and monitored them, even airlifted some of them to courts outside Gujarat so that they could be insulated from extraneous attempts to intimidate witnesses and influence verdicts.

In Muzaffarnagar, too, it is clear that justice and due process need to be urgently rescued and revived. Surely, the politically expedient refusal of the Uttar Pradesh government to appeal the acquittals in 40 of the 41 cases cannot be allowed to be the last word. At stake is the people's faith in the New India that their political leaders like to invoke.

A CLASS APART

A K Roy was a Marxist trade unionist who recognised the liberating potential of social justice politics

ARUN KUMAR ROY was a Marxist whose understanding of Indian social conditions was so radically different that he had to work outside of the mainstream communist parties. Roy, who passed away in Dhanbad on Sunday aged 90, was a leader of the CTU who broke away from the CPM and founded the Marxist Coordination Committee (MCC) to further the interests of coal workers. He was thrice elected to the Bihar legislative assembly and thrice to the Lok Sabha. In the House, he was an uncompromising spokesperson for the working class while opposing the moves of legislators to extract more perks and privileges from the exchequer. He made headlines in his last term in the Lok Sabha (1989-91), when he opposed a proposal in Parliament to increase the salary and pension for MPs. For most of his life, Roy stayed at the party office and spent his last days in a party worker's home.

Roy did not see class politics as an end in itself. He engaged with identity-centric mobilisations in undivided Bihar and spotted the liberating potential in them. He held that social justice politics could mobilise productive forces and transform social relations. In 1973, he joined hands with Shibu Soren and Binod Bihari Mahato to form the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and launch a movement for a separate state comprising the Adivasi regions of Bihar. The JMM was pitched as an alliance of peasants and workers with the slogan, Jharkhand-Lalkhand, but ambitious leaders and internal contradictions forced its founders to part ways after some years.

Incidentally, Roy was a Bengali migrant from East Bengal who had arrived in Bihar to work after completing his post graduation in Chemistry from Calcutta University. He turned to trade union work full time after he was dismissed from Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL), Sindri, for participation in a workers' strike. The state lost a chemical engineer and the workers got a leader.



C UDAY BHASKAR

JULY 1999 WAS a month of both exhilaration and relief for India and the Vajpayee-led government for the manner in which the brief, but potentially destabilising, Kargil war ended. Pakistan's perfidy, led by the wily and audacious army chief at the time, General Pervez Musharraf, of occupying craggy mountain peaks in the high Himalayas and posing a challenge to India's territorial integrity was foiled by the resolve and raw courage of the Indian military.

But a heavy price was paid. Almost 550 troops made the ultimate sacrifice and as many as 1,400 were injured. This human cost reflects poorly on the higher defence establishment of the day. India lacked critical military inventory but this was compensated by the leadership of the middle and junior ranks.

The roll call of honour — symbolised by the image of the do-or-die young Indian soldier atop a re-captured peak with the tricolour and the jingle "yeh dil mange more" — includes Vikram Batra, Manoj Pandey, Hanif-ud-din and Yogendra Yadav among many others. The extraordinary air effort and the many tactical innovations in the latter phase of the operations contributed in no small measure to the final outcome.

The 20th anniversary of the Kargil war will be remembered across the country in a celebratory manner over three days (July 25-27) and the theme is, "Remember, Rejoice and Renew". While remembering the fallen soldier is commendable, it may be desirable to also "remember" and "reflect" on the larger national omission that plagues India's institutional approach to national security.

The central element of Kargil that merits remembering is that it had caught the Indian higher security establishment by surprise. This is similar to what happened in October 1962, and later in November 2008. In each of these cases, the country paid a heavy price in terms

DOES INDIA REMEMBER KARGIL?

Critical lessons not learnt from the conflict make the country more vulnerable

of the lives lost. But it is not evident that the political and military leadership has engaged in rigorous introspection.

Yes, the 1962 debacle was followed by the emphatic military victory of 1971 and the birth of Bangladesh, though it is a different matter that the long-term political and strategic gains that could have been obtained in relation to Pakistan were squandered. At Simla, in 1972, India was oblivious to the imperatives of geography and uncomfortable with the leverage of macro military power. Alas, few national security-related lessons were institutionally internalised.

Kargil was a different story. While the war ended in a positive manner for India, the Vajpayee government constituted an expert committee on July 29, 1999, "To review the events leading up to the Pakistani aggression in the Kargil District of Ladakh in Jammu & Kashmir; and to recommend such measures as are considered necessary to safeguard national security against such armed intrusions."

Led by the late K Subrahmanyam, a doyen of the Indian strategic fraternity, the Kargil committee submitted its report (KCR) in record time — a rare achievement since extensions for such committees is routine. In an even more remarkable development, a sanitised version of the report was placed in the public domain in the form of a book.

The KCR is comprehensive and due credit must be given to its members — Lt Gen K K Hazari, B G Verghese and the tireless member secretary, Satish Chandra — for the report. This was very different from the fate of the much discussed but yet to be made public Henderson-Brooks Report of the 1962 war with China and it may be useful to remember what the KRC said in its conclusion.

Its epilogue "brings out many lessons that the armed forces, intelligence agencies, Parliament, government, media and the na-

tion as a whole have to learn. These should stimulate introspection and reflection, leading to purposeful action. The committee trusts that its recommendations will be widely discussed and acted upon expeditiously so that the sacrifices made will not have been in vain. The best tribute to the dedication of those killed and wounded will be to ensure that 'Kargil's of any description are never repeated.'

To its credit, the Vajpayee government set up a Group of Ministers (GoM) to make specific policy recommendations across four domains and individual task forces were constituted that brought together the best Indian talent and experience. It seemed as if Vajpayee would lead India's security reforms in much the same manner that Narasimha Rao had for economic reforms.

Alas, this was not to be and both 9/11 in New York and the terror attack on the Indian Parliament in December 2001 pushed the Kargil recommendations to the back-burner. On the 20th anniversary of Kargil, remembrance must be tinged with shame that Parliament has not found it important enough to engage in serious, non-partisan and informed deliberations over how to arrive at "purposeful action".

Critical lessons not learnt from Kargil made the country vulnerable, that was one of the reasons for what happened in Mumbai in November 2008.

The current paradox is that while the Modi team has triumphed electorally on the plank of national security, it appears that the emotive appeal of the fallen soldier and the manner in which it can be exploited for catalysing nationalist sentiment is a higher priority. To "remember" national security experiences in a selective manner is a dangerous Barmecide endeavour.

Bhaskar is director, Society for Policy Studies

JULY 23, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO



RAM BACKS OUT

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER Jagjivan Ram has made it clear that he would "not come in the way" of Morarji Desai forming a new government. "Morarji Desai is the leader of the Janata Party and there is nothing to prevent him from forming a Janata government," he told reporters. A relaxed Jagjivan Ram met newsmen at his house after having day-long discussions with MPs and party leaders and attending a brief meeting of the Janata Parliamentary Party executive at Desai's official residence. Earlier, Jagjivan Ram and Desai had telephonic talks. It emerged from Jagjivan Ram's observations that he is reconciled to Desai trying to form the government

and his taking the number two position. A section of the party, notably some Jana Sangh and Scheduled Caste members of the Lok Sabha, had challenged Desai's right to continue as leader.

MORARJI'S CLAIM

THE CARETAKER PRIME minister, Morarji Desai, remains leader of the Janata Party in Parliament. This became clear today after Jagjivan Ram gave up his pursuit of the leadership. Having warded off the challenge from within his party, Desai is now to convince the President that he — and not Charan Singh, leader of the Janata (S) — can form a stable government. Desai staked his claim to form

another government soon after he resigned from the prime ministership last Sunday. Charan Singh has also written to the President that he has the requisite support and the Congress-Janata (S) alliance can face the Lok Sabha.

CALL CHARAN FIRST

S N MISHRA, Janata (S) leader, said President N Sanjeeva Reddy, "has a duty to call upon Charan Singh to explore the possibility of forming a government at the Centre". Addressing journalists in Delhi, he maintained that "by no stretch of imagination or logic" could Charan Singh be "sidetracked or put behind anyone else" in this matter.

# 15 THE IDEAS PAGE

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The US-India relationship must not come at the cost of isolating this country [Pakistan].” —DAWN

# What is to be done about growth

Arvind Subramanian's paper, other micro data, suggest an impending economic slowdown. Policymakers must take notice and act



**ECONOMIC GRAFFITI**  
BY KAUSHIK BASU

ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN'S PAPER, 'India's GDP Mis-estimation', published in June this year, caused a lot of controversy. I was initially sceptical of his argument. But now, having heard him at the India Policy Forum at NCAER, on July 10, where he presented more data on India's slowdown, I am convinced about the significance of his research. The lessons I take away from his papers and new work are not exactly the ones he would emphasise, but the general message is important for India and the nation's policymakers.

What he showed was, if you take 17 major items, like electricity consumption and airline traffic, that correlate well with India's growth and track them, you will see that their growth slows down after 2011-12 and drops substantially below levels consistent with the official GDP growth. This leads him to conclude that India's recent GDP growth is slower, by as much as 2.5 percentage points, from what the official data suggest.

I do not think that India's GDP computation has obvious flaws. What the divergence demonstrated by Subramanian reveals instead is underlying disturbances in the economy. India's economy has many fundamental strengths and is capable of taking on this challenge but it requires skillful policy maneuvers. Before I go into this, let me point to some evidence beyond that in Subramanian's paper, which are signals of an impending slowdown.

To start with a little history, the first time India's GDP growth rate crossed the 9 per cent mark was in 1975, the year of India's Emergency. It is possible that the shock of the Emergency caused this growth spike. Before anyone jumps to the conclusion that authoritarianism is good for growth, let me point out that the following year growth slumped to 1.2 per cent, and by 1979-80 it had dropped to negative 5.2 per cent, which is the lowest recorded growth in India since 1947. While it is true that there are some examples of authoritarian regimes leading to high growth (China being the most prominent), there is overwhelming evidence from history of dictatorial control leading to disaster.

India's true transformation occurred after 1993, when growth became stably high and foreign exchange reserves rose exponentially. The economy's most remarkable period was 2003 to 2011, when annual GDP growth was approximately 8.5 per cent. Within this, the most significant stretch was from 2005 to 2008, when India grew by over 9 per cent each year.

The slowdown began in 2012, reversed in 2015, but over the last two years it has slowed again. The last official quarterly growth data, pertaining to the first quarter of 2019, shows GDP growth to be at 5.8 per cent. The examination of micro data suggests a genuine risk of a further slowdown in the short run. It is time for policymakers to sit up.

Subramanian already pointed to the fact that from 2011-12 to 2017-18, India's export growth was zero per cent. Six consecutive years of average zero per cent growth in ex-



Suvajit Dey

ports does not augur well. For emerging economies raring to grow, exports are important. During the same period, Vietnam's exports grew over 300 per cent.

Of as much concern, since this is one of the big drivers of growth for developing countries, is the performance of investment rates, the percentage of GDP that consists of expenditure on items like infrastructure, machines and technology. All the Asian super-performers had investment rates over 35 per cent. India crossed the 30 per cent line in 2004. This had never happened before and was quite a landmark for the nation. By 2007-8 India's investment rate had reached 38.1 per cent, putting India in the Asian super-performer league. Unfortunately, it has fallen steadily, and is now back to just above the 30 per cent line.

Turning to other micro data, India's automobile sector is stalling, and the balance sheets of Indian corporations have worsened. Companies' combined borrowings were up 13.2 per cent in FY19 but their net worth did not rise comparably. Another figure is the relationship between home prices and buyer incomes. According to the RBI, house price to income ratio has risen from 56.1 in March 2015 to 61.5 in March this year. This in itself is not a problem, but if home prices make a downward correction, this can cause general demand to stall.

What should the government do to ward off short-run risk and strengthen long-run, sustainable development? For the former, it is time for some Keynesian demand boost. We should be prepared to make a measured increase in fiscal deficit for a year or two. This will boost demand for goods and be a much-

needed shot-in-the-arm for India's firms and farms. If the extra expenditure is directed at the poor and the agriculture sector, that will help those who need it most. Another item on which the government can step up expenditure is on building infrastructure. This can simultaneously boost demand and raise investment.

Turning to more long-run matters, we must continue to cut bureaucratic costs. It is true that important steps have been taken in the last three years, such as the new Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016. There are also improvements in the ease of doing business. However, the latter was done mainly to appease the World Bank by taking steps exactly on indicators that the World Bank tracks. What is needed is to cut the culture of permissionism. There is a reason governments allow this to persist. If citizens and businesses do not have to repeatedly turn to the government for permission, this clips the government's power, and most governments have a tendency to resist this.

Finally, the long run belongs to nations that promote higher education, creativity and scientific temper. Among developing nations, India was an outstanding performer on these scores. This advantage has been eroding in recent years. I hope we will have the sagacity to reverse the trend.

[All GDP data cited in this article are from Government of India's Economic Survey 2018-19.]

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[All GDP data cited in this article are from Government of India's Economic Survey 2018-19.]

The writer is C. Marks Professor at Cornell University and former Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, World Bank

# The moon and the law

There is valuable real estate for space-faring nations on the lunar surface. But international law is still unclear on ownership in space



**RAJA MANDALA**  
BY C RAJA MOHAN

WHEN CHANDRAYAAN 2 arrives at the moon in a few weeks from now, it will seek to soft-land the lunar module, Vikram with its rover, Pragyan, on a site between two large craters in the south polar region. India is not the only one interested in the moon's south pole. Other countries as well as private corporations are aiming at the same area: for a good reason — the lunar south pole has places where the sun never sets.

These places are called "Peaks of Eternal Light" — points on any celestial body that receive sunlight through the year. There are barely any peaks that have "eternal" or permanent illumination. But there are some which have light for a large part of the year. The moon has these peaks on its polar regions. The peaks in the south polar region are considered more attractive than those in the north.

Near permanent sunlight facilitates the establishment of lunar stations with assured supply of solar energy. Some of these peaks are fortunately located next to areas that are in permanent darkness and hold significant reserves of lunar ice. Many recent surveys, including those by Chandrayaan 1, have identified the presence of water in the polar regions. Having easy access to water is obviously critical to a sustainable human presence on the moon.

Water can also be broken down into hydrogen and oxygen, which in turn can be turned into rocket fuel. With moon's low gravity, space vehicles need a lot less fuel than on earth for take-off. That could make the moon a convenient way-station from which human explorers could travel to other celestial bodies. Mars is already in the sights of many space-faring nations.

Right now, the moon rush on the earth is aimed at the lunar south pole. In January this year, China's Chang'e 4 soft-landed in the Von Karman crater on the dark side of the south polar region. China hopes to build a lunar robotic station near the south pole in little more than a decade.

The US lunar programme, revived by the Trump Administration, now aims to put man back on the moon in the next decade. NASA's focus is on the south pole and if it succeeds, it will be the first manned crew to arrive at the south pole.

NASA, however, has some competition at home from Amazon's Jeff Bezos. In May this year, Bezos unveiled the Blue Moon project that seeks to land men and women on the moon in the next few years. "It's time to go back to the moon and this time stay," Bezos said. Bezos wants to land two tons of

cargo on each mission and start building a lunar base at the Shackleton Crater, very close to the lunar south pole. It is named after Ernest Shackleton who explored the earth's south pole in the Antarctic.

As a lunar race unfolds, the world will run, sooner than later, into difficult problems about such mundane issues as property rights. The international law of outer space is now defined by the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. The OST is quite explicit in affirming that outer space and celestial bodies like the moon can't be "appropriated" by any nation through claims of sovereignty, occupation or any other means. It calls the exploration and use of outer space "shall be the province of all mankind".

Like so much in law, one principle often contradicts another. The OST also wants states to show "due regard to the corresponding interests of all other States Parties to the Treaty". The interpretation of these principles is becoming contentious as the world's space-faring nations come to terms three important facts.

The "peaks of eternal light" constitute the most valuable real estate on the moon; they come in small patches and are in short supply. If the principle of respecting "corresponding interests" means "non-interference" in the pre-existing lunar activity of another state, some international lawyers worry, we could end up with up de-facto ownership for those who show up first on the peaks of eternal light.

Quite clearly, this is a recipe for competition and conflict on the moon. To make matters worse, the Outer Space Treaty has no provision for effective dispute resolution. The OST certainly exhorts states to cooperate and extend mutual assistance to each other in outer space. It also calls for consultations when conflicts arise. That inevitably takes us out of the legal and into the political domain.

There is also contention on another question — who owns the resources of the moon? In a law approved in 2015, the US has authorised its citizens to own, transport and sell resources exploited on the moon. Washington argues that this provision does not violate OST's principle of "non-appropriation" of the moon's territory. Tiny Luxembourg has passed a similar law to attract companies interested in space mining. The UAE is expected to follow suit soon.

As India celebrates the successful launch of Chandrayaan 2, Delhi needs to match the extraordinary success of its scientists with sustained diplomatic effort at the highest level. Amidst the growing scale and scope of humanity's lunar adventure, the Foreign Office needs to take up international space cooperation as a strategic priority. It also needs to develop a stronger political voice for India in shaping new rules for the moon and outer space.

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

# Living well together

'Live and let live' is a minimal requirement. Beyond it, there is neighbourliness



PRIYA KUMAR

IRENA AKBAR'S article ('Secularism is no spectacle', IE, July 11) responds to the widely divergent — and often hypocritical — media and political responses to the choices made by two young Muslim women, Nusrat Jahan and Zaira Wasim. My response does not seek to comment on the "choices" — saratorial or otherwise — exercised by these two women, rather, it addresses the larger issues raised by the article: The question of religious co-existence — what does it mean to "live well together" — and its entanglement with the concept of secularism in India.

It has become something of a truism to say that secularism in India has been expanded from its traditional concern with emancipation from religion, or the privatisation of religion. Secularism has been called upon to serve different and often contradictory functions in the Indian nation-state, both as an ethical ideal and as a political doctrine guiding the state. Closely aligned with the term nationalism in the years after Partition, the term secularism has since come to connote an ethics of "tolerance" and multi-religious coexistence, as well as the vision of India as a plural nation made up of diverse religions. As a political doctrine underpinning the state, secularism in India has been asked to ensure that individuals are not discriminated against irrespective of their religious allegiances; at the same time, it has also been used to provide state protection and recognition to minority religious communi-

ties. Thus, it has been asked to navigate between uniform rights and liberal citizenship on the one hand, and special rights for minority religious groups on the other. As a result, the contemporary secularism discourse is often marked by confusion and by a conceptual slippage between the range of meanings encompassed by the terms secular and secularism.

The notion of secularism as an ethics of multi-religious coexistence underpins Akbar's article. The term is often used interchangeably with the idea of a genuinely "inclusive" India — for example, when she writes, "Does my non-participation in Hindu rituals reflect my disbelief in 'inclusive India', unlike Jahan's belief in 'inclusive India', expressed in her adoption of Hindu symbols/rituals? Do I disrespect Hinduism while Jahan respects it? No. A resounding, unapologetic, and most importantly, secular 'no'."

I want to suggest that secularism as a concept is not capacious enough to take on the burden of multi-religious coexistence that it has been asked to achieve in India (despite the way it has travelled), given its fraught and slippery meanings, which leave it open to misappropriation and misreading. To my mind, the substantive issue raised by Akbar's piece is how might Hindus and Muslims (and by extension other religious communities) "live well together" (whether we call this secularism or by any other name). This, as both philosophy and praxis, deserves attention.

Akbar makes the very important point that as a Muslim, she doesn't expect or demand a Hindu to fast during Ramzan or offer namaz, nor has any Hindu demanded that she participate in Hindu religious practices. This, to her, is a concrete instance of coexistence. "An undrawn threshold exists," she says, "which is respected by both sides, or all sides in a multi-faith society like India". This idea of the threshold is crucial because it asks that we respect the distinctiveness of religious and cultural others, and not seek to subsume them within ourselves. Such restraint is especially called for if we happen to be part of the numerical majority in a liberal democracy. By providing everyday examples of religious coexistence that rest upon a genuine respect for each other's practices — without necessarily participating in them — Akbar seeks to reanimate what a living well together should entail. She underlines that an inclusive India should be "free of the need to adopt each other's religious customs". Hence her impatience with Jahan's performative politics, which she sees as ingratiating.

Akbar ends by saying "you follow your faith, I mine. Let each be." While this injunction to live and let live is undoubtedly important as a minimal requirement, this should not mean that we are not open to the merging of religio-cultural traditions that is inevitable through centuries of actual communal co-existence — neighbourliness (as opposed to liv-

ing in ghettos), for example. This kind of amalgamation of different religio-cultural traditions has often been celebrated in the work of writers such as Qurratulain Hyder, Intizar Husain and Amitav Ghosh.

In his later work, the philosopher Jacques Derrida provided a compelling reflection on the idea of "living well together". To "live together" well, he says, we must be able to interrogate the cohesiveness of any organism or any social body (family, ethnic group, nation) that has been given to us by blood, birth or belonging. Indeed, Derrida avers, one only lives together well with and as a stranger at home — in all the implications of "home", including the self, the family, the religious or ethnic community and the nation-state. A truly inclusive and accommodative "home" — or nation — would be one where every one lives as a stranger among strangers, where no one claims ownership or asserts prior claim over the nation. This peace or "ethics of living together" is radically different from the profession of "tolerance", which, as political theorist Wendy Brown has pointed out can often designate condescension or the over-coming of an attitude of disdain, contempt or enmity towards religious, ethnic, racial or sexual minorities.

Kumar is associate professor, Department of English at Delhi University and author of Limiting Secularism: The Ethics of Coexistence in Indian Literature and Film

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WATCH THE TALKS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'When Trump meets Imran' (IE, July 22). The meeting between Donald Trump and Imran Khan in Washington DC, the first visit by a Pakistani PM to the US after Trump's victory in 2016, is a momentous event. Due to Trump's strong attitude towards Pakistan, the latter has been forced to take action against terrorists in the country. However, that Pakistan is the feeder of the Taliban requires the US to tread cautiously. India must observe the talks and use it to its advantage.

Sauro Dasgupta, Kolkata

### DELHI'S BOON

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Delhi's leader' (IE, July 22). For 15 years while she was the Chief Minister of Delhi, Sheila Dikshit transformed the city. She was the moving force behind what is now the landscape of the national capital, from following the Supreme Court order to switch from polluting diesel buses to greener CNG buses to facilitating the construction of the Delhi Metro, which has become the backbone of the city and privatising Delhi's power distribution. She was a great administrator, who any state would have been lucky to have at the helm of government. The Nehru-Gandhis and Congress's dependence on her was evident from the fact that she was asked to fight the last general elections despite not being a part of mainstream politics for some time. The Delhi Congress has a huge vacuum to fill. Sheila Dikshit will be missed deeply by all of us. May she rest in peace.

Bal Govind, Noida

### LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

### REPLACE YOGI

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Its Sonbhadra test' (IE, July 22). Priyanka Gandhi Vadra cornered the Uttar Pradesh government over the killing of 10 people from a marginalised community in cold blood in Sonbhadra district, forced it to allow her to meet the kin of the victims and exposed the impunity with which criminals have been operating under the protection of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The UP government has put the governance of the state on the back burner. Perhaps it is time the ruling BJP changed the CM.

SS Paul, Nadia



**SOUTH SUDAN**

**KIIR BANS ANTHEM SINGING IN HIS ABSENCE**

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has banned the singing of the national anthem — written shortly before independence in 2011 — unless he is present, a minister said. "For the information of everybody, the national anthem is only meant for the President, in a function only attended by the President, not for everybody," Information Minister Michael Makuei said.

**TOP OF THE WORLD**



**UNITED NATIONS**

**IAEA chief Yukiya Amano dies at 72**

Vienna: The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog, Yukiya Amano, has died after suffering poor health for some time, the International Atomic Energy Agency said on Monday, as international tensions run high over Iran's nuclear activities. The long-time Japanese diplomat, who was 72, held the IAEA's top job since December 2009. "The secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency regrets to inform with deepest sadness of the passing away of Director General Yukiya Amano," the IAEA said in a statement. It said Amano died July 18. But his family had only informed the IAEA late Sunday, "with the specific request not to disclose it until the family funeral had taken place on 22 July in a quiet atmosphere." No details were given about the cause of death.

**ASIA**

**Huawei secretly helped North Korea: Report**

Washington: Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, the Chinese company put on a US black list because of national security concerns, secretly helped North Korea build and maintain its commercial wireless network, the Washington Post reported on Monday, citing sources and internal documents. The Chinese telecommunications giant partnered with a state-owned Chinese firm, Panda International Information Technology Co Ltd, on a number of projects in North Korea over at least eight years, the Post reported.

**SOUTH CHINA SEA**

**Pirates steal cash and shoes in cargo ship robbery**

Seoul: Pirates attacked a South Korean-flagged cargo ship in the South China Sea early on Monday, stealing thousands of dollars in cash and even the sailors' shoes, South Korean authorities said. Two people sustained minor injuries when seven pirates boarded the CK Bluebell and made off with \$13,000 and belongings including mobile phones, clothes and shoes from the 22-strong crew, officials said. Tougher policing has made piracy less frequent on the strategic shipping route in recent years.

**Trump meets Imran, says US working with Pak to pull out of Afghanistan**

US President: Pakistan did not respect United States in the past, but they are helping a lot now

REUTERS & PTI WASHINGTON, JULY 22

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump, speaking at a White House meeting with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, said on Monday the United States is working with Islamabad to find a way out of the war in Afghanistan.

Trump held out the possibility of restoring US aid to Pakistan, depending upon what is worked out, and offered assistance to Islamabad in trying to ease strained ties with India.

Khan told Trump there was only one solution for Afghanistan and that a peace deal with the Taliban was closer than it had ever been. He said he hoped in the coming days to be able to urge the Taliban to continue the talks.

The US views Pakistan's cooperation with a deal to end the 17-year-old war as essential, but the two countries have a complicated relationship.

Khan, who was accompanied on his US trip by Pakistan's Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi among others, was greeted by Trump upon his arrival at the White House. In his opening remarks,



Imran Khan, on a three-day visit to the US, met Trump at the White House on Monday, Reuters

Trump noted that Pakistan was helping the US in the Afghanistan peace process, and does not want the US to be policed in the region.

"I don't think Pakistan respected the United States" in the past, Trump said, but "they are helping us a lot now".

The Trump administration has intensified its efforts to seek a negotiated settlement of America's longest war in Afghanistan where the US has lost over 2,400 soldiers since late 2001.

Khan's visit comes at a time when talks between the US and Afghan Taliban are thought to have entered a decisive phase. Pakistan's efforts have been appreciated for facilitating peace talks with the Taliban.

"The Prime Minister of Pakistan is here to showcase his vision of a 'Naya Pakistan' and to start a new era of bilateral relations. We have come with a narrative of peace and prosperity in the region," Qureshi tweeted soon after arriving at the White House.

**WORKING ON DEVELOPING WORLD'S BEST CRICKET TEAM, KHAN TELLS PAKISTANI-AMERICANS**

Washington: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has promised Pakistani-Americans that he is working on a plan to develop the "best cricket team of the world" following the country's debacle in the recently-concluded ICC World Cup in the UK. Addressing a large crowd at a community event at

Washington's Capital One Arena on Sunday, the cricketer-turned-politician said a "Naya Pakistan" was being created in front of people's eyes. Khan said he had "started working on developing the best cricket team of the world for the next tournament (World Cup), by bringing the best players into the team". PTI

**French TV crew held in Australia for filming protest against Adani coal mine**

NATASHA CHAKU MELBOURNE, JULY 22

A FRENCH television crew filming a protest against a newly-approved controversy-hit coal mine owned by Indian energy giant Adani in Australia was arrested on Monday on charges of trespassing.

The Carmichael coal mine north Queensland, which was approved in June, has been courted controversy due to its location near the Great Barrier Reef, which has the world's largest coral reef. Environmentalists warn that coal mining in the area will have drastic impact on global climate and will threaten local vulnerable species.

Reporter Hugo Clement, who works for French national TV broadcaster France2, and three members of his TV crew, were arrested outside the Abbot Point coal terminal in Bowen in north Queensland while they were filming the protest.

Three protesters, all in their 20s, were also arrested along with them, police said.

The film crew was later granted bail and ordered to appear before the Bowen Magistrates Court on September 3.

Under bail conditions, Clement is banned from going within 20 km of the mine site. He is also prohibited from going within less than 100 metres from any other Adani site, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation said in a report. PTI

**West Bank: Israel demolishes Palestinian homes**



Israeli forces patrol as a Palestinian building is demolished in the village of Sur Baher, which sits on either side of the Israeli barrier in East Jerusalem and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, on Monday, Reuters

■ Israel began demolishing Palestinian homes near a military barrier on the outskirts of Jerusalem, in the face of protests and international criticism.

■ Bulldozers accompanied by hundreds of Israeli troops moved into Sur Baher, a Palestinian village on the edge of East Jerusalem in an area that Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East War.

■ Palestinians fear the razing of buildings near the fence will set a precedent for other towns along the route of the barrier, which runs for hundreds of kilometres around and through the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

■ The demolition is the latest round of wrangling over Jerusalem, home to sites sacred to Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

**New PM of Britain to be announced today**

Minister resigns ahead of likely Johnson victory, laments 'dark cloud of Brexit'

JILL LAWLESS LONDON, JULY 22

VOTING WAS closing Monday in the race to become Britain's next prime minister, as critics of likely winner Boris Johnson condemned his vow to take Britain out of the European Union with or without a divorce deal.

Members of the governing



Boris Johnson is expected to win the vote, Reuters

Conservative Party had until 5 pm to return postal ballots in the contest between Johnson and Jeremy Hunt to lead the party.

The winner will be announced Tuesday, and will take over as the nation's leader from Prime Minister Theresa May the following day. Johnson, a populist former mayor of London, is the strong favourite.

Several members of May's

government have said they will resign before they can be fired by Johnson over their opposition to his threat to go through with a no-deal Brexit if he can't secure a renegotiated settlement with the EU.

Foreign Office Minister Alan Duncan quit Monday, lamenting in his resignation letter that "we have had to spend every day working beneath the dark cloud of Brexit". AP

**GULF TENSIONS SIMMER**

**Iran says it arrested 17 CIA spies, some sentenced to death**

Trump: Zero truth to Tehran's claim

AYA BATRAWY & NASSER KARIMI DUBAI, JULY 22

IRAN SAID Monday it has arrested 17 Iranian nationals allegedly recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to spy on the country's nuclear and military sites, and that some of them have already been sentenced to death.

The arrests took place over the past months, and those taken into custody worked on "sensitive sites" in the country's military and nuclear facilities, an Iranian intelligence official told a press conference in Tehran. He did not elaborate, say how many of them were sentenced to death or when the sentences were handed down.

US President Donald Trump tweeted that the claim had "zero truth", calling Iran a "total mess".

The announcement comes as Iran's nuclear deal with world powers is unraveling and tensions have spiked in the Persian Gulf region. The crisis stems from Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the agreement last year and intensify sanctions on the country.

The Iranian official did not give his name but was identified as the director of the counterespionage department of Iran's Intelligence Ministry. It's rare in Iran for intelligence officials to appear before media, or for any official to give a press conference without identifying himself.

The official claimed that none of the 17, who allegedly had "sophisticated training", had succeeded in their sabotage missions. Their spying missions included collecting information at the facilities where they worked, carrying out technical and intel-

**EXPLAINED E. Timing crucial**

IRAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT that it arrested 17 'CIA spies' is not an extraordinary step under usual circumstances, as the country has made similar declarations in the past, often for domestic political purposes. However, the timing of the latest announcement is crucial as it comes amid simmering tensions between Iran and the West, triggered by the US's withdrawal from the nuclear deal last year and the subsequent imposition of crippling sanctions on Tehran. The escalating crisis has seen Iran boosting uranium enrichment, and the announcement regarding the capture of spies may be another move by Tehran to pressure the West into relaxing sanctions.

ligence activities, and transferring and installing monitoring devices, he said.

The official further claimed the CIA had promised US visas or jobs in America and that some of the agents had turned and were now working with his department "against the US".

He also handed out a CD with a video recording of an alleged foreign female spy working for the CIA. The disc also included names of several US Embassy staff in Turkey, India, Zimbabwe and Austria who Iran claims were in touch with the recruited Iranian spies. AP



Inages released by Iran's state-run news agency show crew members of the British-flagged tanker Stena Impero, that was seized by Tehran on Friday, AP

**Release tanker and crew immediately: UK to Iran**

London: Britain called on Iran on Monday to release a British-flagged tanker and its crew immediately, describing the seizure of the Stena Impero in the Strait of Hormuz as illegal.

Iranian Revolutionary Guards rappelled from helicopters and seized the Stena Impero in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday in apparent retaliation for the British capture of an Iranian tanker two weeks earlier.

"The ship was seized under false and illegal pretences and the Iranians should release it and its

crew immediately," PM Theresa May's spokesman said. "We do not seek confrontation with Iran but it is unacceptable and highly escalatory to seize a ship going about legitimate business through internationally recognised shipping lanes."

May was chairing a meeting of Britain's COBR emergency response committee and foreign minister Jeremy Hunt is expected to make a statement to parliament later on Monday to face criticism that British naval vessels should have escorted the ship. REUTERS

**DESPITE RECENT PROMISES TO LIBERALISE RESTRICTIONS ON WOMEN, CHANGE HAS BEEN HALTING**

**Saudi guardianship laws could be set to change amid mix of hope, cynicism**

MEGAN SPECIA & HWAIDA SAAD JULY 22

THE RENEWED prospect that Saudi Arabia might lift its restrictive guardianship laws has been met with a mix of hope and cynicism by women in the conservative kingdom.

Saudi news media reported recently that the government is considering what would be the most significant reform yet of women's rights in the kingdom, which has some of the world's most patriarchal laws. The guardianship rules require women to get the permission of a male guardian to marry, enroll in a school or a university, apply for a passport or travel out of the country.

Muna Abu Sulayman, a popular Saudi television presenter, tweeted that she woke up with "a huge grin" on her face after the reports came out. "Long journey, 2 years ago we were told soon," she wrote, referring to a series of reforms launched in 2017 by Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has vowed to return the country to a more moderate form of Islam. "Soon is now."

Over the last two years, Prince Mohammed has delivered on promises to liberalise some restrictions on women, lifting a ban on women driving and on attending sporting events in arenas. But change has been halting, leaving many Saudi women sceptical.

One of the kingdom's top daily

newspapers, Okaz, reported this month that the government had established a committee to study the prospect of removing the guardianship requirement for women over age 18. A spokesman for the Saudi Embassy in Washington, which is charged with handling communications with Western news outlets, has not confirmed the news report.

The spokesman said that empowering Saudi women was one of the key initiatives announced by Prince Mohammed. The government "continues to evaluate the efficacy of Saudi Arabia's laws and regulations to ensure that the kingdom continues to make strides toward greater gender equality," he added.

Speculation about the guardianship laws has been partly



Saudi Arabia lifted a ban on female drivers last year, NYT

fuelled by Prince Mohammed. In April 2018, he told Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic that he would like to reform the law.

"It doesn't go back to the time of the Prophet Muhammad," he

said. "In the 1960s, women didn't travel with male guardians. But it happens now, and we want to move on it and figure out a way to treat this that doesn't harm families and doesn't harm the culture."

The guardianship laws that restrict Saudi women are based on the country's austere interpretation of Islam. At birth, a girl's father is designated her legal guardian and once a woman is married, her husband becomes her legal guardian.

If her husband dies, guardianship transfers to her son or another male family member, and a woman who goes against her guardian's wishes can be arrested.

Much of the conversation about possible reform of guardianship laws takes place on social media. While some women rejoiced at the idea, others dismissed it as a publicity stunt.

Twitter and Instagram lit up with reactions ranging from humorous memes and scepticism to heartfelt messages of relief. One

Twitter user tweeted a popular hashtag signalling approval, along with images of Prince Mohammed smiling and pink hearts with fawning messages, including "fab". Another poked fun at the country's conservatives with a video of two men repeating "God forbid" over and over. Another shared a video of a woman in a black abaya and head scarf skipping through the street.

But some on Twitter, including conservative male commentators, denounced the idea. One wrote that changes were driven by American influence and would lead to the corruption of the kingdom.

Souad Al-Shammari, who has long advocated for greater rights for Saudi women and is a founder of the Saudi Liberal

Network group, tweeted her praise of the government for considering lifting the law.

"I tell you that it will fall," she said of the law, adding, "We will remember these days, the wheel of time will not go backward."

Women's role in Saudi public life has long been strictly regulated, but social media has offered a space for women to challenge those restrictions.

Some have used social media to challenge the guardianship law outright, sharing stories of fleeing the country without their guardian's consent. But for those living in the country, even speaking out on social media can be risky. Al-Shammari has been jailed before for tweeting her criticism of the country's strict religious norms. NYT

17 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹35,970



RUPEE

₹68.92



OIL

\$61.74\*



SILVER

₹41,960

SENSEX: 38,031.13 ▼ 305.88 NIFTY: 11,346.20 ▼ 73.05 NIKKEI: 21,416.79 ▼ 50.20 HANG SENG: 28,371.26 ▼ 394.14 FTSE: 7,537.61 ▲ 28.91 DAX: 12,295.73 ▲ 35.66

International market data till 1900 IST

ICIJ-THE INDIAN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

Via Mauritius, Religare moved funds to Singh brothers' offshore company: records



MALVINDER SINGH

SHIVINDER SINGH

PVAIDYANATHANIER NEW DELHI, JULY 22

USING A web of offshore companies, funds were allegedly diverted from Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL), a company listed in India, into a Jersey firm that was solely owned by Malvinder Singh and Shivinder Singh. REL, which earned consolidated profits of Rs 92 crore on revenues of Rs 748 crore in 2007-08 turned into a loss-making firm in subsequent years with losses mounting to Rs 1,350 crore on revenues of Rs 2,586 crore in 2017-18.

The Singh brothers had a fallout with Sunil Godhwani, who was appointed by the brothers to lead their family office after Ranbaxy sale in addition to his role in Religare (of which he had become the CEO in 2001). Godhwani quit as Chairman and Managing Director of REL in July 2016, and stepped down as whole-time director in September 2017.

Internal correspondence of Appleby suggests that RHC Financial Services (Mauritius) Ltd had entered into a similar transaction earlier. It probably referred to \$50 million borrowed from JP Morgan Chase in March 2011, with Conyers, Dill and Pearman, acting as a special legal counsel for the latter in this transaction. RHC Financial Services, according to documents with Conyers, Dill and Pearman, was incorporated in November 2010 in Mauritius and is fully owned by RHC Holding Private Ltd. RHC Holding's final beneficiaries again are the Singh brothers and their spouses, as per the Incumbency Certificate issued by Mauritius International Trust Company, and available with Conyers.

RHC Holding had signed an agreement with Religare Enterprises Limited (REL), a company listed in India, and its subsidiary Religare Capital Markets Limited (RCML) on February 13, 2012, as per which, "RHC entities infused preference share capital to the tune of Rs 1,333.47 crore in RCML in various tranches between 2011-12 and 2015-16." At the time of this tripartite agreement, RHC Holding was the "ultimate holding company" of the REL.

On June 19 last year, however, RHC sent a legal notice to REL and RCML stating that it was "shocked to discover" that RCML has suffered huge losses worth Rs 731.84 crore on account of "provisioning/write-off of amount equal to the value of investments made by RCML in Religare Capital Markets International (Mauritius) Limited."

The blame game had begun. In June 2018, the Singh brothers held REL and its management (in other words Godhwani) responsible for diversion of funds. Couple of months later, Shivinder blamed Malvinder and Godhwani for the problems. Then in February this year, Malvinder called out Shivinder, Godhwani and Dhilon, and blamed them for the mess in the group.



"We would like to reiterate the promoters neither own or have or had any stake in NCM Ltd. Appleby's have named the promoters, as this is the regulatory requirement in Jersey where NCM Limited was incorporated"

SPOKESPERSON FOR THE SINGH BROTHERS

with personal guarantees by the Singh brothers. Internal correspondence of Appleby suggests that RHC Financial Services (Mauritius) Ltd had entered into a similar transaction earlier. It probably referred to \$50 million borrowed from JP Morgan Chase in March 2011, with Conyers, Dill and Pearman, acting as a special legal counsel for the latter in this transaction. RHC Financial Services, according to documents with Conyers, Dill and Pearman, was incorporated in November 2010 in Mauritius and is fully owned by RHC Holding Private Ltd. RHC Holding's final beneficiaries again are the Singh brothers and their spouses, as per the Incumbency Certificate issued by Mauritius International Trust Company, and available with Conyers.

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Full response of Malvinder Singh & Shivinder Singh at www.indianexpress.com

'OPEN MIND FOR A CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY'

Inter-ministerial body proposes ban on private cryptocurrencies

SUNNY VERMA NEW DELHI, JULY 22

AN INTER-MINISTERIAL Committee set up by the government has proposed a complete ban on private cryptocurrencies due to various adverse effects, but suggested the government to keep "an open mind for a central bank digital currency" which is based on the same blockchain or distributed ledger technology (DLT). The committee has also proposed a draft bill 'Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019'.

"... the Committee is of clear view that the private cryptocurrencies should not be allowed. These cryptocurrencies cannot serve the purpose of a currency. The private cryptocurrencies are inconsistent with the essential functions of money/currency, hence private cryptocurrencies cannot replace fiat currencies," the Committee, chaired by Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg, said in its report released Monday.

While no accurate information of trading volumes in India is available, in February 2018, there were around 50 lakh traders in India in 24 exchanges and cryptocurrency trading volumes were in the range of 1500 Bitcoins a day, or around Rs 100 crore, whereas the global 24-hour trading volume is in excess of \$21 billion, the report noted.

However, given the utility of the blockchain or the DLT, the committee recommended "that it would be advisable to have an open mind regarding the introduction of an official digital currency in India."

The panel noted that enabling

STATUS OF CRYPTOS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

**BARTER TRANSACTIONS:** Countries like Russia and Canada allow virtual currencies to be traded for other goods or services.

**MODE OF PAYMENT:** Some countries like Switzerland and Thailand allow for virtual currencies to be modes of payment. However, since they are not classified as legal tender,

parties are not legally obliged to accept them.

**LEGAL TENDER:** No country across the world treats virtual currencies as legal tender.

**COMPLETE BAN:** Countries like China have banned virtual currencies. It does not allow any sort of legal transactions in them.

EXPLAINED Use of blockchain tech may improve governance

A COMPLETE ban on private virtual currencies suggested by a government panel stems from a variety of risks such as currencies pose — including fluctuation in value, cyber fraud and concerns relating to money laundering. The panel, however, has favoured use of the blockchain technology, which gave birth to virtual currencies, for improving governance and citizen services while also keeping an open mind towards central bank digital currencies.

provisions are available in the Reserve Bank of India Act that permit the central government to approve a "Central Bank Digital Currency" recommended by the RBI to be a "bank note" and therefore, a legal tender in India.

Other than Bitcoin, various other cryptocurrencies have emerged including Ethereum, Ripple and Cardano. As of date, there are around 2,116 cryptocurrencies, with a market capitalisation of \$119.46 billion. While

China has imposed a complete ban on virtual currencies, countries including Japan, Switzerland and Thailand have recognised these as means of payment. But no country has allowed it as a legal tender or fiat currency.

The Financial Action Task Force has also noted that on account of the anonymity associated with virtual currencies/cryptocurrencies, they are vulnerable to money laundering and use in terrorist financing activities.

### Digital media to reach \$5.1 bn by 2021'

Digital media in India is expected to overtake film entertainment in 2019 and print by 2021 to reach \$5.1 billion in 2021, a FICCI-EY report said

**570 MN:** Number of internet subscribers in India — second highest after China — growing at a rate of 13 per cent annually

- 325 mn: Online video viewers in 2018
- 150 mn: Audio streaming users in 2018

**PAYING SUBSCRIBERS** expected by 2021:

- 30-35 mn: Over-the-top (OTT) video
- 6-7 mn: Audio

**VALUE OF digital media:**

- \$2.4 bn in 2018, growing by 42 per cent
- \$3.2 bn in 2019 expected

**SUBSCRIPTION MODEL:**

- \$0.2 bn: Value in 2018
- \$0.8 bn: Estimated value by 2021

**ADVERTISING-LED MODEL:**

- \$2.2 bn: Value in 2018
- \$4.3 bn: Estimated value by 2021

**VALUE OF FILM ENTERTAINMENT:**

\$2.5 bn in 2018

\$2.8 bn in 2019 expected

**VALUE OF PRINT SEGMENT:**

\$4.4 bn in 2018

\$4.8 bn in 2021 expected

Sensex falls 306 pts; Investor wealth down ₹4.37 lakh cr in 3 sessions

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, JULY 22

INVESTORS' WEALTH, or market capitalisation of listed shares, plunged by over Rs 4.37 lakh crore in three sessions to Rs 144.76 lakh crore as stock markets extended their losses for a third straight day with cumulative losses of Sensex at 3.05 per cent or 1,184 points since July 18.

After falling 878 points on July 18 and 19, the 30-share Sensex on Monday fell 306 points or 0.80 per cent to settle at 38,031.13, a level

not seen since May 17, as foreign investors continued their selling spree. The broader NSE Nifty was down 73.10 points to close at 11,346.20.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pulled out Rs 8,796 crore in the month of July so far. The selling spree was triggered after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week declined to remove or relax the applicability of the new surcharge on the super rich on (FPIs), but advised those staring at an increase in tax outflows to shift to the corporate structure where the Budget has

Gold at all-time high of ₹35,970

New Delhi: Gold prices touched a new high of Rs 35,970 per 10 gram in the national capital after gaining Rs 100 on Monday due to continued buying from jewellers, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Silver also followed the

suit and gained Rs 260 to Rs 41,960 per kg. Traders attributed the rise in gold prices to strong demand from local jewellers. Globally, spot gold was trading almost flat at \$1,425.60 an ounce, while silver quoting higher at \$16.40 per ounce. PTI

n't made any change in tax treatment.

"Escalating tensions in the

Middle East boosted safe-haven assets and oil prices. Emerging-market assets fell on Monday as

expectations dwindled from an aggressive interest-rate cut by the US Federal Reserve, while the introduction in China of a Nasdaq-styled index pulled investment away from existing indices," said Deepak Jasani, head retail research, HDFC securities.

The Sensex had fallen 560 points on Friday amid concern over FPI pullout.

The rupee depreciated by 12 paise to close at 68.92 against the US dollar on Monday tracking heavy losses in the domestic equity market and a spike in crude oil prices following Iran's seizure

of a British tanker. The strong US dollar against major currencies overseas also weighed on the rupee sentiment.

The rupee had settled at 68.80 against the US dollar on Friday. "Indian sovereign bonds fell after the Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said further rate cuts will depend on incoming economic data. This statement has turned down the expectations of large easing in upcoming monetary policy," said V K Sharma, head PCG & Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities.

HUMA ABIDI, DIRECTOR OF MACHINE LEARNING AND DEEP LEARNING SOFTWARE ENGINEERING, INTEL

Behind cutting edge AI work, Lucknow woman who set out to be a doctor

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN NOIDA, JULY 22

"KILLER ROBOTS are, if not hundreds, then tens of years away... So that idea of computers taking over and all, that is not true." Huma Abidi is categorical when she dismisses the hype and mumbo-jumbo that abounds the general perception of her domain. But the Director of Machine Learning and Deep Learning Software Engineering at Intel, one of the world's largest tech firms, is certain that by 2020 artificial intelligence will generate \$13 trillion across the world.

Hailing from Lucknow, Abidi joined the chipmaker as a software engineer and is now respon-

sible for deep learning framework software optimisation for Intel's top of the line Xeon processors.

"I was actually studying to be a doctor. But that was a long time ago and somehow it just ended there," says Abidi who followed up her BS in pre-med and chemistry with an MS in computer science from the University of Massachusetts. Being responsible for optimising deep learning frameworks and workloads, Abidi now helps companies like Google, Facebook and Baidu iron out all areas where deep learning runs on Intel hardware. "My team works daily with Google. The optimisations we do get upstreamed to Google TensorFlow. Anybody downloading TensorFlow gets all the work my team has done."



Huma Abidi Nandagopal Rajan

On open source machine learning library, Tensorflow powers a lot of Google's machine learning products like image recognition. Abidi's portfolio is broad, straddling both the hardware and software sides of what Intel is doing in top-end computing. "On the hardware side, there are data centres and accelerators as well some-

thing like a compute stick. On the software side, which is my focus, we did so much work that it became a par with the competition," explains Abidi, whose team came in for recognition for their work improving deep learning capabilities by 278 times.

For someone who has been in the IT industry for well over two decades, the work on AI has been an eye opener. "What I liked the best about AI is how people are building over each other's breakthroughs. The models have been put on GitHub, papers are being shared, archive downloaded... I have not seen this before. Unbelievable," she says, adding how everybody is coming together to standardise as much as possible. Abidi says her team's

work on Intel One API — a set of developer tools that provide a unified programming model — is an attempt to offer a solution so that everyone can collaborate more across different architectures.

AI is nothing new, says Abidi, but now the coming together of data availability, cheap hardware and powerful algorithms have made this spurt possible. "So it is moving in a very good direction and that AI winter and all is gone. This is phenomenal and I'm really happy to be part of it. But if someone is hoping it to solve all those problems, then it is early." But there are many projects that have given Abidi immense satisfaction. Like the work her team did to help Novartis process an image about 26 times larger than what

they were used to in a matter of minutes and not days like before. Then there is the work on handheld devices that can detect diabetic retinopathy, as well as some image detection work that helped reduce poaching in Tanzania.

For companies looking to add an AI layer to their work, Abidi has a simple message: "Don't do AI for the sake of AI, but do it so that it helps your business... And don't reinvent the wheel."

"That's what I said about the kind of jobs that can be created."



## CHINA'S NASDAQ-STYLE 'STAR MARKET'

China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) Chairman Yi Huiman (centre right) and Chinese Shanghai Party Secretary Li Qiang (centre left) attend the listing ceremony of the first batch of companies on STAR Market, China's new Nasdaq-style tech board, at Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE), China on Monday. *Reuters*

- Trading on China's new Nasdaq-style board for homegrown tech firms hit fever pitch on Monday, with shares up as much as 520% in a wild debut.
- Sixteen of the first batch of 25 companies — ranging from chip-makers to health care firms — increased their already frothy IPO prices by 136% on the STAR Market.
- The first day of trade tripped the exchange's circuit breakers. The day saw the creation of 305 billion yuan (\$44.3 billion) in new market capitalisation. *REUTERS*

## SC puts on hold ArcelorMittal's takeover of Essar Steel; to hear appeals filed by CoC on August 7

INDU BHAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

BANKS WILL likely reign supreme when it comes to commercial decisions concerning firms under the insolvency process: while last week the Cabinet approved amendments to the relevant code to buttress the powers of the committee of creditors (CoC), the Supreme Court on Monday seemed throwing its weight behind the move.

The apex court has put on hold ArcelorMittal's takeover of debt-laden Essar Steel, after the lenders sought a stay on the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) ruling that reduced their share of sale proceeds

**The takeover has been put on hold after lenders of Essar Steel sought a stay on the NCLAT ruling that reduced their share of sale proceeds from 90 per cent to 60 per cent**

from 90 per cent to 60 per cent and also put the financial creditors and operational creditors on a par in settlement of claims.

A Bench led by Justice RF Nariman, while agreeing to hear all the four appeals, filed by SBI-led CoC, ICICI Bank, SBI and ArcelorMittal, on August 7, also asked the parties to maintain status quo with regard to the acquisition of Essar Steel till then.

Also, Justice Nariman cited a February 2019 judgment by the

Justice AM Khanwilkar's Bench in the case, K Sashidhar vs Indian Overseas Bank, where it was held that there is no provision in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code that empowers the resolution professional, the adjudicating authorities (NCLT & NCLAT), to reverse the "commercial decision" of the CoC.

The court said it would resolve all the issues arising from the Essar Steel verdict expeditiously and observed that NCLAT could

## REPRESENTATIVES FROM SECTORS LIKE CHEMICALS, PHARMA ETC TAKE PART

# Goyal holds 'marathon' of consultations with industry players ahead of RCEP meet

PRABHA RAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

COMMERCE AND Industry minister Piyush Goyal on Monday called on industry bodies in Mumbai to review issues that India would need to keep in mind when continuing deliberations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) next month in Beijing. Similar consultations will take place in Delhi Tuesday, officials and industry representatives close to the development told *The Indian Express*.

Goyal held a "marathon" of meetings with representatives of "all" sectors, including gems and jewellery, steel, copper, aluminium, zinc, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, plastics, rubber, leather, textile, apparel, auto, electronics and engineering products, according to them.

### ANOTHER MEETING TO BE HELD TODAY

■ Another meeting on Tuesday might focus on hashing out resolutions to issues between upstream stakeholders and downstream stakeholders, according to an official

■ RCEP is a mega free trade agreement being negotiated between ASEAN nations, India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. India has until November to join it

While senior Commerce Ministry officials held similar closed-door meetings last week, Goyal wanted to conduct "wider" stakeholder discussions before meeting with trade ministers of other RCEP countries.

"The main purpose of these meetings is to take the views of the industries, their sensitivities, aspirations and challenges when negotiations resume in Beijing," said an official privy to the developments on condition of anonymity.

countries, India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. India has until November to join it.

All chapters of the deal, including those covering agriculture, steel, marine and textiles sectors, were discussed at Monday's meetings, said persons close to the development.

Some industry representatives at the meetings on Monday, however, said the Minister shared his apprehension over signing the deal over fears that it would let some RCEP countries, especially China, flood the Indian market with cheaper goods. "While the Minister himself has been apprehensive of signing it, he realises that it is such a big trading bloc," an executive said.

Goyal expressed concerns that as RCEP countries currently account for over 40 per cent of global trade currently, not entering the agreement would leave

India completely isolated from technology transfers and without a competitive advantage, added the executive.

"He also felt that participating in the RCEP agreement would give India the chance to improve upon its existing free trade agreements with RCEP countries, which have currently put the country at a disadvantage as it has a trade deficit with most of them," the person said.

The consultations also assume importance as stakeholders from industries like steel have raised concerns over the potential impact of the agreement on their business.

On the other hand, finished goods manufacturers have argued that limiting steel supply to domestic producers through higher import duties makes it expensive for the former to manufacture and puts them at a disadvantage.

## NHB asks housing finance firms to stop funding 'subvention schemes'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, JULY 22

SEVERAL ONGOING and soon-to-be-launched housing projects in metros and other major cities could take a hit as a National Housing Bank (NHB) directive has circumscribed the developers' ability to raise low-cost funds for construction under the schemes where they service the loans taken by homebuyers to make down payments, till the projects are completed.

In a circular dated July 19, NHB asked the housing finance companies (HFCs) to stop funding such 'subvention schemes', including in cases where the loans have been sanctioned but disburse-

ments are yet to commence.

The NHB decision follows reports of widespread fraud in such schemes, but many developers who use the funds strictly for the projects concerned could also be impacted, analysts said. Analysts say as far as the homebuyer is concerned, the regulation could cut both ways. On the one hand, developers may choose to offer a discount in order to push sales and on the other, it could affect their ability to repay.

The NHB directive comes close on the heels of the Budget decision to strip it of the role of regulator of HFCs — it will continue to be refinance of these firms. RBI may soon issue a similar directive to banks as there are instances of such subvention

schemes run by the banks. In 2013, the Reserve Bank had told lenders to link loan disbursements in what were known as "80:20" and "75:25" schemes to stages of construction.

Though well-intentioned, the NHB move could in many cases have unintended consequence of taking the wind out of the real estate projects' sail, when the developers and liquidity-starved HFCs are in the throes of ending a prolonged slump in the realty sector that have hurt all stakeholders, including the home-buyers.

Anarock Property Consultants chairman Anuj Puri said, "Albeit indirectly, this will definitely put even more strain on many developers' already precarious liquidity situation." *FE*

## IL&FS Transportation Networks defaults on NCD interest payment

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JULY 22

IL&FS TRANSPORTATION Networks (ITNL) on Monday said it has defaulted on repayments to holders of its non-convertible debentures (NCDs) worth Rs 450 crore. The default was on interest repayments to the tune of Rs 26.03 crore.

The firm is believed to have been classified as a 'red' entity by lenders as it is unable to service its dues to any of its creditors. Other entities from the troubled IL&FS Group have been categorised as either 'green' — those which can service all financial obligations — or 'amber' entities, which can service their debts to secured creditors but not to others.

Earlier, ITNL had defaulted on debt worth Rs 179 crore, due in six

### ITNL CLASSIFIED AS 'RED' ENTITY

■ ITNL is believed to have been classified as a 'red' entity by lenders as it is unable to service its dues to any of its creditors

■ Other entities from the troubled IL&FS Group have been categorised as either 'green' or 'amber' entities

separate repayments on October 29 and 30, 2018. ITNL, along with IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN) and IL&FS, is having its past ratings reviewed by Grant Thornton.

In its interim report, Grant Thornton had said that credit rating agencies (CRAs) seemed to have consistently given the companies good ratings over the years till July-August 2018, when they downgraded ITNL's ratings for the first time after it defaulted on repayments to holders of its commercial papers.

The IL&FS Group, whose management is currently headed by Uday Kotak, had said in January that it has received a strong response with more than 30 expressions of interest (EOIs) for its domestic roads business housed under ITNL.

On December 17 last, IL&FS had invited EOIs for 19 of its road projects, four of which are still under construction, seven annuity projects and eight toll road projects. The last date for submission of bids was January 8. *FE*

## ICRA, Care question Grant Thornton's IL&FS report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, JULY 22

RATING AGENCY Care Monday claimed that the interim report by Grant Thornton's on IL&FS Group "misses" some rudimentary elements of the process of credit rating. Separately, another rating firm IcrA has said the report "ignores" the alleged fraud perpetrated by former IL&FS management.

Grant Thornton in its recently conducted forensic audit of the cash-strapped IL&FS evaluated the role of credit rating agencies in rating various debt instruments and facilitating excessive borrowings from money markets across group companies that eventually led to defaults.

"The report by Grant Thornton on IL&FS group relating to the linking of ratings assigned by Care Ratings to various entities in the IL&FS group should be read with caution as it misses some rudimentary elements of the process of credit rating," Care Ratings said in a statement.

Care, IcrA, India Ratings and Brickwork were the main rating agencies for IL&FS Transportation Networks (ITNL), IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN) and IL&FS for the last 10 years for which the forensic audit was carried out.

From 2016, Brickwork was also introduced for IFIN and ITNL. It replaced Crisil for ITNL.

### Ban on IFIN auditors: NCLT reserves order

*New Delhi:* The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Monday reserved its order in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) plea seeking five-year ban for IL&FS Financial Services auditors — Deloitte and BSR Associates. *PTI*

Crisil maintained that it has never rated IL&FS, IL&FS Financial Services, or any debt issued by these companies.

"We strongly urge to refrain from drawing conclusions about the role of IcrA on the basis of unverified information contained in an interim report commissioned by the IL&FS Board, which largely ignores the alleged fraud perpetrated by former IL&FS management," said IcrA in a statement issued Monday.

Notably, the audit report found numerous cases of favours and gifts such as tickets for a Real Madrid football match and hefty discounts on a luxurious villa to a Fitbit watch and shirts extended by the erstwhile top management of IL&FS to senior officials of rating agencies and their family members.

## 'Govt to ask CCI to review Big Four audit companies'

ADITYA KALRA & ABHIRUP ROY  
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, JULY 22

THE GOVERNMENT wants the country's antitrust body to assess whether the so-called "Big Four" auditing firms and their affiliates are hurting competition in any manner, a senior government official said.

"The Competition Commission of India (CCI) needs to conduct a survey or an investigation to assess whether the Big Four that include PwC, EY, Deloitte and KPMG are abusing their dominant position in the Indian audit market," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs, which holds that view, is yet to send any formal request to the CCI to probe the matter, said the official. "If you look at the top 500 companies in India, they are totally dominant and the Big Four seem to be sharing the work... whatever be the reason there seems to be entry barriers. The CCI should look into the dominance of these four global auditors and whether they are thwarting competition," the official added.

The CCI and the four auditors did not immediately respond to a request for comment. *REUTERS*

## 18% GST on flat owners paying maintenance of over ₹7,500 per month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

FLAT OWNERS will have to pay GST at 18 per cent if their monthly contribution to resident welfare association (RWA) exceeds Rs 7,500, the Finance Ministry said Monday. As per the rules, RWAs are required to collect GST on monthly subscription/contribution charged from its members if such payment is more than Rs 7,500 per flat per month and the annual turnover of RWA by way of supply of services and goods exceeds Rs 20 lakh.

In a circular issued to field offices on how should the RWA calculate GST payable where the maintenance charges exceed Rs 7,500 per month per member, the Finance Ministry said the exemption from GST on maintenance charges charged by an RWA from residents is available only if such charges do not exceed Rs 7,500 per month per member.

"In case the charges exceed Rs 7,500 per month per member, the entire amount is taxable. For example, if the maintenance charges are Rs 9,000 per month per member, GST @18 per cent shall be payable on the entire amount of Rs 9,000 and not on (Rs 9,000-Rs 7,500) = Rs 1,500,"

### Invoice relief on goods taken for exhibition

*New Delhi:* The Finance Ministry on Monday said entities taking goods abroad for exhibitions or other export promotion events will not have to generate tax invoice for those goods which are brought back to India within six months. *PTI*

the circular said.

On how the tax liability would be calculated for a person who owns two or more flats in the housing society or residential complex, the Ministry said in such cases the ceiling of Rs 7,500 per month per member shall be applied separately for each residential apartment owned by him.

"For example, if a person owns two residential apartments in a residential complex and pays Rs 15,000 per month as maintenance charges towards maintenance of each apartment to the RWA (Rs. 7500/- per month in respect of each residential apartment), the exemption from GST shall be available to each apartment," it said.

## Investments via P-notes fall to ₹81,913 cr in June

Investments through participatory notes (P-notes) in the Indian capital market slipped to Rs 81,913 crore in June after posting growth for the previous four months, as per data from Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)



**CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT MADE IN LAST 4 MONTHS:**

<b>Rs 73,428 crore:</b> Till February-end	<b>Rs 81,220 crore:</b> Till April-end
<b>Rs 78,110 crore:</b> Till March-end	<b>Rs 82,619 crore:</b> Till May-end

### ₹ 81,913 cr:

Total value of P-note investments in Indian markets — equity, debt, and derivatives — till June-end

### 0.85%:

Decline in total value of June P-notes investment from previous month

### \$1,000

fee to check misuse: In July 2017, Sebi had notified stricter norms stipulating a fee of ₹1,000 on each instrument to check any misuse for channelising black money

### WHAT ARE P-NOTES:

P-notes are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly after going through a due diligence process

### SHARE OF TOTAL JUNE P-NOTE INVESTMENTS:

- Rs 56,664 crore: In equities
- Rs 24,428 crore: In debt
- Rs 821 crore: In derivatives market

## BRIEFLY

### OBC first quarter profit at ₹112.68 crore

*New Delhi:* Oriental Bank of Commerce Monday posted a net profit of Rs 112.68 crore for quarter ended June 30, 2019. The lender posted a net loss of Rs 393.21 crore in the same quarter of 2018-19.

### Target to add 1.3 crore I-T filers this fiscal

*New Delhi:* The government has set a target of adding 1.3 crore income tax (I-T) filers in the current financial year against 1.1 crore new filers last year, Parliament was informed on Monday.

### 159th I-T day: Sitharaman to attend event

*New Delhi:* The Central Board of Direct Taxes will launch a taxpayer e-assistance campaign on the occasion of 159th Income Tax Day on Wednesday, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will attend an event here to mark the day, officials said on Monday.

### NSE co-location case adjourned to Sept 18

*Mumbai:* The Securities Appellate Tribunal Monday adjourned the NSE co-location matter to September 18 after capital markets regulator Sebi sought additional time to submit replies on a bunch of petitions.

### WTO reforms: India, 9 others submit paper

*New Delhi:* Ten World Trade Organization (WTO) member nations, including India, have suggested expeditious resolution of problems being faced by the dispute settlement body and called for addressing issues emanating from unilateral actions taken by some nations. *PTI*

### Anti-bribery: Microsoft to pay \$25.3 mn fine

*New York:* Microsoft Corp agreed on Monday to pay about \$25.3 million, including a criminal fine, to settle US charges it made improper payments that were used to bribe government officials in Hungary and other countries. *REUTERS*

### 'FB's \$5 bn settlement may be this week'

*Washington:* The US Federal Trade Commission is expected to announce a \$5 bn settlement with Facebook Inc this week. *REUTERS*



## BORDER ORDER

## Building a bureaucratic wall

Trump builds a bureaucratic wall to keep out migrants

AT A migrant shelter in Nuevo Laredo, a city in the Mexican border state of Tamaulipas, the mood is cheerful. Children play among cinderblocks and piles of sand. Volunteers fry eggs in the kitchen. Residents tell their stories. "The salaries! It's seven dollars a week in Cuba," says Eldis, an engineer who left the island in May. A woman, her arms draped around her two daughters, one-ups him. "In Venezuela, it's six dollars a month," she replies. They are smiling because these hardships seem to lie behind them. But the mood darkens when the conversation turns to news from the United States, where they are heading.

On July the Trump administration promulgated a rule that upends the United States' system of dealing with asylum-seekers and could dash the hopes of those in Nuevo Laredo and thousands more. Under the new rules, no migrant can apply for asylum unless he or she has sought it in "at least one" other country along the way and been refused.

The rules affect anyone who is not Mexican and arrives at the American border by land. That describes a lot of America-bound migrants. Of the 688,000 apprehended at the border between October 2018 and June this year, only 18% were Mexican. Most of the rest came from Central America and countries elsewhere in Latin America. Now they must appeal for asylum to Mexico or somewhere farther south.

The order is President Donald Trump's latest attempt to keep immigrants out of the country but in the headlines. It followed the last-minute cancellation of a visit to the White House by Guatemala's president, Jimmy Morales. He had been expected to conclude a "safe-third-country agreement", which would have allowed the United States to deny asylum to anyone who had passed through Guatemala from other countries. The deal fell apart, perhaps because Guatemala's constitutional court seemed likely to block it.

Even before the new rule took effect, the migrants in Nuevo Laredo were subject to an earlier decision by Mr Trump to require asylum-seekers to remain in Mexico while American courts process their claims. In June Mexico's government agreed to extend that all along its border, and to step up policing of its borders, after Mr Trump threatened to impose tariffs on Mexican exports if it failed to stop the migrant flow.

"Metering" will make the migrants' wait longer. That is a revival of an American policy, used during the Obama administration, to limit the number of asylum claims the border authorities will consider each day. This year apprehensions at the border have been soaring, which suggests that the bureaucratic wall has had little effect. That may be starting to change. In June the number of apprehensions dropped 29% from May. Hot weather usually reduces the number but the decline was bigger than expected. Even so, 95,000 people were nabbed.

Under international and American law, people are entitled to asylum if they face persecution in their home countries because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a social group or political opinion. In recent years, governments and judges have ex-



Migrants, part of a caravan of thousands, look through the border fence between Mexico and the United States, in Tijuana. Reuters

panded their understanding of what constitutes persecution. A growing number of migrants have tried to use those rights to gain admission to the United States. The share asking for asylum after being apprehended without the right documents has risen from 5% to 40% over the past decade. Many do not qualify even under an elastic definition of persecution. Central Americans are more likely to be fleeing poverty. Relatives in the United States are a big draw.

A "large majority" of asylum claims at the border are rejected, says the Justice Department. Officials say that "meritless" claims worsen overcrowding in American detention centres and lengthen delays. Even genuine refugees should not be able to "shop" for asylum in their preferred country, they grumble.

The Trump administration's response

has been to narrow its interpretation of what asylum means and, at the same time, to transfer to other countries responsibility for caring for asylum-seekers and judging their cases. It has tightened the standards under which victims of gang violence or domestic abuse can claim they are suffering from "persecution".

Mr Trump's latest order makes migrants' situation more uncertain than ever. The recent deal with Mexico now seems "obsolete",

says Andrew Selee of the Migration Policy Institute, a think-tank in Washington, DC. Instead of waiting in Mexico for a ruling from American authorities, migrants are now expected to stay in a country that cannot provide security to its own citizens. Those still determined to reach the United States may have to pay large sums to people-trafficking gangs and risk their lives in the desert.

Migrants' hopes of a less perilous passage depend on whether American courts over-

turn the new policies. They have already struck down a rule that denied the right to claim asylum to people who cross the border without authorisation. The "remain in Mexico" policy faces a challenge. Mr Trump's latest order is illegal because the United States has no safe-third-country agreements with any of the Latin American countries to which it might send asylum-seekers, contends Lee Gelernt of the American Civil Liberties Union, which has filed a lawsuit against the new rule.

Tamaulipas, a hub for drug-trafficking, is among Mexico's least safe states. Newspaper offices have memorials to murdered journalists. Truckloads of armed men prowling the roads at night. But more migrants go through Tamaulipas than any other state. Miami-bound Cubans and Venezuelans often choose it as the shortest route without taking

account of the dangers. America sends a third of deported Mexican migrants to Nuevo Laredo. Those waiting in shelters are reluctant to venture outside. One risk is that drug gangs will try to press them into service. Their favourite recruits are said to be Cubans, who typically have military training (as conscripts in the Cuban army).

Eldis, the 46-year-old from central Cuba, has waited eight weeks in Tamaulipas to apply for asylum in the United States but is now unsure what to do. He expects that Mr Trump will reverse his decision, at least as it applies to Cubans, when he realises that it could cost him votes in Florida, a swing state. If not, he will ring the Canadian embassy, he says. Chances are, he will get a friendlier refusal.

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**The order is President Donald Trump's latest attempt to keep immigrants out of the country but in the headlines. It followed the last-minute cancellation of a visit to the White House by Guatemala's president, Jimmy Morales**

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND POLITICS

## What's up with WhatsApp?

How WhatsApp is used and misused in Africa

"WHEN I open my phone, I am swamped by news," says Matthew Stanley, a driver in Abuja, Nigeria's capital. He scrolls through WhatsApp, a messaging service, bringing up a slick video forwarded into his church group. In a tone befitting a trailer for a horror film, the narrator falsely claims that Muhammad Buhari, Nigeria's Muslim president, is plotting to kill Christians. Mr Stanley squints at the tiny screen. "I think it's fake news," he says. "I need to check the source."

If only everyone were so sceptical. WhatsApp, which has 1.5bn users globally, is especially influential in Africa. It is the most popular social platform in countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa. In the West it is common for people to use multiple platforms such as Facebook and Twitter but in African countries, where money is tighter and internet connections patchy, WhatsApp is an efficient one-stop-shop. The ability to leave audio notes makes it popular among illiterate people. But WhatsApp's ubiquity also makes it a political tool.

That much is clear from Nigerian presi-

dential and state elections in February and March. As recent research by Nic Cheeseman, Jamie Hitchen, Jonathan Fisher and Idayat Hassan indicates, Nigerians' use of WhatsApp both reflects and exploits the country's social structures.

For example, Nigerians belong to much larger WhatsApp groups than Westerners do. A survey by Mr Hitchen and Ms Hassan in Kano, a northern city, found that locals are typically in groups of at least 50 people. These may be made up of school acquaintances, work colleagues or fellow worshippers. The larger the group, the more quickly information can spread. And since these groups often comprise friends and community leaders, recipients are inclined to trust what they read.

Nigeria's use of WhatsApp reflects its political culture as well. Nigerian elections may not be clean, but they are competitive, points out Matthew Page of Chatham House, a think-tank. "Big man" politicians try to win through patronage rather than policy. Both of the two main presidential candidates, Mr Buhari, the eventual



In one video, the narrator falsely claims Muhammad Buhari, Nigeria's Muslim president, is plotting to kill Christians. Reuters

victor, and Akiu Abubakar, had large social-media teams. They had dedicated WhatsApp groups for supporters in every one of Nigeria's 36 states and 774 municipalities.

The parties deny that they spread lies. But they need not do so themselves. Being close to a politician is often the surest way to a steady income in Nigeria. That has led to a cottage industry of social-media entrepreneurs seeking to please. These "propaganda secretaries", as they are known, produce videos, tentidiously caption photographs and disseminate memes for ad hoc payments of up to \$84 per month.

The aim is for a meme to go viral. That way an ally of a political boss will notice and perhaps slip the creator a bonus, a job or a con-

tract. Popular fake stories include one in which Mr Abubakar had been "endorsed" by the Association of Nigerian Gay Men, a fictional entity. Some of the most popular play on existing beliefs. The hilarious idea that Mr Buhari had died and been replaced by a Sudanese man named Jubril seemed credible for many reasons. The president is old and sickly, and one of his predecessors died in office.

Do the fibs get through? Researchers find it hard enough to know how many people see fake news, let alone how many believe it. What is certain, though, is that the truth takes longer to get its boots on. During the elections the Centre for Democracy and Development, a think-tank run by Ms Hassan, employed five fact-checkers who

tried to refute dodgy stories. But they were soon overwhelmed by the volume of misinformation. "I don't think fact-checking makes any difference," she sighs.

Nigeria is not the only place where WhatsApp is influencing political culture. Mr Hitchen notes that during elections in Sierra Leone in 2018, stories spread by an urban minority on WhatsApp would find their way onto popular radio talk shows. In Kenyan elections in 2017 "keyboard warriors" used the platform to collect the phone numbers of group members and allegedly sell them to political parties.

Such chicanery has been found elsewhere in the world. In Brazil supporters of Jair Bolsonaro used WhatsApp to deliver "an

onslaught of daily misinformation", says Luca Belli, a law professor at Fundação Getulio Vargas, a university in Rio de Janeiro. Partly in response WhatsApp, which was bought by Facebook in 2014, limited to five the number of times a user could forward a message. Previous concerns over its misuse in India prompted WhatsApp to label messages as having been forwarded.

These changes will only have limited effect. "You can make it harder to share misinformation," says Mr Cheeseman. "But that just means that it takes longer to share—it doesn't make it impossible." As long as WhatsApp allows the sharing of information in groups, it will be used to share lies as well as truths. The only resilient defence is savvy, more sceptical users.

There are some efforts to use WhatsApp to encourage those. Several were set up ahead of the elections in South Africa on May 8th. One was "What's Crap on WhatsApp", an initiative by Africa Check, an NGO with offices in four African countries. It invited South Africans to forward them potential cases of misinformation, which it tried to debunk through one of its WhatsApp channels.

Another is the creation of Sizwe Mpofo-Walsh, a 30-year-old activist and writer. Eager to produce a political show for young people, he first considered YouTube and radio, but instead launched one via WhatsApp. Mr Mpofo-Walsh uses WhatsApp for Business, the platform's commercial arm, which makes it possible to broadcast to more than the 256-person limit in an ordinary group. It is a format that has proved successful in China (via an app called WeChat) but is rare in Africa (or anywhere, really). He produces five shows every week. They have about 10,000 viewers, not far off what a cable news show gets in South Africa. "There is an intimacy to WhatsApp that makes people ready to listen to a message," says Mr Mpofo-Walsh. That is why the platform is popular. But it is also what can make it dangerous.

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# 21 TALK

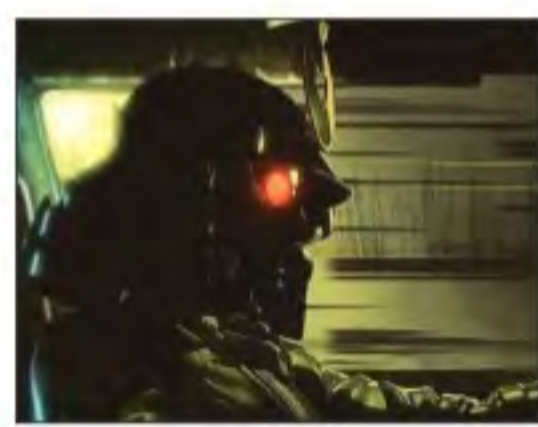
ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

## SNAP SHOTS



### Ode to a Legend

PENGUIN RANDOM House India will publish cinema legend Balraj Sahni's biography *The Non-Conformist: Memories of My Father Balraj Sahni*, written by his son and actor Parikshat Sahni. Replete with untold stories and unseen photos, the book promises to give readers an intimate glimpse of Balraj "as a man and an actor, as a husband and a friend, as a parent and a patriot". The foreword will be written by actor Amitabh Bachchan. Balraj was best-known for films such as *Kabuliwala* and *Garam Hawa*.



### Two in One

AWARD-WINNING singer-songwriter Sturgill Simpson has announced an animated Netflix film titled *Sound and Fury*, made in collaboration with manga artist Takashi Okazaki and filmmaker Junpei Mizusaki. It will be accompanied by an album of the same name, which will mark his first full-length release since 2016's *A Sailor's Guide to Earth*, that won him a Grammy in the best country album category.



### Withdrawing Art

EIGHT ARTISTS, including Korakrit Arunanondchai, Meriem Bennani, Nicole Eisenman and Nicholas Galanin, have asked the Whitney Museum of American Art to remove their works from the ongoing biennial due to museum's lack of response to calls for the resignation of a board member, Warren B Kanders, who owns the Safariland Group, a company that distributes law-enforcement equipment, including tear gas. There have been protests at the museum since March, from artists and scholars, while Kanders has defended the company. Seventy five artists and collectives are participating in biennial, which closes on September 22.



Stills from *Typewriter*; (below) Sujoy Ghosh



# Typing Horror

Sujoy Ghosh on his web series *Typewriter*, the horror genre and working with children

### EKTA MALIK

THOSE WHO would consider a self-writing typewriter to be a boon will have second thoughts after watching filmmaker Sujoy Ghosh's latest offering, *Typewriter*. The five-part web series that started streaming last week on Netflix had been on his mind for a while now. "I was thinking of working with children and perhaps vicariously go back to my childhood and live everything that Enid Blyton taught me," says Ghosh, 53, who has directed the show and also co-written it with Suresh Nair.

Central to the plot is a ragamuffin 'ghost club' that comprises four children and a golden Labrador—a direct reference to Enid Blyton's *The Famous Five* series. There is also a 'haunted' colonial era villa and a ghost called Fakeer, whose ancestry can be traced to a far away place called Sultanpore. "While growing up in Calcutta in the '70s, I read everything that was even remotely related to horror or ghosts. Till now, my house is stuffed with volumes of ghost stories. I was initiated into the genre through the writings of Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay and Rabindranath Tagore. I was later introduced to Edgar Allan Poe and Stephen King. I also read Bengali horror and my grandmother was always there to fill up the void, if there was any," adds Ghosh, who has films like *Kahaani*, *Jhankar Beats* and *Badla* to his credit.

The clickety-clack of a typewriter is a recurring audio sound in the series. The sound of the keys reverberate in the cavernous villa. "I wanted to explore the origin of words or a script. When I have an idea, I type it out—that's where the sound of the keys tapping came in. We usually have the typical sound of a kettle whistling or things falling—which are good sounds—but I wanted something new," he adds.

While Ghosh's narratives often feature children, here they are central to the film. We have Sameera, an adventurous and precocious girl, who is the founder of the ghost club. Gablu, Satyajit and Nick accompany her. "Satyajit Ray had said if you can get children to act, you can do anything. It was a herculean task for the initial three-four days of the shoot but I finally figured the trick—treat them like they are. To add to the drama, we also had Buddy, the dog," says the filmmaker.

Not all his experiments have worked. The man behind acclaimed thrillers such as *Kahaani* (2012) and *Badla* (2019), Ghosh seems to have struggled with the ghost mystery that forms the core of *Typewriter*.



Many people are not comfortable with horror. Moreover, there's no repeat value to it. Things are changing gradually

### SUJOY GHOSH

The series has faced flack for being crowded with multiple horror references—from the blood moon to a reincarnated soul. "The idea was to bring all my influences, all the horror that I have read and grown up on. All the inferences are supposed to feed into each other," says the director. While Indian folktales have characters

such as Vikram and Betaal and other djinns, it is not often that the fantastical stories are skillfully executed on the big screen. "Films are a game of numbers. We are classically a star-driven industry—or if not star, a face-driven industry. The aim is to recover the money that is invested and get people to come to the theatre. Many people are not comfortable with horror. Moreover, there's no repeat value to it. Things are changing gradually," says Ghosh.

For the filmmaker, ghost stories also still hope. "A scary film or a story for me is akin to a roller coaster ride. You know that you will get super-scared when you are on the ride but there will also be thrill. We want to believe in ghosts. We are scared but also hopeful—that's what my grandmother taught me," he says.

when the women's movement took off, there was a real ferment.

For women journalists, being single gives you the freedom to do more reporting and go out. Some professions demand more from women compared to others, where it's an advantage to be single.

One of the most hard-hitting essays in the book is by the Tamil writer, Bama. It reminds me of what Malcolm X meant when he said, "The most disrespected person in America is the Black woman". She talks about the ways in which patriarchy really works without once using the word.

It is an absolutely fantastic essay not only because of the writing, which is without any jargon, but also because it is truly intersectional; she's writing about her experiences as a Dalit Christian woman and a feminist. It shows us that there is no homogeneity among women—and the incidents she writes about are seared into one's mind. As a writer, Bama has looked into life, herself, society at a much deeper level than most of us have.

In the course of editing the anthology, was there anything that you had not thought of before?

The essays by Freney Maneckshaw and Sherna Gandhi informed me about the kind of pressure Parsi women face to marry and produce children. It made me think of what women from small communities or minorities face on a daily basis. Aheli Moitra is a journalist based in Nagaland, and her piece brings out a lot of interesting facts about the struggles of Naga women who choose to be single—we have such a different idea of those who live in the hills or in tribal societies and the reality is quite different. What I realised after reading all the pieces is that there is a world of women who can't write their own stories, but we have to go and meet and write about them.



Kalpana Sharma; cover of *Single by Choice: Happily Unmarried Women!*



upon how crucial financial independence is to a single woman and how it threatens patriarchy.

It is, and it has its own levels as well. The financial independence that Sharda Ugra or Bama experience—they made a home for themselves—is different from those of us who, while staying single, became caregivers of our aging parents. We were unmarried but there were restrictions, so some of us experienced being truly single much later.

Do you feel that your career as a journalist informed your experience of singlehood?

Yes, very much. I became the editor of *Himmat* magazine at a very young age, and it was during the Emergency. My feminism was located within the ambit of human rights, because of the Emergency; that's also

old woman to say that with such clarity. As I was editing this anthology, I found that the older generation of women like me didn't approach the single life thinking that we won't get married. It wasn't a question of choice, it was happenstance. Some of us rejected arranged marriage, and some of us became feminists and began to question the institution of marriage. Young women today have already thought those things out and what they want, partnership and equality, are hard to attain. They are making demands as women, and most men in India aren't ready for that.

Regardless of age, all the essays touch

Yes, and it's quite something for a 26-year-



## ONE STEP AHEAD

Literature Wales has launched a funding scheme for writers from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, and writers with a disability or illness in the region. It will offer grants between £50-£1000 for a development opportunity within the literary space.



### SHILPA GUPTA



WHAT: Sudhir Patwardhan's *Window 1*, acrylic on canvas, 2009

ON THE ARTIST: I have always admired Sudhir's work, particularly

the manner in which one can sense his approach through his method of painting. Be it a human figure, a street or an expanse of a hill, every element within the frame exists bearing its own weight while simultaneously coexisting with its surroundings.

WHERE: The work was on display at his solo show at Sakshi Gallery in Mumbai around six years back. It is a painting of a domestic space rendered in the marvellous way that



Sudhir Patwardhan's *Window 1*. A practicing radiologist till 2005, the self-taught artist is known for his engagement with the urban milieu

Sudhir paints, where his mid-tone palette stills time. The inward interiors perspective and outward gaze through a singular window creates an infinite lens of looking. The peculiar colour of the walls, almost skin coloured and slightly stained, leaves open multiple readings of the work. In our home, it hangs in a spot which is flooded by natural light, which works beautifully in context of it being called *Window 1*.

VANDANA KALRA

# With Utmost Faith

Australian historian Joanne Taylor documents the churches of India in her latest book

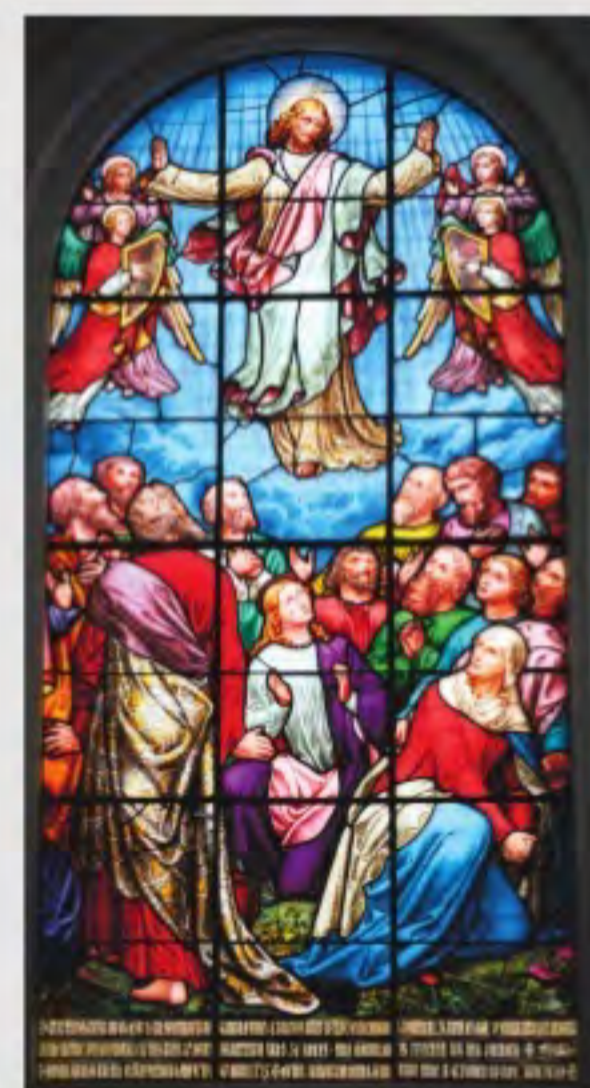


### SURBHIGUPTA

WHILE TALKING about the oldest European church in Fort Kochi, The Church of St Francis, which at one time housed the tomb of Vasco da Gama, Australian historian Joanne Taylor draws attention towards its beautiful collection of *punkhas*. An ancient Indian method of cooling interiors, here cloth is attached to wooden rods that hang from the ceiling, and strings lead through the wall to the outside of the building, where the *punkhawalla* would move the fan backwards and forwards to keep the congregation cool. This is just one of the many vignettes associated with churches in India that feature in Taylor's book *Churches of India* (Rs 1,495, Niyogi Books). "Academics in architecture ignores many wonderful things. That's why I worked on my previous book—*The Forgotten Palaces of Calcutta* (Niyogi Books, 2006). The houses and mansions of Indian merchants in north Kolkata were overlooked by almost everyone, as they had hybrid architecture. It is probable that the churches were ignored too, as I found very little during my research," says Sydney-based Taylor, who travelled around the country and documented churches across the states of Kerala and Goa, metropolitan cities such as Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi, and the former French colonies of Puducherry and Chandernagore. "The churches dotted across the subcontinent are a visual proof of India's acceptance and tolerance for others, their religions and their lifestyles," adds she.

Taylor also brings to notice how church photography in India is limited to documenting the huge facades and massive exteriors. In the book, she has included small details as well, like a piece of exquisite carving or a simple garland of marigolds at the feet of the saint's statue. "The human aspects of the building that are often not noticed are also significant," she says. In the book, Taylor shares several stories—from the Muslim connection of Goa's The Chapel of Saint Catherine to why Mother Mary's statue is one-armed at The Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount in Mumbai's Bandra or why St James Church in Delhi's Kashmiri Gate is also known as Skinner's Church.

In the book, Taylor writes, "The backwaters (of Kerala) are a dreamy place to guide through by boat and now and then a picturesque riverside shrine or a small church comes into view. The writer, Arundhati Roy, would have passed such shrines as she lived on the edge of the Meenachi river in Aymanam, close to Kumarakom. The house and the river feature in her much loved book, *The God of Small Things*." The author's favourite

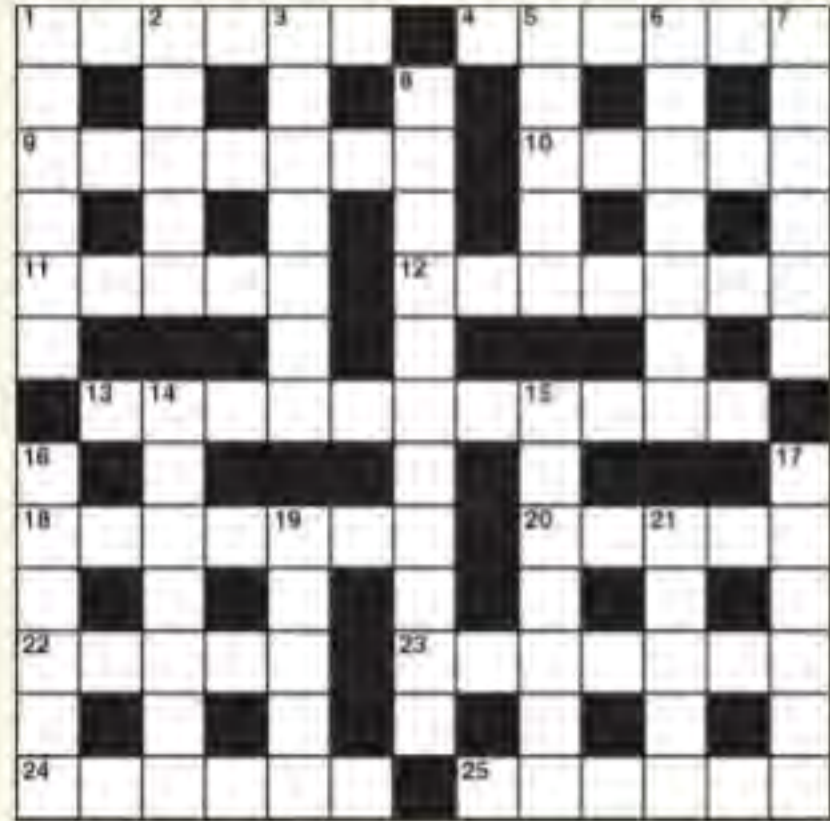


(Clockwise from left) Book cover; photographs from *Churches of India*; Joanne Taylor

church also lies somewhere around, near the Vembanad Lake. "A tiny little church on the Kerala backwaters, the Bethlehem Church, is painted bright apricot with white trim in a Gothic style. It sits on a narrow peninsula surrounded by water, all on its own, and is just gorgeous," she says.

Taylor visited India first in 1971 and "loved everything about it". Later, she studied Indian history at University of Sydney and wrote her thesis during her post-graduation at University of New South Wales on north Kolkata's heritage mansions and palaces. "That was the beginning... and it opened a door for me," she says.

### CROSSWORD 3865



- ACROSS**
- Piece of music in E sharp, perhaps (6)
  - Puts pressure on the men who sail in a ship (6)
  - Concise revealing vitality in troubled times (7)
  - Previous head of a religious body (5)
  - An essential part of thieves' language (5)
  - Specific cure that takes some licking (7)
  - It's cold fare for a revolutionary leader (5,6)
  - Foreign lady who dropped in after marriage (7)
  - Follow directions and engage in litigation (5)
  - Respond and about turn (5)
  - Girl I sign on as an astronomer (7)
  - Gives way under pressure (6)
  - Stockings only put out in the north and south (6)
- DOWN**
- Be agreeable to a sleep, perhaps (6)
  - She is strangely hard about love (5)
  - English style of roof tile (7)
  - Bird you shouldn't have indoors? (5)
  - He turns out to be an oriental conqueror (7)
  - Put emphasis on nervous tension (6)
  - Pocket money makes very little difference (5,6)
  - He doesn't appreciate where the coal goes (7)
  - He's about to call up a poet (7)
  - Bird gets so upset over victim (6)
  - Fitting ends for pieces of wood (6)
  - Chosen from the depot (5)
  - It uses rounds or ovals (5)

**Solutions Crossword 3864:** Across: 1 Atheist, 5 Armed, 8 No great shakes, 9 Smelt, 10 Minutes, 11 Entrap, 12 Denied, 15 Hairnet, 17 Argus, 19 Budding author, 20 Throe, 21 Dreamed. Down: 1 Agnes, 2 Highest bidder, 3 Inertia, 4 Totems, 5 Ashen, 6 Make things hum, 7 Disused, 11 Exhibit, 13 Erasure, 14 Staged, 16 Noise, 18 Shred.

### OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



### CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



### DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)** Unexpected obstacles and delays should work to your advantage if they distract you from non-productive and time-wasting courses of action. There is a case to be made for keeping your intentions to yourself - but each situation has to be taken on its own merits.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)** You're busy, that's for sure, but you could be getting busier. In view of the fact that you've got such a lot on your plate, you should waste no time in bringing old tasks to completion, and initiating projects which have been on your mind for some time.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)** Quite simply, romantic prospects are excellent and, even if you who have the cares of home and job to cope with, you really should make an effort to enjoy yourself more. In love, you may keep your feelings hidden. You might also come to terms with a partner's criticism - given time.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)** A series of strategic alignments between Venus, Mars and other planets are forcing you to come out of your shell and take the bull by the horns. Important discussions will go as planned, as long as you stick to your guns. Other people can only give you an honest response if you state what you want as clearly as possible.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)** Your confidence is justified but, whatever you do, don't throw caution to the wind. In particular, you should keep a very close watch on financial developments and dubious business deals. The day of reckoning will come sooner than you think, so, be prepared.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)** The pace of life continues to be fast, but not necessarily uncomfortable so. The planetary aspects are, absolutely, superb as far as all domestic changes and family relationships are concerned. But, then, you are owed some extra pleasure, as you know.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)** You could be rushing ahead with little thought for the past. Old debts, including emotional ones, should now have been settled, and if you're determined to move forward, then before very much longer you will be free from a whole series of oppressive and inhibiting memories.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)** There may be important lessons to be learnt in the coming days, especially about your tendency to let other people take over your life. You may combine assertiveness with tact and sensitivity in all your dealings with critics and rivals - and perhaps win them over to your side.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)** The Moon's alignment with your second house of money inevitably brings finance to your attention, yet you're more likely to be concerned with saving or investing for the future than in spending wildly. What's more, you'll do whatever it takes to make a relationship work.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)** You can never be absolutely sure of what lies around the next corner. Testing conditions may take you away from steady partnerships and existing arrangements, but capitalise on your talents and take a creative approach to your ambitions and accounts.

**VIROGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)** Venus' vivacious alignments enhance your charming assets. Social gatherings are likely to work to your advantage, possibly because, if you take people into your confidence, you'll receive the practical help and advice which you so urgently need.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)** Much in your public life depends on how well you get on with other people. Careerwise, you could be in a tricky spot if you're mishandled a relationship. There's plenty of scope for making amends, perhaps by taking the initiative when least expected, and where you can do most good.

### JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. It is through \_\_\_\_\_, not possessing, that life is revealed - Vida D. Scudder (8)

**BDIAE** **EGIWNT**

**DENIR** **AGRYCG**

SOLUTION: ABIDE, DINNER, TWINGE, CROCK

**Difficulty Level 3s**  
**Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

**Difficulty Level**  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 3915**

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

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

**Ravindra**  
General Public is hereby informed that one boy namely Ravindra S/o Sh. Kalicharan R/o Village Chherat PS Jima, Distt: Ailgarh, (UP), age: 08 yrs has been missing from Open Shelter Home, Chhota Bazar, Kashmir Gate, Delhi since 25.06.2018 In this regard a FIR No. 179/2019 u/s 363 IPC dated 04.07.2019 has been lodged at PS, Kashmir Gate, Delhi. The description of missing boy is as under:  
**Name:** Ravindra, **Father's Name:** Sh. Kalicharan, **Age:** 13 years, **Height:** 4', **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black T-shirt Brown Pant & Bare footed. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.  
**SHO P.S., Kashmir Gate, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-23968730**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

**Rakhi**  
General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Rakhi, D/o Vijay Singh R/o H.No. 923, Gali No.-11, D-Block, Mukund Pur, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 15.03.2019, from the area of P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 30-A, dated 16.03.19 has been lodged at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:  
**Name:** Rakhi, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 22 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Green colour Suit, Black colour Pajami and Slippers in Feet. If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped girl, kindly inform the SHO/Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi.  
**SHO P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi**  
**Ph. No.: 011-27811933, 27811934**

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 30-35 years of age whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found dead at E-Block Park, Sector-3, DSIDC, Bawana, Delhi on 30.06.19 at 01:21 p.m.. In this regard a report has been lodged vide DD No: 46-A, dated 30.06.19 at P.S. Bawana, Outer North Distt., Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far.  
The description of the UIDB is as under:  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** About 30-35 years, **Height:** About 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** White colour Sando Baniyan, Grey colour Pant and Black colour Plastic Slippers in Feet.  
If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Bawana, Outer North Distt., Delhi.  
**SHO P.S. Bawana, Outer North Distt., Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-27570021**

### NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (through e-tendering)

<b>Name of work with its location</b>	Provision of Strengthening Track Circuit for automatic section B/w PNP and BBDE of UPI/DN Line on 'B' Route.
<b>App. Cost of the work (₹)</b>	₹ 1,26,75,181.82/- only
<b>Tender Document Fee (₹)</b>	₹ 5,900/- only
<b>Earnest Money Deposit (₹)</b>	₹ 2,13,400/- only
<b>Address of the office</b>	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
<b>Date &amp; Time for upload of the tender/closing of tender</b>	Tender uploading / closing date & time- 14.08.2019 up to 15.00 hrs.
<b>Website particular &amp; notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.</b>	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

**Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-Tender-1275 Dated : 22.07.2019 2367/2019**

### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

<b>Name of work with its location</b>	Annual repairing and return contract for repairing of faulty cards in Delhi Division.
<b>App. Cost of the work (₹)</b>	₹ 1563370.2 only
<b>Tender Document Fee (₹)</b>	₹ 2,360/- only.
<b>Earnest Money Deposit (₹)</b>	₹ 31300/- only.
<b>Address of the office</b>	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
<b>Date &amp; Time for upload of the tender / closing of tender</b>	Tender uploading / closing date & time 14.08.2019 up to 15.00 hrs.
<b>Website particular &amp; notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.</b>	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055

**Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-AMC-557 Dated : 22.07.2019 2366/19**

### SBI REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION, SETUP AND MAINTENANCE OF ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE (EA) TOOL

Enterprise & Technology Architecture (E&TA) Department, State Bank Global IT Centre, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.  
Enterprise & Technology Architecture (E&TA) Department, State Bank Global IT Centre, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION, SETUP AND MAINTENANCE OF ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE (EA) TOOL  
State Bank of India invites proposal from reputed companies registered in India for procurement, installation, setup and maintenance of Enterprise Architecture (EA) tool. For further details please visit "Procurement News" section at the Bank's website <https://bank.sbi>  
Place: Navi Mumbai Sd/-  
Date: 23/07/2019 Head (E & TA)

### SALUTE THE SOLDIER

**Maj P Alexander**  
In proud memory of Maj P Alexander of 8th Battalion, The Bihar Regiment, who made the supreme sacrifice while serving the nation in Gurez Sector, J&K. You are remembered as an epitome of courage, professionalism and devotion to duty. We, the fraternity of the Veer Biharis, salute you.  
**The Bihar Regiment Association.**

### NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD E-TENDER NOTICE No. 11/2019

Sr. No.	E-Number	Name of work	Approx. Cost of work	Tender closing date
1	AGRA-ST-2019-30	Hiring of AC motor vehicle ARI/Innova/Safari/Similar make not be more than Three (3) years old & in good working condition, including Driver, Fuel, Crew and maintenance etc. for 12 months for official use of ADRM (Intra) AGRA for running of 2500 Kms per month. (Nature of work 24 hours per day without any holiday/rest).	4,42,936.68	13.08.2019

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids through web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) up to 15.00 hrs on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. 1046/19 (S)

### DELHI METRO RAIL CORPORATION PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the order of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dated 12.07.2019 in W.P. (C) 686/2016, it is hereby intimated to all DMRC Project Affected Persons (PAPs) of Block-15, Triokhark that a lottery allotment of newly constructed units at Triokhark is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 3.00 pm at DMRC Office at Mayur Vihar Phase-I Metro Station in the presence of Court Appointed Observer. All PAPs are required to be present at the venue. If any person doesn't attend the said allotment at the scheduled time and venue, his/her lottery will be drawn by nominated Committee. No request for any change in the Units allotted shall be entertained by DMRC, thereafter.  
Advertisement No. DMRC/84/2019

### EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS) EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

- Applications are invited for short listing suitable candidates for contractual employment for 11/12 months for the vacancies of 01x Safaiwala on contractual basis at ECHS Polyclinic Bhopal.
- Details of terms & conditions are available on ECHS website. Application is available at [https://echhs.gov.in/img/down/appl\\_echs\\_form.pdf](https://echhs.gov.in/img/down/appl_echs_form.pdf)
- Please submit application as hard copy only by post / by hand with three sets of Application with PPO & Discharge book (for Ex-servicemen Only), 10th Class & other Marksheet, Other Educational Certificates, experience certificates. Applications in email/online form are NOT ACCEPTABLE.
- Last date for receipt of applications along with connected documents is 02 Aug 2019.
- Interview is scheduled on 07 Aug 2019 from 0900h onwards at Station Headquarters, Sultania Infantry Lines, Bhopal-462001.  
Tele No 0755-2731057

### BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING) NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

<b>NIT No. 460/PHD/Bh-4/69</b>	<b>Dated: 15.07.2019</b>
<b>Name of office:</b> Chief Engineer / System Operation, Planning & Design (Power Plants) Dte., BMBM (PW), Flat No. 75 SLDC Complex, BMBM, Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh-160002, Tel-Fax: 0172-2637035	
<b>Name of Work:</b> Procurement of 2 no., 5 Tonne capacity, heavy duty Monorail wire rope Electric Hoist, one each at forebay at Gangwal and Kottla Power Houses.	
<b>Tender documents Download Start Date &amp; Time</b>	19.07.2019 from 1100 Hrs.
<b>Tender documents Download End Date &amp; Time</b>	21.08.2019 upto 1700 Hrs.
<b>Last date &amp; time of online bid submission</b>	22.08.2019 upto 1700 Hrs.
<b>Date &amp; time of online bid opening</b>	23.08.2019 from 1100 Hrs. onwards
The Bids are to be submitted online, for cost of specification, Earnest money Deposit and detailed NIT, please visit BMBM website <a href="http://bmbeproc.abcprocure.com">http://bmbeproc.abcprocure.com</a> , <a href="http://www.bmbm.gov.in">www.bmbm.gov.in</a>	

348-PR-SO-5 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

Veteran Sri Lankan pace bowler Lasith Malinga will retire from ODI cricket after the first game of a three-match series against Bangladesh beginning on July 26.

# A spin army for all seasons

India's three squads for the West Indies tour have classicist, modernist, mysterious and unorthodox spinners

SANDIPG

NEW DELHI, JULY 22

AS MANY as seven different spinners would feature in India's tour to the West Indies: Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav for the five-day bouts; Jadeja, Yadav and Chahal for the 50-over installment and Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Krunal Pandya and Rahul Chahar for the T20s. While it could be that the selectors are working on format-specific combinations, and not necessarily building rigid classifications, the bigger narrative thread here is the abundance of India's spin-bowling riches, the sheer variety at their disposal, each dispensing a distinctly unique array of skills.

It's hard to think of a more versatile a raft of multi-skilled spinners in the country's sparkling spin-bowling tradition. There all sorts: The classicists, the modernists, the mysterious and unorthodox. The lone elusive quotient is an ambidextrous spinner.

Remarkably, even those ones under broader genre-labels are different. Take for instance the T20I group, Chahal was picked over Chahal for the T20I series in the Caribbean, not because the latter's form has plummeted but because Chahal simply forced the selectors' gaze with his sustained excellence. Both are fundamentally leg-spinners, have essentially the same assortment of variations, the leg-break, googly and the flipper. But both are markedly differently operators; Chahal has a quicker, whippier action, but is slower through the air than Chahal. He doesn't extract spitting turn like Chahal either. He begins his action pitter-patter like Abdul Qadir but without his extravagant flourish at the release.

He has exceptional ball-control, a fact corroborated by his remarkable IPL last year. Among those who'd bowled more than two overs, his economy rate of 6.55 was third thirteenth. Among his Mumbai Indian colleagues, he had the second-best average (23.69) after Jasprit Bumrah (21). Nothing is as valued in T20 cricket as the wicket-taking skills combined with thriftiness. He slipped in 125 dot balls, eighth on the table, highly impressive for a 19-year-old IPL debutant. Both could be correlative—strangling run-rate could automatically buy wickets—but it's among the most valued entity in the shorter versions.

What impressed his Mumbai Indians coach Mahela Jayawardene was his composure in different situations. "You throw him the ball at any time of the match, he delivers. Whether he's tasked to contain or pick wickets, he delivers. He can open the bowling, bowl in powerplay, middle overs and death."

## Similar yet dissimilar

Likewise, left-arm spinners Krunal and Jadeja are similar yet dissimilar. Both are masterly in stifling batsmen, both could free-wheel, both are extremely agile fielders. But dissect their bowling, the strains of disparity unfurl. Jadeja has, as part of his Test-cricket resurgence, added more nuance to his craft. He can seamlessly vary the pace, flight angles and lengths, purchase both side-spin and over-spin.

Krunal is limited that way, but can unwaveringly hit the same spot. Little flight, little turn, little variations, full, flat and fast deliveries on off-stump that snake into the right-hander. The archetypal limited-over left-arm darter, but incredibly difficult to hoist for sixes. He hardly gives the length to slog or cut, he hardly lets batsmen get underneath him. The pace means that it's difficult to step out against him or pull out those fancy sweeps.



Leg-spinner Rahul Chahal is the latest tweaker to be picked in the national squad. IPL T20

The off-spinning all-rounder Washington Sundar brings in an entirely different set of skills. He is essentially right-handed Krunal Pandya, a mirror image if you may. Like the latter, his repertoire isn't stacked with mystery balls or the doosra. He hardly drifts from his default operational methods, doesn't tinker with his lines or mixes his lengths, bowls exactly the same way in powerplays as he does at the death, flings flat, full deliveries at the stumps.

But most importantly, he knows exactly what he's going, a streak of maturity that belies his age. He's yet to turn 20, but he's crystal-clear of what he needs to do of what he is expected to do. "When an offspinner is bowling, as a batsman you know that most of his deliveries are going to come at around 100kmph. It's important to bluff the batsman at times, and it's important to ensure that ball lands in the right spot. Fighting the ball in this format is very difficult so when you're trying it, you should be absolutely sure of being able to execute it. That's what I try to do and that's how I practice too," he had told this newspaper.

So effectively, India has a spread of differently skilled and diversely gifted spinners, who the selectors could summon depending on the variables of form, format, country, conditions, opposition and ground-dimension. It's not a restrictive classification—for example, Kuldeep and Jadeja feature predominantly in all three versions. Chahal and Chahal wouldn't be denied Test-match access in the future if they keep piling wickets in A tours and Ranji games; Sundar has already made his ODI debut; Axar

had stacked 38 ODIs to his name. Ashwin has 150 ODI scalps and hasn't buried limited-over ambitions. He has tried everything, from bowling leg-spin to round-arm, and the most recent with a wrong-footed release.

It's a bit like England's pace bowling resources. When the ball is swinging dial Branderson, when it's bouncing ping Mark Wood, Chris Jordan and now Jofra Archer. For cutters in shorter version shout out the names of Chris Woakes and Liam Plunkett. For left-handedness, summon Sam Curran and David Willey.

It's not surprising that the third list is also the most populated. It could have been necessitated by the World Cup next year, or it could be the format that throws up diverse talents. It, no doubt, is a format the selectors could be encouraged to experiment, even if they have identified/finalised the core. It's where they could be least sentimental too—the choices hardly cause a flutter, leave alone a stir. Picking Chahal ahead of Chahal hasn't sparked a furore as it would if he had come in for Ashwin in Tests. In a way, it's like the formats: conservative in Tests, enterprising in ODIs and radical in T20s.

But the end product is variety and versatility. While filtering the large pool—in the end, not more than three could be picked—for as big an event as the T20 World Cup would be no straightforward exercise, it won't be a headache for which the selectors would scamper for aspirin strips. As the old sporting truism goes, it's better to have more than none at all.

## Want to be consistent like Virat in Windies: Krunal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JULY 22

CONSISTENCY IS the best way to impress a skipper and all-rounder Krunal Pandya wants to put his best foot forward in front of Virat Kohli during the upcoming T20 series against West Indies starting August 3 in Florida.

The elder of the two Pandya brothers, Krunal has been selected in India's 15-member squad led by Kohli for the three games, and the spin-bowling all-rounder said he now wants to pick his skipper's brain on how to achieve consistency which will give his limited overs career much-needed fillip.

"I am looking forward to it because there is a lot of cricket in future. Obviously, I want to perform consistently in both batting and bowling," Krunal told bcci.tv. "I want to learn from Virat (Kohli) how to develop that hunger and be a consistent performer."

Krunal, who is already in the West Indies with the India A side, said such tours help a cricketer gain experience.

"India A tours help a lot. In the last 2-3 years, I have played in South Africa, New Zealand and England. It gives you experi-

**'India A tours help a lot. In the last 2-3 years, I have played in South Africa, New Zealand and England. It gives you experience and advantage when you tour these countries.'**

ence and advantage when you tour these countries with the senior team," he said.

Krunal said that he is a big admirer of two-time World Cup skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who is at the twilight of his career now.

"There is no big finisher in Indian and world cricket than Mahi bhai (Dhoni). He has been doing this day in and day out. His patience and the way he reads the situation are qualities that I would like to learn from him," said the 28-year-old left-hander, whose younger brother Hardik has been rested for the entire tour of West Indies.

The first two T20s between India and West Indies will be played at Fort Lauderdale, USA on August 3 and 4 while the final match of the series will be hosted by Guyana on August 6.

## Inaugural U-19 World Cup for girls next year?

DEVENDRA PANDEY

MUMBAI, JULY 22

THE INTERNATIONAL Cricket Council (ICC) is likely to introduce an Under-19 World Cup for girls as soon as next year, *The Indian Express* has learnt. At an ICC meeting a few months ago, the members were apprised of the idea of having a global event for girls like the one for Under-19 boys every two years.

A source following the development told this paper that there was a good chance that England or Australia could host the inaugural edition as those two countries have the set-up in place for such a tournament. The U-19 (boys) World Cup is scheduled in South Africa early next year.

The idea behind having a junior tournament for girls is to boost women's cricket across the globe. The ICC is hoping that, like boys, talented girls will get the same exposure, and it will help various countries create a base for the future. Players such as Virat Kohli and Kane Williamson once led their junior national teams and went on to captain their men's teams.

"There are many countries who might find it tough to find good players, but it could be a good start. It will help them have a base for the future, which all countries lack at the moment. At least, there will be a start and a tournament that these upcoming players can look forward to," the source said.

In India, post the Lodha Committee's recommendations, the BCCI introduced various age-groups tournament for girls across the country. Earlier, the Board used to have only a senior tournament.

## Ind A beat WI A to win series 4-1

Antigua: India A's top-order, led by opener Rituraj Gaikwad, fired in unison to steer the team to a convincing eight-wicket win in the fifth and final unofficial one-dayer against the West Indies A, completing a 4-1 series triumph here.

Leg-spinner Rahul Chahal (2/53) and his cousin, medium pacer Deepak (2/39), alongwith pacer Navdeep Saini (2/31) — all of whom made the cut for India's limited over squad on Sunday — picked up two wickets each to help India A dismiss West Indies A for 236 in 47.4 overs.

Gaikwad (99) then led the chase but missed out on a well-deserved century. His fellow opener Shubman Gill (69) and first-down Shreyas Iyer (61) also blasted half-centuries as India A overhauled the target in 33 overs at Coolidge Cricket Ground here. Gill hit eight fours and three sixes in a 40-ball 69 to share an opening stand of 110 with Gaikwad. He was dismissed by the off-spinner Rakheem Cornwall in the 12th over.

**BRIEF SCORES:** India A 237/2 in 33 overs (Gaikwad 99, Gill 69, Iyer 61); Keemo Paul 1/37 beat West Indies A 236 in 47.4 overs (Rutherford 65, Ambris 61; Navdeep Saini 2/31, Deepak Chahal 2/39, Rahul Chahal 2/53) by eight wickets.

## Concussion in cricket: ICC decides to act, but ambiguity remains

It took Phillip Hughes's death on the cricket field in 2014 for cricket's governing body to take the issue of head injuries and concussion more seriously. The ICC's decision to allow concussion substitutes from August 1 is a welcome step, keeping in mind player health and welfare. But like all new regulations, the fine print will evolve over time, and their remains scope for teams manipulating the provision to get an added advantage. TUSHAR BHADURI explains

A CRICKET ball weighs 163g, consists of cork covered by leather, and is sometimes hurled at speeds of over 150kmph. But despite the damage it can cause to a human head, the game has been slow to recognise the risks of concussion and other injuries when the projectile makes contact with the topmost part of the human anatomy.

**BUT LAST** week, the ICC approved concussion player replacements in all formats of men's and women's international cricket and First-Class cricket worldwide.

**THE** decision was reached after trials over a two-year period and will be enforced from August 1 when the World Test championship commences with the Ashes series in England. With both teams expected to feature some quick and hostile pacemen, one can expect the regulation to be tested in the next few weeks.

### GREY AREA

However, there's ambiguity about the implementation and how the match officials will prevent its misuse. ■ All teams need to have a doctor on hand now to deal with any such emergency, adding another cost head on boards and associations. But more importantly, the rule could be vulnerable to manipulation if the doctor doesn't always take a call on just the medical merits of the case. Who's

### BASIC PROTOCOL

According to the ICC, decisions on replacements will continue to be made by the team medical representative and the player should be a like-for-like replacement who will need to be approved by the Match Referee.

going to overrule if the doctor puts the team's interests above a player's physical welfare?

■ If a fast bowler has a minor niggle and gets a glancing blow, it would be tempting for the team management to get him ruled out of the game and get a 'like-for-like replacement'. This stresses the need to have independent medical observers to adjudicate in these matters.

■ The provision is also prone to tactical misuse. What does 'like-for-like' mean? Does that stand for replacing a bowler for a bowler and a batsman for a batsman, or goes deeper? If it doesn't, it will be tempting for teams to replace their pace bowler with a spinner if the pitch has started taking turn, or an opener for a middle-order batsman in overcast conditions.

■ How many players does the team management carry around overseas to cater to any medical contingency? Even the home team often releases players not in the final playing eleven for



Hashim Amla had a concussion after being hit by a Jofra Archer bouncer in the recent World Cup and missed the next game.

domestic matches elsewhere. Now, they will think twice before doing so as a like-for-like replacement may be hundreds of kilometres away (as is likely to be the case in India).

■ It would be interesting to see how the team management convinces a

concussed player that he needs to be substituted. The most famous case often quoted in this regard is of present Australia head coach Justin Langer, who was hit on the head by a Makhaya Ntini bouncer in the Johannesburg Test of 2006, but was determined to go out and

bat with the team needing a handful of runs to win with eight wickets down. Michael Kasprovicz and Brett Lee eventually got Australia over the line, so we'll never know.

■ How will the record books deal with the new regulations?

**"You'll be hard-pressed to make guys pull out of a Test. I find it quite fascinating that you can replace a guy halfway through a game."**

TIM PAINE,  
AUSTRALIA TEST CAPTAIN

**"Creating an environment where players feel comfortable in dealing with concussion symptoms is vital for their long-term health and well-being. It allows medical staff to make decisions solely in the interest of players."**

ALISTAIR NICHOLSON,  
CHIEF, AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS' ASSOCIATION

**"The rule will allow players to declare symptoms of concussion knowing that their team will not be disadvantaged."**

ALEX KOUNTOURIS,  
CRICKET AUSTRALIA'S SPORTS SCIENCE AND SPORTS MEDICINE MANAGER

# Junior high in Suhl

New batch of Indian shooters rule the roost at the youth World Cup, show potential to shine at senior events



Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, won gold in the 50m 3 position rifle event, with coach Suma Shirur.

SHAHID JUDGE  
MUMBAI, JULY 22

THE NUMBER of medals has been increasing as the years go by, as has the depth in Indian shooting. And when the Indian contingent – a mixed of past champions that now compete at the senior level and international newcomers – took to the Suhl-Friedberg Shooting Centre for the Junior World Cup in Germany, the accolades piled up. “We just keep getting better every year,” says Suma Shirur, the junior rifle team’s high performance coach. “Last year we had five medals, this year it’s nine and two world records.”

Of the 24 medals the 54-member Indian contingent won at Suhl, nine came in Olympic events. It just goes to show, for Shirur, that the conveyor belt of quality shooters has validated the country’s endeavours in the sport.

“A few months back we had a new teenager coming up and winning an Olympic quota (Divyansh Singh Panwar),” Shirur says. “This just shows that Divyansh is not a one-off. We’re constantly producing players who are pushing boundaries.” Even the seniors are feeling the heat.

“The junior rifle team for example had started shooting 630s in qualification quite consistently. That just pushed the seniors to start performing,” she says.

“It’s really changed the game in India and with each World Cup we are seeing a new batch of youngsters pushing the bar.”

This past week in Suhl, there were some new names who came to the party.

## Tomar hits bullseye

Never before had the 18-year-old Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar made it to the final of an international event in the men’s 50 m 3 position category. In Suhl, he finished fourth with a score of 1171 in the qualifiers, the cut-off was 1167. In the qualifiers though, his lowest scores came in the standing position, scoring 387 compared to the 395 in prone and 389 in kneeling.

This was crucial because in the finals, it is the standing position that eventually serves as the elimination round.

In the final, he was in second place as the standing position started but found the rhythm on his shots. After the first 10 shots in the standing event he had taken a lead by 0.8 points.

And as the remaining five shots went by, the lead over second placed Zalan Pekler of Hungary extended to an unassailable 4.5 points.

Eventually, Tomar’s tally of 459.3 broke

Czech shooter Filip Nepechal’s finals world record of 458.7.

## Valarivan overtakes Ghosh

Mehuli Ghosh finished the qualification round at joint-first, but her compatriot Elavenil Valarivan just about scraped through by taking the last spot for the finals. In the finals though, it was Elavenil, the defending champion who overtook Ghosh to the gold in what proved to be a one-two finish for the Indians. A total of 1.4 points separated the top two markswomen.

Both competitors, along with fellow Indian Shreya Agrawal, lodged a combined score of 1883.3 in the qualification round to set a new team junior world record.

## Sarabjot scores perfect 10

Sarabjot Singh took a good few minutes to play his last shot in the qualification round. The cut-off score was 574, and it would come down to the number of inner targets hits to figure who makes it to the top 8. Had Sarabjot got a 9, he would have equalled 574 but not have enough inner hits to make the cut. Sarabjot took his time for the final shot, and then scored an equivalent of 10.7 – which counts as a perfect 10 – to take his tally to a safe 575 (fifth place) and clear all doubts.

The youngster had a slow start to the qualification round, particularly in the fourth series, but his scores in the final two series picked up his final tally, as he eventually recorded series scores of 96, 95, 96, 92, 98 and 98.

Playing in his first ever junior world cup, Sarabjot’s performance in the final never saw him drop below a podium position at the end of each series. But in a topsy-turvy final where he once held a lead of 3.5 points, which then dropped to 0.8, he eventually won gold scoring 239.6, 1.9 points better than second-placed Zhehao Wang of China.

## Consistent Esha

At this World Cup last year, the 14-year-old had finished 20th in the qualification round. But a few months before taking the trip to Suhl, Esha won gold, her first international medal, at the Asian Championships in Taiwan.

Still the competition is tougher at the World Cup, and her series scores in the qualification round was rather underwhelming at 93, 97, 96, 96, 94 and 94 for a total of 570. But that was enough for her to finish in sixth place – the cut-off was 568.

In the final though, she picked up her

level and was consistent to the point that, apart from the first series where she was third, she never left the second place spot. Her final score of 236.6 was a whole 5.2 points shy of the leader Sevvall Ilayda Tarhan of Turkey, who is a world championship gold medallist and almost five years Esha’s senior.

## Bhanwala holds nerve

Six Indians competed in this event and three made it to the final. But 16-year-old Anish Bhanwala was always the favourite among them. Now a frequent shooter in the senior division and widely considered India’s best-bet in the rapid fire event, the teenager came to Suhl to test a new grip and recorded a score of 584 in the qualification round, four more than the second placed Florian Peter of Germany.

Making it past the qualification round has always been Bhanwala’s Achilles Heel. His true strength lay in his composure in the finals. Last year, he had shot a 37 in a domestic event – which would have been a world record had it been an international tournament.

In Suhl though, he finished the first series as a joint leader and then never fell below the gold-medal position. Eventually his tally of 29 was six points better than Egor Ismakov of Russia.

## India take it to the decider

At the end of the 10th series, China had a strong lead of 12-8 and needed to win two more series to secure the bronze medal. The Indian duo of Esha Singh and Gaurav Rana though took the next three series to go up 14-12. The Chinese levelled the score to take the match into the deciding series. The Chinese pair of Xue Li and Zhehao Wang scored 9.4 and 9.0 respectively for a total of 18.4, but the Indian team scored 10.0 and 10.0 for a total of 20 and the bronze medal.

## Silver lining for Indian duo

Sneha Agrawal paired up with 15-year-old Yash Vardhan, who was competing in only his first junior world cup. The pair bettered the much fancied and decorated fellow Indian team of Mehuli Ghosh and Hriday Hazarika to make it to the gold medal match. In the final though, they were comprehensively beaten by Iran’s Armina Sadeghian and Amirsiyavash Zolfagharian.

Ghosh and Hazarika, who had topped the first qualification round, came up as comfortable 16-4 winners over the American team of Macey Way and Matthew Sanchez.

## Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar

GOLD	
MEN'S 50 M 3 POSITION RIFLE	
SCORES	
Qualification	1171
Finals	459.3 (Junior World Record)
WORLD RECORDS	
Qualification	1187
Finals	465.3
JUNIOR WORLD RECORDS	
Qualification	1187
Finals	459.3

## Elavenil Valarivan, Mehuli Ghosh

GOLD	
WOMEN'S 10 M AIR RIFLE	
SCORES (ELAVENIL)	
Qualification	627.5
Finals	251.6
SCORES (GHOSH)	
Qualification	630.4
Finals	250.2
WORLD RECORDS	
Qualification	634.0
Finals	252.9
JUNIOR WORLD RECORDS	
Qualification	633.4
Finals	252.4

## Sarabjot Singh

GOLD	
MEN'S 10M AIR PISTOL	
SCORES	
Qualification	575
Finals	239.6
WORLD RECORDS	
Qualification	594
Finals	246.3
JUNIOR WORLD RECORDS	
Qualification	588
Finals	246.3

## Esha Singh

SILVER	
WOMEN'S 10 M AIR PISTOL	
SCORES	
Qualification	570
Finals	236.6
WORLD RECORDS	
Qualification	587
Finals	246.9
JUNIOR WORLD RECORDS	
Qualification	585
Finals	243.3



Mehuli Ghosh won silver in 10m air rifle. File

## Anish Bhanwala

GOLD	
MEN'S 25 M RAPID FIRE	
SCORES	
Qualification	584
Finals	29
WORLD RECORDS	
Qualification	593
Finals	38
JUNIOR WORLD RECORDS	
Qualification	589
Finals	35

## Esha Singh and Gaurav Rana

BRONZE	
10 M AIR PISTOL MIXED EVENT	
SCORES	
Qualification 1	573
	(Singh 285, Rana 288)
Position	First
Qualification 2	378
	(Singh 192, Rana 186)
Position	Fourth
BRONZE MEDAL MATCH RESULT	
India	16
China	14

## Shreya Agrawal and Yash Vardhan

SILVER	
10 M AIR RIFLE MIXED EVENT	
SCORES	
Qualification 1	625.8
	(Agrawal 314.4, Vardhan 311.4)
Position	Fourth
Qualification 2	420.3
	(Agrawal 209.4, Vardhan 210.9)
Position	First
GOLD MEDAL MATCH RESULT	
Iran	17
India	11

## Mehuli Ghosh and Hriday Hazarika

BRONZE	
10 M AIR RIFLE MIXED EVENT	
SCORES	
Qualification 1	628.1
	(Ghosh 313.7, Hazarika 314.4)
Position	First
Qualification 2	418.1
	(Ghosh 211.5, Hazarika 206.6)
Position	Third
Bronze medal match result	
India	16
USA	4

# Olympics a year away, but TT's foreign coach yet to join the team

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

THE TOKYO Olympics is only a year away but Indian table tennis' new foreign coach Dejan Papic is yet to join the national team, affecting the paddlers' preparation for the showpiece. In March, the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) had roped in Papic as chief coach in place of the long-serving Massimo Costantini, who quit last year citing personal reasons.

Under Costantini, India had made rapid strides with historic performances at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and Jakarta Asian Games, where the country ended a 60-year wait for a table tennis medal. But now the players are left to fend for themselves. “Massimo (Costantini) had to go for some family issues and after that a coach was finalised but we don't know when he will be joining. Without a coach it is difficult to prepare for the Olympics,” said A Sharath Kamal during an interaction here. Papic had interacted with the senior Indian players during the World individual championships in Budapest. He was expected to join the team this month with the ongoing Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in Cuttack supposed to be his first assignment at home.

“You see the results, it is just me, G Sathiyam and Manika (Batra) is doing well. We are training on our own and taking care of our singles training but for doubles we need specialised coaching,” Sharath said. “The coach came for the world championship. Now in next 11 months, he has to figure out everything. By the time he does, it will be December. Our preparation for singles is going on but mixed doubles is an issue.” According to a TTFI official, the federation is awaiting a response from Papic.

“The Sports Authority of India has cleared his appointment and we have sent Papic his letter 4-5 days back. We are waiting for him to sign it and send us back,” the official said.

Four Indians had qualified for the Rio Olympics and Sharath is confident that the team will make the cut for the Tokyo Games.

“We have a good chance of qualifying as a team for the Olympics. We are seeded between 9 to 11 and 16 teams qualify. We are still favourite to qualify,” he said.

“There is one tournament in January in Portugal through which we can qualify and for singles we have an Asian qualification in April. If it doesn't happen then the world ranking will come into the picture. But we should qualify.”

Talking about his qualification chances, Sharath said: “I want to qualify during the qualification tournament. But if it doesn't happen, I will have to play every tournament till June 2020 and from January to June there are 10 pro tours, apart from world qualification team, Asian qualification, world championship, Asia cup in six months. I have to stitch myself up for every tournament.”

“So I am just looking to produce my best performance in 8 tournaments instead of playing too many events.”

The hectic international calendar is making life difficult for players and Sharath said the qualification process for the Olympics need to be reviewed. “I played Hong Kong and Japan, then two weeks I was at home, I played Korea and Australia and then it is Commonwealth Championship, UTT and immediately after that they want us to go Bulgaria and Czech,” said the 37-year-old from Chennai.

“It is the ITTF schedule, so if I don't play I will miss out of ranking points. We have been complaining about the qualification system. International body wants regular action, so nothing has happened. But it needs to be relooked.” Sharath said he will take a break after the Ultimate Table Tennis league to prepare for the Asian Championship in September. “I'll have to play all matches in UTT but will cut down in August because Asian Championship is in September,” he added.

## [SPORTS BAR]



## Isner beats Bublik for 4th Newport ATP title

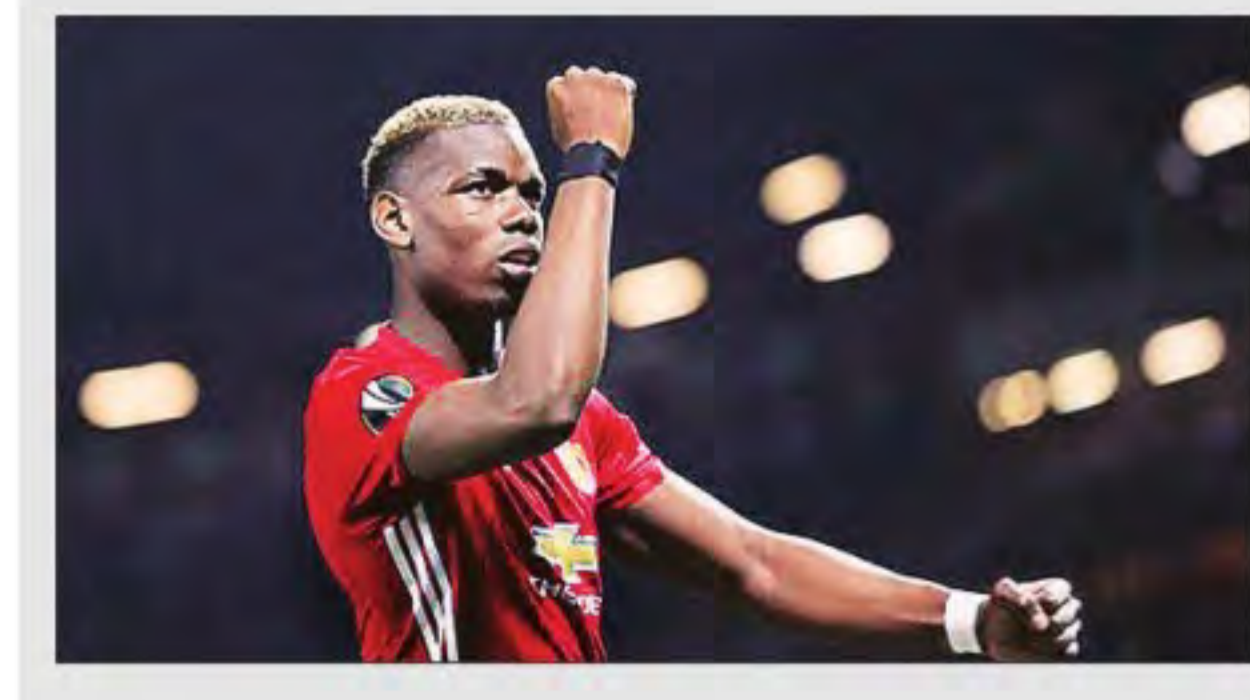
John Isner captured his fourth title at the ATP grass court tournament at Newport, Rhode Island, beating Alexander Bublik 7-6(7/2), 6-3. Isner, who was sidelined by a stress fracture in his left foot for three months after reaching the Miami final in March, was the top seed in the tournament that he also won in 2011, 2012 and 2017. Bublik, the seventh-seeded 22-year-old from Kazakhstan who was playing in his first ATP final, double-faulted on break point to fall behind 3-2 in the second set, and that was the only opening the big-serving Isner needed. The 34-year-old American – who produced only a modest five aces but put 79 percent of his first serves in play – finished off the match with a forehand winner even as he slipped on the grass and sprawled forward.

## Three Indians enter Thailand Open quarters

Asian Championships silver-medallist Deepak Singh (49kg) was among the three Indian boxers to enter the quarterfinals of the Thailand International Tournament in Bangkok, on Monday. Former India Open gold-medallist Manisha Moun (57kg) and Ashish Kumar (75kg) were the other Indians to enter the last-eight stage. Deepak put up a dominating performance to defeat Morocco's Said Mortaji 5-0 to be just one step away from a medal. Manisha stormed into the quarterfinal after out-punching Thailand's Sajeewani Srimali by 5-0. Ashish, on the other hand, had to toil a bit before securing a 4-1 verdict over another local favourite Aphisit Kanankhokhruea.

## FIFA bans official in match fixing probe

FIFA has handed a life ban to former Botswana Football Association general secretary Mooketsi Kgotele for accepting bribes in relation to the manipulation of international matches. FIFA said that the adjudicatory chamber of the Independent Ethics Committee had also fined the former official 50,000 Swiss francs (\$50,953). “The formal ethics proceedings against Mr Kgotele... stem from an extensive investigation into various attempts to manipulate international matches for betting purposes by Mr Wilson Raj Perumal, a known match-fixer,” said FIFA.



Pogba says he wishes for a “new challenge,” amidst interest from Real Madrid.

## Mata hopes Pogba remains at Manchester Utd

Manchester United midfielder Juan Mata hopes Paul Pogba remains at Old Trafford next season and rubbished suggestions the Frenchman could be a disruptive influence if he is not allowed to move. Pogba has publicly stated his wish for a “new challenge,” amidst interest from Real Madrid. The World Cup winner’s agent Mino Raiola also told *The Times* earlier this month that “everyone knows the willingness of Paul to move on.” However, Pogba has travelled with United on their pre-season tour of Australia and Singapore and shone in victories over Perth Glory, Leeds United and Inter Milan. “We all know Paul and he is a fantastic midfielder, and a very good guy, very positive, and a good influence for everyone,” Mata told Sky Sports. “I think he is happy and brings everyone together, but I cannot speak for other people – I speak for myself. “As a team-mate and a friend I would like him to stay and be happy because he is a very good player for us.” David de Gea does look set to remain with the Red Devils despite entering the final year of his contract with a new deal for the Spaniard reportedly to be finalised in the coming days.

## Minerva, five other clubs write to FIFA

Minerva Punjab, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal have written to FIFA president Gianni Infantino, asking for his help in their fight for survival in Indian football. Churchill Brothers, Aizawl FC and Gokulam Kerala FC are among the six clubs to have written to the sport's global body, with Minerva Punjab owner Ranjit Bajaj signing the letter. “Recent reports have indicated that the AIFF is seeking to make the ISL, which came into existence in 2013, the senior most league in the country, whereas I-League, that dates back to 2007 when it was launched as India's first-ever professional football league is sought to be made into a second tier and inferior league,” the clubs wrote.

## Rakitic unmoved by transfer rumours

Barcelona midfielder Ivan Rakitic accepts his days at the Nou Camp may be numbered, but for now he is concentrating on preparing for next season with the Spanish champions. After the arrival of Frenkie de Jong from Ajax and 31-year-old Sergio Busquets signing a new five-year deal last year, Barcelona's midfield is looking a little crowded and the Croat could be the man shipped out this summer. Speaking ahead of his side's pre-season match against Chelsea in Japan on Tuesday, Rakitic admitted it was awkward talking about his future but he was used to the rumours.



## Gnagnon apologises for tackle on Liverpool player

Sevilla's Joris Gnagnon has apologised for his “heinous” tackle on Liverpool youngster Yasser Larouci which led to the Sevilla defender being sent off during a pre-season friendly in Boston. Gnagnon launched a wild challenge on the 18-year-old Larouchi, which launched him into the air and led him to being carried off on a stretcher during Liverpool's 2-1 defeat at Fenway Park on Sunday. “I would like to publicly apologise towards Liverpool, the family of the player and its supporters,” Gnagnon posted on Twitter. “It was a heinous act on my part. Whatever the reason, it's not what should be seen on a football pitch. All my prayers are with the player and his family.” Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp was watching his words in post-match interviews, but confirmed Larouci was “lucky” to have avoided a serious injury.

# Horton rides wave of support

Warned by governing body, Australian applauded by fellow swimmers for podium protest against Sun

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
GWANGJU, JULY 22

MACK HORTON walked into the dining room at the athletes' village and the applause began. It swelled into a standing ovation for the Australian swimmer after his personal protest against China's Sun Yang at the world championships.

Horton refused to step onto the podium or shake Sun's hand after losing to Sun in the 400-meter freestyle final on Sunday night.

"Cuttsy move, for sure," U.S. backstroke Matt Grevers said Monday.

FINA's executive board met Monday in Gwangju to discuss Horton's protest and decided to send a warning letter to Swimming Australia and to Horton.

"While FINA respects the principle of freedom of speech, it has to be conducted in the right context," the board said in a statement.

Horton is angry that Sun, who served a three-month doping suspension in 2014, is being allowed to compete in Gwangju before he faces a Court of Arbitration for Sport hearing in September that could potentially end his career.

The World Anti-Doping Agency is challenging a decision by FINA, swimming's world governing body, merely to warn Sun over incidents during a doping control team's attempts to take blood and urine samples at his home in China last September.

"I don't feel like it really hurt Sun Yang," Grevers said of Horton's protest. "I think it just let him know that, 'Hey, it's a weird incident and until it gets uncovered, we don't fully trust you.'"

Horton is the only swimmer to beat Sun in the 400 free in the last eight years, taking gold in the event at the 2016 Rio Olympics, where the Aussie also refused to shake Sun's hand. Horton went further at a news conference later, calling Sun a "drug cheat" to his face.

That prompted China's swimming federation to demand an apology, but none was forthcoming.

With such history between the two, American Lilly King said other swimmers were waiting for the awards ceremony Sunday "to see what was going to happen."

Horton stood behind the podium when given his silver medal. He didn't join Sun and bronze medalist Gabriele Detti of Italy for the traditional photos on the top spot afterward.

"I don't think I need to say anything," Horton said Sunday. "His actions and how it has been handled speaks louder than anything I could say."

Sun said Sunday he was aware Horton has a problem with him.

"Disrespecting me was OK, but disrespecting China was unfortunate," Sun said through a translator. "I feel sorry about that."

King, an outspoken critic of doping, was in the dining hall when Horton arrived back at the village.

"It was pretty great to see the athletes united on his stance and supporting him as well," she said. "I don't think anyone at FINA is going to stand up for the athletes, so the athletes have to stand up for themselves."

Horton's teammate, Mitch Larkin, voiced a familiar concern among swimmers about a clean playing field.

"You can never be confident," he said. "You've got to trust the authorities, but with what's going on in sport these days it's hard to be 100% sure."

Horton didn't alert the Australian coaching staff of his podium plans in advance, according to head coach Jacco Verhaar. "I understand him very much,"



Sun Yang, who had served a doping ban in 2014, was labelled a "drug cheat" by Mack Horton. Reuters

**While FINA respects the principle of freedom of speech, it has to be conducted in the right context. As in all major sports organisations, our athletes and their entourages are aware of their responsibilities to respect FINA regulations and not use FINA events to make personal statements or gestures."**

FINA, WORLD GOVERNING BODY ON MACK HORTON'S PROTEST

the coach said. "You can only respect him for what he does."

Detti told Italian media that Horton approached him before the medals ceremony and asked if he would be willing to stand behind rather than on the podium while receiving his award.

Detti declined, explaining that he worked hard to earn a medal and wanted to enjoy it.

None of the anti-Sun sentiment goes over well in China, where he is viewed as a star and his fans demand respect for him via social media. A large contingent of Chinese fans cheered and shouted as Sun made his victory parade around the pool. Banners featuring his face hung from the stands.

Larkin estimated that 99% percent of swimmers at the meet back Horton.

"He's not really standing alone," Larkin said. "What he did was certainly brave and gutsy, and I have a lot of respect for him for doing that."

Not everyone agreed with Horton, however. "That's his opinion, not mine," said British swimmer James Guy, who described himself as a close friend of Horton's.

Guy was the leading qualifier going into the 200 free semifinals Monday night; Sun was second-fastest.

American backstroke Ryan Murphy said he didn't consider Horton's protest to be directed at Sun "but more so standing against FINA and WADA for their response to these things."

# Gold but no new record for Peaty, Sjostrom beaten

REUTERS  
GWANGJU, JULY 22

THREE OF the most dominant swimmers in the world took centre stage at the world championships on Monday but only Adam Peaty and Katinka Hosszu maintained their aura of invincibility while Sarah Sjostrom's reign in the 100m butterfly came to an end.

A night after becoming the first swimmer to go under the 'Magic 57' mark in the men's 100 metres breaststroke, Peaty cruised to his third straight gold in the event, though his time -- 57.14 -- was off his world record of 56.88 set in Sunday's semis. "I'm very happy, but... there is (also) a little bit of disappointment in me, but I think that'll fuel me for next year as I want to go even faster -- for now though, I'll enjoy the moment," he said. With team mate James Wilby taking the silver, Peaty said Britain was setting the bar in the breaststroke. "It's looking like Britain is a stronghold for breaststroke and it has been for a long time now," he said.

No less dominant is Hosszu, who cruised to her fourth world title in the 200m individual medley in a time of 2:07.53. China's Ye Shiwen took the silver and Canada's Sydney Pickrem the bronze. It has been a turbulent year for the Hungarian. The Olympic champion at both the 200 and 400m split from her husband and coach Shane Tusup in 2018 and she said the victory on Monday was her reward for a "tough journey".

"From the outside it might seem just another gold medal but obviously for me it's definitely special to be here and being able to win this title," she added. Sjostrom had no excuses for her defeat in the 100m butterfly as she saw Canadian 19-year-old Margaret MacNeil end her run of three straight victories at the worlds.

"I wish I could complain and say I got water in my goggles or something like that but I actually had a pretty good race with good turns,

**A night after becoming the first swimmer to go under the 'Magic 57' mark in the men's 100 metres breaststroke, Peaty cruised to his third straight gold in the event, though his time -- 57.14 -- was off his world record of 56.88 set in Sunday's semis.**

good start," said the 25-year-old Swede. "It's just the back-end speed, but maybe that's just age." MacNeil said she had just been hoping for a medal and to beat Sjostrom to gold was "really unbelievable". "She congratulated me and was just super-nice and so great and I have looked up to her forever so it means the world."

With the swimming world still debating Mack Horton's refusal to share a podium with Sun Yang on Sunday over the Chinese swimmer's doping history, FINA said it had warned the Australian over his protest.

While other swimmers at the world championships applauded his stance, the 23-year-old has received death threats from Chinese fans on social media over his protest.

"Obviously death threats on something like this is pretty insane," said American Lilly King. "He is standing up for the right reason so I'm sure Australia would take care of him."

Caeleb Dressel became the first American to win the men's 50 butterfly at the world championships, and while the event continues to have a low profile in the United States he said it was slowly gaining traction.

"The 50 strokes are a little weird in the United States," he added. "We are starting to do them more and more but it's not really a thing. I guess it's good we got one guy in there, I'm glad it was me."

# Out of shadows of Irish golf, Lowry a Major champion

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PORTTRUSH (IRELAND), JULY 22

NO LONGER in the shadows of Irish golf, Shane Lowry now has his name etched on the base of the silver claret jug. It's on there with more than a century's worth of the best that have conquered the links to win the British Open. Lowry gazed at the oldest trophy in golf as he tried to soak up his storybook finish Sunday at Royal Portrush, a course wet from rain and then from tears.

"I can't believe this is mine," Lowry said after his six-shot victory.

He earned his place with a 63 in the third round that broke the 54-hole scoring record at the British Open and staked him to a four-shot lead. And then he handled the nerves and expectations, both in abundance, and never let anyone closer than three shots.

A year ago, Lowry sat in a parking lot at Carnoustie and cried after missing the cut in the British Open for the fourth straight year.

"Golf wasn't my friend at the time," he said.

And there he was Sunday, in rain and wind so ferocious that pars felt like birdies, never giving anyone much of a chance as he closed with a 1-over 72 for the largest margin of victory in the Open in nine years.

Lowry isn't afraid to be honest, and he didn't mind telling caddie Bo Martin that he was nervous, scared and worried he would mess up for a raucous, rollicking crowd that wanted nothing more than to celebrate with him.

"I suppose I didn't even know going out this morning if I was good enough to win a major," Lowry said. "And look, I'm here now, a major champion. I can't believe I'm saying it, to be honest."

So many others in the Irish golf community can. Graeme McDowell recalls a story from famed swing coach Pete Cowen, who long ago traveled to Dublin to scout the Irish Boys golf team. They were curious about his views on the obvious star -- a teenager named Rory McIlroy -- except that Cowen saw more.

"The guy said, 'Who do you like?' And he said, 'Rory McIlroy looks pretty good, but that slightly overweight kid with the glasses on... he looks good,'" McDowell said. "So he's always been talented."

That kid was Lowry, so talented that he was still an amateur 10 years ago when he won the Irish Open at County Louth. McDowell remembers something else about that Irish Open, the first time he met Lowry.



The return of the British Open to Northern Ireland for the first time in 68 years was all about Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell and Darren Clarke. But it was Shane Lowry who brought joy to the nation. AP

## ENDGAME

# With five days left and no clear leader, Tour de France poised for thrilling finale

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NIMES (FRANCE), JULY 22

A TOUR de France jam-packed with unexpected plot twists is saving its biggest surprise for last.

With six riders within reach of the podium heading into the toughest final stages in the Alps, the race that resumes Tuesday after the final off-day is tantalizingly poised. Furious racing over the first 2,500 kilometers (1,500 miles) through Belgium and France and the uncertain outcome ahead of the grand finale in Paris are conspiring to deliver the most engrossing Tour in recent memory.

Like a summer rain, the suspense of still not knowing who will win with just six of the 21 stages remaining is exquisitely refreshing for cycling's greatest race after years of implacable domination by the uber-rich, super-calculating British Ineos team, formerly Sky.

"Nobody is really controlling the race as such. It's way more exciting but it's more like chess in another sense. It's brilliant fun," Ineos team boss Dave Brailsford said on Monday's rest day. "We've sat here on the second day of a Grand Tour so many times and people say we've closed the race down and it's not been exciting. That's not been the

case this time. It's fun to be involved in one of most exciting editions in a long time."

Either one of Geraint Thomas, Ineos' struggling defending champion, or Thibaut Pinot, the French climber who rebounded in the Pyrenees from what had seemed a decisive loss of time on the flat before the mountains, could still ride up the Champs-Elysees in the iconic yellow jersey on Sunday.

A Pinot victory would trigger delirium across France, which has had no homegrown champion to celebrate since Bernard Hinault in 1985 and suffered the indignity of many years when Lance Armstrong and other dopers hijacked the race that is as much part of the French national identity as romance and the baguette.

But Thomas' Colombian teammate Egan Bernal or dark horses Steven Kruijswijk from the Netherlands and German rider Emanuel Buchmann could put French champagne back on ice. Making few waves and avoiding the misfortunes, mistakes and big off-color days that sank other riders' title hopes, they're very much in the podium picture. But their stealthy consistency could hit its limits in the Alps, where conservative riding might not be enough to win if Pinot and others attack, as expected.

Just 39 seconds -- practically nothing in cycling, where riders often lose minutes when they wilt on big climbs -- separate



While Julian Alaphilippe (yellow jersey) outclassed his rivals during the first two weeks on short, punchy climbs, Thibaut Pinot is closing in on the lead fast. AP

Thomas, in second place overall, from Buchmann, in sixth. Kruijswijk is third, Pinot fourth and Bernal fifth.

Missing from this script, of course, is the yellow jersey himself, France's sweetheart

Julian Alaphilippe. His punchy, unpredictable style has endeared him to fans bored with the by-the-numbers wins that Sky, now Ineos, secured with Bradley Wiggins in 2012, four-time winner Chris Froome and, last year,

**Either one of Geraint Thomas, Ineos' struggling defending champion, or Thibaut Pinot, the French climber who rebounded in the Pyrenees from what had seemed a decisive loss of time on the flat before the mountains, could still ride up the Champs-Elysees in the iconic yellow jersey on Sunday.**

with Thomas. But in the Pyrenees, Alaphilippe started to pay for the energies he expended in taking, losing, getting back, and then extending his race lead in weeks one and two.

**Harder climbs ahead**

Having built up a lead of 2 minutes, 2 seconds over Thomas at the top of the Tourmalet, the first of seven climbs to above 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) at this Tour, Alaphilippe then cracked Sunday on the last ascent in the Pyrenees. His lead shrank to 1:35 and, most importantly, his ride appeared to signal that the even harder climbs

"I just shot 61 at Baltray, and he came in and shot 62," McDowell said. "And he didn't even introduce himself. He said, 'I can't believe you beat me by one out there.' And I'm like, 'Who's this kid?'"

That kid is now "champion golfer of the year." Lowry could barely contain his joy when he rolled in an 8-foot birdie putt on the 15th hole for a six-shot lead with three to play. He knew it was over when he found the fairway on the 17th because "I knew that I could really lose a ball from there."

**People's champion**

The cheers got louder with each step closer to the finish line, and Lowry stretched out his arms when his second shot to the 18th was safely on the fringe. Waiting to celebrate with him was McDowell, a former U.S. Open champion who grew up at Portrush; Padraig Harrington, who preceded Lowry as the first Irishman to win a major; four-time major champion Brooks Koepka and his caddie, Rickie Elliott, also raised at Portrush and once a promising amateur in Irish golf.

Lowry was asked earlier in the week if he felt like a forgotten Irishman.

The return of the British Open to Northern Ireland for the first time in 68 years was all about McIlroy, McDowell and Darren Clarke, a trio of Ulstermen with major championships. No one in these parts -- the largest Open crowd outside of St. Andrews -- will forget Lowry and his performance.

"Everyone knows we're all one country when it comes to golf," Lowry said.

The names on the claret jug include Harry Vardon and Bobby Jones, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. Lowry would be equally satisfied to see his name below Clarke and McIlroy, Harrington and Fred Daly.

He held the jug aloft on the 18th green and said to crowd, "This one's for you." Lowry was headed home for a celebration -- the Irish are known for that, too. "It's not going to sink in for a couple of days, is it?" he said.

He won for the fifth time in his career, a short list that includes big wins -- the Irish Open as an amateur, a World Golf Championship at Firestone, and earlier this year in the Abu Dhabi Championship.

"The one thing you want to do is back up your success," Lowry said. "In the short term, I'm going to enjoy this, there's no doubt about that. My big goal still remains the same, and that is to be on the plane going to Whistling Straits next year (for the Ryder Cup). Hopefully, that involves a couple of wins along the way."

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