



Centre is bent upon subverting RTI Act, says Sonia Gandhi

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ED examining cases of land grab against SP leader Azam Khan

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UN Envoy on Climate Change Luis Alfonso de Alba meets Javadekar

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Li Peng, hardline Chinese leader in Tiananmen crackdown, dies at 90

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NEARBY



SC moves to rein in fraudulent builders

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Union and State governments to move against builders defrauding homebuyers even as it cancelled the registration of Amrapali Group under the Real Estate Regulatory Authority and directed the State-owned National Buildings and Construction Corporation to complete the unfinished housing projects of the company in a relief for over 40,000 homebuyers.

NATION PAGE 9

Order to grant land rights in illegal colonies soon

NEW DELHI  
The order to implement the Centre's proposal to grant ownership rights in 1,797 unauthorised colonies in Delhi is likely to be issued in a month, according to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

CITY PAGE 4

JNU sedition case: court grants police more time

NEW DELHI  
A Delhi court on Tuesday granted police two more months to get sanction from the city government to prosecute former Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in a sedition case.

CITY PAGE 3

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OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 15

# Kumaraswamy govt. loses trust vote

Confidence motion moved by the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) coalition is defeated by 6 votes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The 14-month-old Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government in Karnataka collapsed on Tuesday, with Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy losing the confidence motion in the Assembly by six votes. He later tendered his resignation to Governor Vajubhai Vala.

With the BJP deciding to stake a claim to form the government, the return of its State president B.S. Yeddyurappa as the Chief Minister is imminent.

Heated debate

The motion was put to vote late in the evening, six days after Mr. Kumaraswamy moved it and after a protracted and heated debate on the issue of 15 resignations from the ruling parties, allegedly engineered by the BJP. Though the outgoing Chief Minister was aware that the numbers were stacked against him, he said he "would not run away" from the House and resign, but



Long-drawn battle: B.S. Yeddyurappa and other BJP MLAs celebrating after the vote of confidence in the Karnataka Assembly on Tuesday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

put the motion to vote.

As Mr. Yeddyurappa also demanded that there be a division of vote, Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar counted the votes row by row. While 99 MLAs expressed confidence in the government, 105 opposed the motion. He an-

nounced that the motion was defeated, and adjourned the House *sine die*.

In a House of 225 MLAs (including one nominated), 20 MLAs were not present at the time of voting. They were the 15 rebel MLAs who have resigned – 12 from the Con-

gress and 3 from the JD(S) – 2 Congress MLAs who abstained for health reasons, 2 Independents and the lone BSP MLA.

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INSTABILITY WILL HAUNT YOU, SAYS KUMARASWAMY PAGE 8

## BJP will stake claim, says Muralidhar Rao

NIISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

With the BJP defeating the confidence motion moved by the H.D. Kumaraswamy government, it will stake its claim to power in the State.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, national general secretary P. Muralidhar Rao said the party would take stock of the situation and make the next move. "We will not shirk the responsibility that the trust vote has thrust upon us," he said.

"As per the directions of the parliamentary board, decisions will be taken," he said.

"State unit chief B.S. Yeddyurappa is the fittest to be the next Chief Minister," a party source said.

The indications were clear that no snap polls would be called.

# Assam NRC final publication deadline extended to August 31

No 'sample re-verification' though as Supreme Court turns down pleas of Centre and Assam



Doubts raised: The Centre and Assam said many names were wrongly included in and excluded from the draft NRC.

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday extended the deadline for the publication of the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) for Assam from July 31 to August 31.

A Special Bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Rohinton F. Nariman, however, did not accede to the "fervent" pleas of the Union and Assam governments for a "sample re-verification" of the names included in and excluded from the draft, which was pu-

lished on July 30 last year. Both governments said many names had been wrongly included and excluded, and a sample re-verification was necessary to quell the "growing perception" that lakhs of illegal immigrants might have made it to the list, especially in districts bordering Bangladesh.

"This is too great a matter... People's lives will be affected. We have to be 100% right. There cannot be a speck of doubt on the entirety of the NRC exercise... The error percentage in the bor-

der districts is just over 7%, while in other districts the average is over 12%," Attorney General K.K. Venugopal said.

He said the low error percentage in the border districts was suspicious, especially when over the years these areas had seen people cross the border illegally and settle down in the State, thus spoiling the opportunity of the natives to make a life for themselves.

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VERDICT HAILED PAGE 13

# Modi did not seek Trump's mediation in Kashmir: Centre

Both Houses in disarray as Opposition demands clarification from PM Modi

No such request had been made by the Prime Minister to the U.S. President... Any engagement with Pakistan would require an end to cross-border terrorism. Shimla Agreement and Lahore Declaration are the basis for resolving all issues

S. JAISHANKAR, External Affairs Minister

The Rajya Sabha should not be compared to the Lok Sabha. If this government wants to run Parliament like a department, we shall not let it happen. It can be run only as per the established principles and rules

GHULAM NABI AZAD, Leader of the Opposition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Both Houses of Parliament witnessed disruptions on Tuesday as Opposition members demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself clarify on Donald Trump's remarks that he had asked the U.S. President to mediate on the Kashmir issue.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in the Rajya Sabha that he "would like to categorically state that no such request has been made by the Prime Minister to the U.S. President."

Mr. Trump made the remarks while meeting Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in Washington on Monday.

Mr. Jaishankar said all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan "can be discussed only bilaterally".

"Yesterday evening, after the House adjourned, we heard remarks by President Donald Trump at a meeting with Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan...that he is ready to mediate if re-

quested by India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. I would like to categorically assure the House that no such request had been made by the Prime Minister to the U.S. President... I would further underline that any engagement with Pakistan would require an end to cross-border terrorism. Let me conclude by emphasizing that the Shimla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration provide the basis for resolving all issues between India and Pakistan bilaterally," he said.

As soon as the Upper House assembled for Question Hour mentions, members of all Opposition parties, including the Congress, the SP, the BSP, the DMK, the Trinamool Congress and the CPI(M), demanded that the Prime Minister come to the House and explain.

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WEAK MINISTRY DENIAL NOT ENOUGH, SAYS RAHUL PAGE 13  
SURPRISED BY INDIA'S STAND, SAYS IMRAN PAGE 13  
WHAT SUITS TRUMP EDITORIAL

# Have wheels, will run — made in India aids for pets

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS  
MUMBAI

Just two months after bringing his pet pug Sheru home, Vikas Chawla noticed the puppy consistently wobble. Very quickly, the dog lost all mobility in his hind legs. "Veterinarians were unable to understand the problem, let alone diagnose it," recalls the 51-year-old Kolkata resident.

Chasing doctors

For a whole year, the Chawla family chased doctors, took Sheru for physiotherapy and even swimming classes. "But there was no improvement and it was tormenting Sheru," says Mr. Chawla, who was advised by several veterinarians to euthanise his puppy.

Instead Mr. Chawla decided to buy him a wheelchair. With international manufacturers quoting a whopping ₹40,000 for a clunky product, he turned to Gujarat-based web-designer-turned-animal prosthesis maker Bhumit Vyas.

Sheru today has a wheelchair built for just ₹8,000.

"My dog's life has changed. He's so happy running around," says Mr. Chawla.

Mr. Vyas has always been an animal lover, but the idea of building economical



Sheru is happy running around with a wheelchair built for just ₹8,000. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and sturdy wheelchairs for injured pets was sparked three years ago by the plight of a stray dog that had been hit by a vehicle. Even though it was taken in by a local shelter, Mr. Vyas recalls that it was heartbreaking to see the dog drag itself across the shelter's rough floors.

Ever since, he has worked on designing and building custom-made animal wheelchairs, extending a lifeline to pets with few other options in the country.

100 pets get help

Earlier this year, Mr. Vyas established Mintbowl.inc, offering custom-built wheelchairs for animals as small as kittens and as large as St. Bernards. He has since sold more than 100 such prosthetic aids across the country, with orders from as far away as the Andamans.

The parts are imported from China and South Korea and assembled by Mr. Vyas.

# Boris Johnson to become Britain's next PM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Boris Johnson won the race to become Britain's next Prime Minister on Tuesday, heading straight into a confrontation over Brexit with Brussels and Parliament.

The former London

Mayor easily beat his rival, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, in a vote of members of the governing Conservative Party.

He is expected to be confirmed as Prime Minister on Wednesday, when Theresa May formally tenders her re-

signation to Queen Elizabeth II.

U.S. President Donald Trump was the first world leader to offer his congratulations, saying: "He will be great!"

AVOWED BREXITEER PAGE 14

## IN BRIEF



## NGT rejects pleas over steel pickling units

NEW DELHI

Observing that steel pickling units cannot be allowed in residential areas as they fall under the prohibited list of industrial activity under the Master Plan 2021, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) dismissed review pleas moved by the Delhi government and the polluting industries. The Bench directed an expert panel to assess the extent of damage caused to the environment since June 2008.

## Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	148	Gurugram	86
Ghaziabad	136	Faridabad	85
Noida	142	Greater Noida	142

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

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

## HC asks Super Cassettes to show movie to litigant

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked Super Cassettes Pvt. Ltd. to hold a special screening of its upcoming movie *Khandaani Shafakhana* for a Delhi-based sexologist who has alleged that the film defames him and his profession. Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw asked Super Cassettes to show the film to the sexologist on July 26 so that his apprehensions regarding damage to his reputation can be addressed. The matter has been listed for further hearing on July 29. The movie, starring Sonakshi Sinha, is slated to be released on August 2.

## DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Panel discussion on "Where is Sudan Going?" Panelists include Dr. John Cherian, Foreign Editor, Frontline; Dr. Meena Singh Roy, Research Fellow and Coordinator, Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis; and Prof. Ajay Dubey, Chairperson, Africa Studies Centre, JNU. Chair: Ambassador K.P. Fabian at Conference Room - I, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

**Talk:** Founder and CEO of Technics Consulting, Dominic Karunesudas, will deliver a lecture titled, "China's Cyber Warfare: A Different Perspective", at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

**Dance:** India International Rural Cultural Centre (IRCCN) presents a Kathak dance recital by Sulagna Banerjee at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Rampura, 9 a.m. and Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, J.J.Colony, Wazirpur, 11 a.m.

**Exhibition:** "The Food Diplomacy Makan Ngga Makan Asal Kumpul", a group art show by curated by M. Harjo Hutomo at Exhibition Gallery, Korean Cultural Center, A-25, Lajpat Nagar IV, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

## DDA draw of lots: flats in Narela get tepid response

8,400 flats allotted; to reoffer EWS houses at reduced price

SHINJINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Tuesday conducted the draw of lots for its housing scheme 2019.

There are 18,000 newly constructed flats on offer under the scheme but only 10,000 were included in the draw. The scheme got a poor response with only 8,400 flats being allotted at the end of the draw. The urban body had received over 45,000 applications for the flats.

Officials said that the reason behind the poor response was due to the little interest the DDA got for its flats in Narela. The scheme, which was launched in March this year, offered flats under various categories in Vasant Kunj and Narela.

## 'Avoid scattering'

"The high-income group (HIG) and middle-income group (MIG) flats in Vasant Kunj got good response with around 20 applications for each flat. However, it was not the same for Narela and hence, we decided to limit the number of flats for the draw of lots," said DDA Vice-Chairman Tarun Kapoor.

Stating that the restriction

## FEW TAKERS

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS	45,012
TOTAL NUMBER OF FLATS UNDER THE SCHEME	18,000
TOTAL NUMBER OF FLATS INCLUDED IN THE DRAW	10,294
TOTAL NUMBER OF FLATS ALLOTTED	8,438



SOURCE: DDA

of the lot for Tuesday's draw was to avoid "scattering" of people, Mr. Kapoor said: "In the past there have been cases where the allotment has been such that no one block gets occupied completely as people end up getting flats across the society. Later, they end up complaining that either they have no neighbours or that there are other maintenance issues. To avoid such issues, we thought of selecting specific blocks instead of opening up all the blocks."

Meanwhile, to tackle the low response received for the flats under the economically weaker section (EWS), the DDA will offer the flats once again at a reduced rate.

## 40% discount

"There will be a drastic reduction in the price of the EWS flats as a 40% discount will be given. The DDA will waive the cost of construction that is usually included in the price. Those who have already applied for the EWS flats will have to pay the reduced prices only," said Mr. Kapoor.

However, the DDA is still mulling over steps to be taken for the low-income group (LIG) flats that also saw a poor response.

"The response to the LIG flats is a bit disappointing but we will take a call on what to do next soon. While the flats are good in Narela, access is an issue. We are trying to get business into Narela and trying to undertake a redevelopment project there. Once people start working in the area, apprehensions about living and travelling to Narela will hopefully reduce," added Mr. Kapoor.

## Ailing nilgai declared dead by vet, zoo seeks suspension of official

Delhi zoo writes to CZA alleging negligence

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi zoo has written to the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) demanding suspension of a veterinary officer claiming that the "well-being of the animals of the zoo is in danger".

The zoo claimed that an ailing nilgai was declared dead in May and the veterinary officer was responsible for it. The letter is based on an inquiry report by a former joint director of the zoo. It states that the animal's treatment was stopped at 2 p.m. on May 21 though the animal died only at 5.05 p.m.

The letter dated July 12, accessed by *The Hindu*, reads: "The evidence and circumstances also point towards the fact that an alive animal was declared dead by Abhijit Bhawal, veterinary officer, without following the laid down medical procedure. Under such circumstances, it is strongly recommended that disciplinary

proceedings against Dr. Bhawal... may be initiated. Simultaneously, it is recommended that Dr. Bhawal may kindly be placed under suspension."

## 'Records tampered'

"Tampering of record has been observed once again by Dr. Bhawal... This is not an isolated case where he has been observed to be professionally incompetent," the letter reads. This is the third time that the zoo director has called for suspension of the veterinary officer, an official said. The CZA is yet to take action in the matter as it is waiting for the board meeting in August where it will decide whether it wants to take over the administration of the zoo.

The zoo has a high mortality rate and 245 animals have died during a period of 14 months from April 2018 to June 2019, reveals documents submitted in the Delhi High Court in June.

## Centre cautions ex-zoo director

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has "cautioned" former Delhi zoo director, Amitabh Agnihotri, to be "careful in the future". He would, however, not face any disciplinary action, it said.

Multiple irregularities in the Delhi zoo, including false post-mortem reports of animals, were found during his tenure by a 2016 report by D.N. Singh, then Member Secretary of the Central Zoo Authority. A new report, which was submitted to the Delhi High Court, by a five-member high-level committee, had also flagged irregularities during his tenure at the zoo. Mr. Agnihotri refused to comment.

IN BRIEF



**Services on Magenta Line hit due to technical snag**

**NEW DELHI**  
Services on the Delhi Metro's Magenta Line saw delays on Tuesday due to "civil maintenance issues". Trains on the affected 700-metre stretch between Palam and Sadar Bazar Cantonment stations were running at a restricted speed of 10 kmph in the morning. From 10 p.m., services between Janakpuri West and Terminal 1 IGI Airport section were run on a single line, the DMRC said.

**Two men arrested for carrying illegal weapons**

**NEW DELHI**  
Two people have been arrested from Kapashera for alleged illegal possession of a pistol, the police said on Tuesday. DCP (South-West) Devender Arya said both the accused — Sameer and Mukesh — are from Bhalswa Dairy. A countrymade pistol, six live cartridges and two magazines were seized from them, added Mr. Arya.

**Outfit demands disposal of reservation issue**

**NEW DELHI**  
The All India United Muslim Manch (AIUMM) on Tuesday staged a demonstration outside the Supreme Court demanding the early disposal of the reservation issue of Dalit Muslims along with the Ayodhya dispute. In a statement, the AIUMM said that Article 341 defines who can be recognised as Scheduled Caste, but because of religious binding, Dalit Muslims have not been availing the facilities of SCs since August 10, 1950.

**Fire breaks out in NMRC office, no casualties**

**NOIDA**  
A fire broke out at the headquarters of the Noida Metro Rail Corporation on Tuesday. No casualties have been reported. The fire is suspected to have started from a short circuit at 9 a.m. and caused structural damage.

# JNU sedition case: court grants police more time

To get sanction to prosecute Kanhaiya Kumar; hearing on Sept. 18

**NIRNIMESH KUMAR**  
**NEW DELHI**

A Delhi court on Tuesday granted police two more months to get sanction from the city government to prosecute former Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in a sedition case.

The case pertains to the raising of "objectionable" slogans at an event in 2016 against the hanging of Afzal Guru, the mastermind behind the 2013 Parliament attack. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Manish Khurana extended the deadline after the court was told that no sanction had been received from the city government's Home Department.

The CMM has also asked the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) to file a status report on the issue and posted the matter for further hearing on September 18.



Kanhaiya Kumar

that it would take more than a month to decide on the probe agency's request for prosecution sanction.

**According to law**

Section 196 of the Criminal Procedure Code states that "no court shall take cognisance of any offence punishable under Chapter VI of the IPC except with the previous sanction of the Central government or of the State government". Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), under which the accused persons have also been charge-sheeted, is placed under this chapter.

The court has been deferring taking cognisance of the chargesheet in the case since the probe report was filed by the police without sanction from the city government in January this year. At that time, the police had said it would get the required sanction within 10 days.

In April, the government had said that the police charge-sheeted the accused in a "hasty and secretive manner" without taking prior prosecution sanction from the competent authority. It had then promised to the court

## Order to sack policemen tied to criminal activities

**SAURABH TRIVEDI**  
**NEW DELHI**

All district DCPs in the city have been ordered to scan the records of policemen under their jurisdiction and sack those involved in criminal activities.

The order, which was issued by the Vigilance Department of the Delhi Police on July 19, stated that "deadwood" and "dark sheep" personnel suitable for compulsory retirement on a premature basis should be sacked with immediate effect. On Tuesday, Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik held a law and order

meeting with all district DCPs and SHOs at the Delhi Police Headquarters asking them to take action immediately.

**Doubtful integrity**

The notice states that personnel should be identified on the basis of doubtful integrity, moral turpitude, habitual absentee, alcoholism or drug addiction and indiscipline.

On July 19, a Delhi Police Sub-Inspector was held by the Central Bureau of Investigation for demanding ₹20 lakh from a man to settle the case.

## Police seize 50 kg of heroin, two arrested

Found in consignment from Afghanistan

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**NEW DELHI**

Two foreign nationals were arrested with 50 kg of heroin on Tuesday during a raid in Haryana.

The accused, Mohmmad Akbar (45) and Nedfa Mohammad (38), both from Afghanistan, allegedly smuggled the drug into the country through the Attari-Wagah border between India and Pakistan, the Delhi Police said.

A senior officer said that they had uncovered leads while investigating a case where they had busted an international drug cartel on July 19. He added that raids were conducted at cold storage units on Mariyapuri Road, and in Kundli and Sonapat districts of Haryana.

"On the instance of one of the Afghan nationals arrested on July 19, a raid was conducted at cold storage units in Kundli and Sonapat where two more Afghan nationals were found with 102



The cartons of raisins seized from the accused had 204 pouches containing heroin. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cartons of raisins," said the officer. These cartons were interspersed among a consignment of over 600 cartons, which had arrived in India from Kandahar, Afghanistan, through Attari-Wagah border check post in March this year, said the officer. While checking the cartons, 204 polythene pouches containing heroin were recovered.

On July 19, 150 kg of heroin worth ₹600 crore were recovered with the arrest of five people, including two Afghan nationals.

## Two held for raping girl

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**GURUGRAM**

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly abducting and raping a 17-year-old girl in Gurugram. One of the accused is known to the victim for the past two months, the police said on Tuesday.

On July 19, the accused along with his friend lured the teenager to come with them in a car and took her to an Economically Weaker Section flat in Sector 102. The friend stays in the flat on rent. The main accused allegedly raped the girl in the flat and dropped her off the

next day.

The victim's father lodged a complaint on July 21 stating that two men had allegedly abducted his daughter.

During her statement before the Magistrate, the girl revealed the name of the man who had raped her.

A case was registered under the POCSO Act at Shivaji Nagar police station.

**Judicial custody**

The accused were arrested on Monday. The duo was produced before the court on Tuesday and remanded to judicial custody.

## Policemen thrash vendor for demanding payment

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**NOIDA**

Two Noida policemen allegedly thrashed an ice-cream vendor after he asked them to pay ₹50 for the dessert they had taken from him, the police said on Tuesday.

A video of the incident, which took place on July 13,

is doing the rounds on social media.

"They took the victim, Amit Kumar, to the chowki and again beat him. Meanwhile, the locals called up the police and another team reached the spot. Further investigation is under way," said an officer.

## Delhi HC has no authority to decide on water-sharing dispute: Haryana

Also opposes DJB's pleas regarding water shortage in Capital

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Haryana government has claimed that the Delhi High Court does not have the jurisdiction to decide on the Yamuna water-sharing dispute between it and Delhi.

Haryana said that the Upper River Yamuna Board is the appropriate body to decide the dispute between the two States. It has urged the Delhi High Court to decide the jurisdiction issue on "priority" basis.

It also contended that the

court "has failed in its duty to decide the issue of jurisdiction before proceeding further in the matter".

The Haryana government made the submissions in an affidavit filed in reply to a petition by lawyer S.B. Tripathi seeking sufficient water supply for Delhi.

**Committee report**

Haryana has also objected to the findings of a court-appointed committee, which was set up to inspect whether 'bunds' have been put in

the canals carrying water meant for Delhi. The State government has urged the court to reject the committee's report, which found that large-scale mining was going on in the river bed of the Yamuna and the Haryana government had not disclosed any information regarding the activity.

Apart from the panel's report, the State has also opposed the Delhi Jal Board's pleas raising apprehensions of water shortage in the Capital during the lean season.

## IN BRIEF

**Jamia Millia to introduce four new courses**

**NEW DELHI**  
Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) announced on Tuesday that it would be introducing four new courses from the current academic session. The university has also increased the number of seats in M.Tech. Mechanical Engineering from 18 to 30. The new courses introduced are Master of Science in Banking and Financial Analytics in Department of Economics, M.Tech. Environmental Science & Engineering (full time) programme, P.G. Diploma in Molecular Diagnostics and Advance Diploma in Turkish Language (part-time).

**Drive to enrol special kids in schools**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Directorate of Education said that it will be conducting a special drive by August 20 to identify children with special needs, who are currently out of school, to get them admitted in schools.

**DoE issues circular to prevent damage to trees**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Directorate of Education (DoE) has sent a circular to heads of schools asking them to remove all sign boards, names, advertisements, any kind of boards or signages, high tension cables or other damaging elements from the trees on campus.

**BJP Mahila Morcha holds events to extend base**

**NEW DELHI**  
The State BJP Mahila Morcha on Tuesday organised various programmes across the Capital in connection with its membership drive, aimed at extending its base.

# Order to grant land rights in illegal colonies may come in a month

Affluent colonies will be taken up later, says Union Minister Hardeep Puri

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

The order is likely to be issued in a month for implementing the Centre's proposal to grant ownership rights in 1,797 unauthorised colonies in Delhi, according to the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs.

At a press conference here on Tuesday, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (Independent Charge) Hardeep Singh Puri said a Cabinet note had recently been circulated, after the committee led by Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal submitted its report to the Ministry in June on the grant of ownership rights.

Ministry's Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said that after getting the proposal cleared by the Cabinet, the Ministry would "issue orders within a month".

As for the ownership rights in posh illegal colonies



Hardeep Singh Puri

like Sainik Farms in south Delhi, Mr. Puri said the "affluent colonies" would be taken up later.

**Slams Kejriwal**

Mr. Puri hit out at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government for attempting to "take credit" for the proposal.

"He [Mr. Kejriwal] has been quick to take credit for something he has been obstructing," he said, referring to a recent statement by the Chief Minister that the Centre had acted on the Del-

hi government's proposal to grant ownership rights.

On July 18, Mr. Kejriwal had said that on November 2, 2015, the Delhi government had passed a proposal in the Cabinet to regularise the unauthorised colonies and give ownership rights to people living in the colonies. On November 12, 2015, the proposal was sent to the Central government for approval.

"On July 17, the Centre gave a positive response on it. The Centre is ready to regularise the unauthorised colonies. We want to congratulate the Central government on behalf of the people of Delhi," he had said.

Mr. Mishra said the Delhi government had submitted comments on the Ministry's guidelines for these colonies in 2015 and "had not proposed granting ownership rights".

He said the earlier survey had covered 1,797 colonies

that existed as on March 31, 2002, and had 50% unauthorised occupancy as on March 24, 2008. These dates were revised during the first government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to include the colonies that existed as on June 1, 2014, and had 50% occupancy till January 1, 2015. The survey to identify the colonies in accordance with the revised norms was yet to be completed by the Delhi government, which had first asked for time till 2019 and then till July 2021, he said.

"It is absolutely clear that the Chief Minister's statement is not only factually incorrect, but the Delhi government is also ignoring a large population in unauthorised colonies that could have been covered by the recent steps taken by the Central government for ownership and mortgage rights," Mr. Puri said.

## Students paste posters on JNU walls to reclaim it

**STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI**

A day after students of JNU organised a mass poster making campaign, the JNU-SU on Tuesday organised a protest march on the campus and pasted the posters on the walls to reclaim it.

The administration had threatened the students with disciplinary action if they paste posters on the walls saying that it amounted to defacement of property.

The students said that the "fascist administration feared art" and pasting of posters on the walls was a part of the culture of the campus. "The walls speak at JNU. The walls are the publishers of the poor and we will continue our dialogue through posters," Sai Balaji, president of JNUSU said.

## No scope for appointing non-official persons to DMRC board, says Puri

AAP's nomination of non-bureaucrats could face roadblock

**DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI**

The Delhi government's proposed nomination of non-bureaucrats, including Aam Aadmi Party leaders Raghav Chadha and Atishi Marlena, to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's Board of Directors could face a roadblock, as Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said there was "no scope for non-official people" on the Board.

Asked about the AAP government's nomination of non-government officials, Mr. Puri said: "I have a situation where the Board is handled with great competence by the serving secretary in the Ministry. There is no scope in that Board for non-official people. So my answer, you have got."

Further, asked if the Delhi government insisted on going ahead with its nominees, Mr. Puri said: "Who are they to insist? It's a joint venture. You see what is happening elsewhere. I hold one or two other portfolios. If the people don't agree, then they have problems amongst themselves."

Mr. Puri said he would not be "party" to the appoint-

ment of directors who would not be as accountable as government officials.

On July 13, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot had named Ms. Marlena, Mr. Chadha, the vice-chairperson of the Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission, Jasmine Shah, and Naveen Gupta, the son of Rajya Sabha MP and AAP treasurer N.D. Gupta, as the State government's nominees to the Board.

On July 16, the MoHUA wrote to the Delhi Chief Secretary asking for the nomination of private individuals, for the first time, as government nominees to be withdrawn.

Owned in equal parts by the Centre and Delhi government, the DMRC's Board has five nominees each from both. Currently, the Delhi government's nominees include officers.

According to a Ministry official, the nomination of directors would have to be processed by the Centre.

**Draws comparison**

Meanwhile, making a comparison between late former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit and current Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal, Mr. Puri said when Dikshit had objected to the appointment of BJP MP Madan Lal Khurana as DMRC chief in 2003, he resigned.

On the other hand, he said, the AAP government had nominated "two people who have lost their elections", referring to Ms. Marlena and Mr. Chadha, who contested the recently-held Lok Sabha polls.

Responding to the attack, Mr. Chadha said in a tweet: "By the extension of that logic since the Hon'ble Minister@HardeepSPuriachieved the unachievable feat of losing the Lok Sabha elections from Amritsar on a BJP ticket despite Modi Tsunami and BJP winning 300+ seats, he must put in his papers immediately. (sic)."

Former Union Minister and Congress leader Ajay Maken also said in a tweet: "@HardeepPuriji should check his facts. Khurana Ji resigned both from Lok Sabha and as Chairman of DMRC on 24th Dec 2003-Because he was being made the Governor of Rajasthan. Sheila Ji had best of working relationships with opposition leaders!(sic)."

## Businessman cheats bank of ₹30 crore

Submits forged papers to avail of loans

**STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI**

Co-operative House Building Society Ltd, Saraswati Vihar, the police said. Later, another case was filed after police found that the original file pertaining to the plot was allegedly missing from the office of DDA, they added.

Investigation revealed that Jain had obtained credit facility of ₹7 crore from a nationalised bank with forged documents claiming him to be the owner of the alleged plot of Co-operative House Building Society Ltd, ACP (Crime), Rajiv Ranjan said.

In another case, he managed to get a credit limit of ₹6 crore from the same bank against a property in Pitampura. He also managed to obtain credit limit of another ₹11 crore on a property in Model Town, the senior officer said. In total, he is supposed to pay about ₹30 crore to the bank.

The matter came to light after a retired Colonel, Love Kumar Ojha (77) alleged that some land grabbers had dispossessed him of his plot in

## Five held in Dwarka firing case

**STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI**

Five persons were arrested from Najafgarh on Tuesday for opening fire at a woman while driving a car in Dwarka earlier this month, the police said.

Chandra Prakash (27), the main accused, had hatched a conspiracy to kill 30-year-old Kiren, a property consultant, as he held her responsible for his uncle's suicide, they said.

On July 11, when the woman was driving back home after dropping her son to school, two bike-borne men shot at her.

"Analysis of call records and CCTV footage led to the arrest of Chandra Prakash. On his instance, Gulab (27), Giriraj Singh Tomar (26), Abhishek (23), and Narender (33), were arrested," Joint Commissioner of Police (Western Range) Madhup Tewari said.

**DELHI Timings**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 24**  
RISE 05:38 SET 19:17  
MOON 23:53 SET 11:52

**THURSDAY, JULY 25**  
RISE 05:39 SET 19:17  
MOON 00:00 SET 12:46

**FRIDAY, JULY 26**  
RISE 05:39 SET 19:16  
MOON 00:23 SET 13:42

**Delhi Weather**

	max	min
Delhi City	38	28
Safdarjang	38	28
Palam	38	28

**Delhi Palam Today**  
39°C Humid and hazy morning. Day will be very warm and uneasy with cloudy sky. Chances of rain.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
38°C Good spells of rain or thundershower with gusty winds will affect over the city.

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## NGT for proper mechanism to scrap vehicles

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to consider evolving a mechanism to tackle unregulated scrapping of vehicles.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "We would like to note that scrapping of vehicles in a scientific manner may need to be taken up on (an) organised basis. Current capacity to scientifically scrap vehicles is hardly adequate ... there is need to evolve an appropriate mechanism to set up authorised recycling centres compliant with the environmental norms and prohibit unorganised, unscientific and unauthorised scrapping activity."

# Will urge Centre to reinforce Ghaggar embankment: CM

Capt. Amarinder blames the Akalis for 'losing' control with Punjab's division

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said he would meet the Central government Ministers and officials to press for reinforcement of the embankments of the Ghaggar river, which has breached and caused serious damage to standing crops and other assets in Sangrur and Patiala districts after the recent rain.

He said the division of Punjab by the Akalis in 1966 had led to the Ghaggar going into the hands of the Central Water Commission, causing the State to lose control over the critical maintenance of its embankments.



Punjab CM Amarinder Singh making an aerial survey of flood-affected areas in Sangrur on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The Akalis had even stopped the reinforcement work undertaken by him in his previous term," he said. He added that during his last

term, his government had completed 22 km of reinforcement, after which all work was suspended by the previous Shiromani Akali Dal-

Bharatiya Janata Party government.

He made an aerial survey to assess the damage caused by the flooding due to a breach in the Ghaggar catchment area in Sangrur and Patiala districts.

### Crops damaged

Capt. Amarinder said about 50,000 acres of crop had been lost in Patiala and another 10,000 acres in Sangrur. "The Ghaggar was creating problems in Bathinda also, where even the Police Lines are under water," he said, adding that the district had received the highest rainfall in 40 years, causing the water to flow at very high levels.

# U.P. Bill to tackle 'anti-national' activities on campus tabled

The draft Bill was approved by the State Cabinet recently

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday tabled a Bill seeking an undertaking from private universities that they will not allow their campus to be used for anti-national activities.

### Several conditions

The Uttar Pradesh Private Universities Bill, 2019, now before the Assembly, lists several conditions for setting up such institutions, including following a common curriculum. Among them is the condition that the promoters of private universities give an undertaking that the institution will not be involved in or permit anyone to cause or promote anti-national activities on the campus. If any such activity takes place, it shall be considered a major violation of the conditions for setting up the university, the draft legislation warns.

**The universities will have to ensure that patriotism, national integration, communal amity etc. are included in the curriculum**

AN OFFICIAL

The government may then take action according to the provisions under the Act or any other law in force, it says.

The Bill is meant to enact an umbrella legislation to govern all private universities.

A statement on the objectives of the Bill said 27 private universities have been established and incorporated under different State Acts. This means there is no uniform law to monitor such private universities, it added. It has become difficult to collect information and ensure quality standards in higher education, the government said.

The draft Bill was approved by the State Cabinet recently. An official had then said that the universities will have to ensure that patriotism, national integration, communal amity, social harmony, secularism, ethics and international goodwill are included in the curriculum.

## Brother of escaped undertrial found dead

Three undertrials had killed two constables in Sambhal recently

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

The body of the brother of Dharampal, one of the three undertrials who escaped from police custody in Sambhal after killing two constables, was found hanging from a tree outside his village on Tuesday morning. The Sambhal police called it a suicide while the family members alleged that Udaiveer ended his life because of police pressure.

On Tuesday, the residents of Bharatpur village, under the Behjoji police station limits of Sambhal, found Udaiveer's body hanging from a tree in the jungle outside the village. The police were called in and the body sent for post-mortem.

According to sources, Udaiveer's wife has alleged

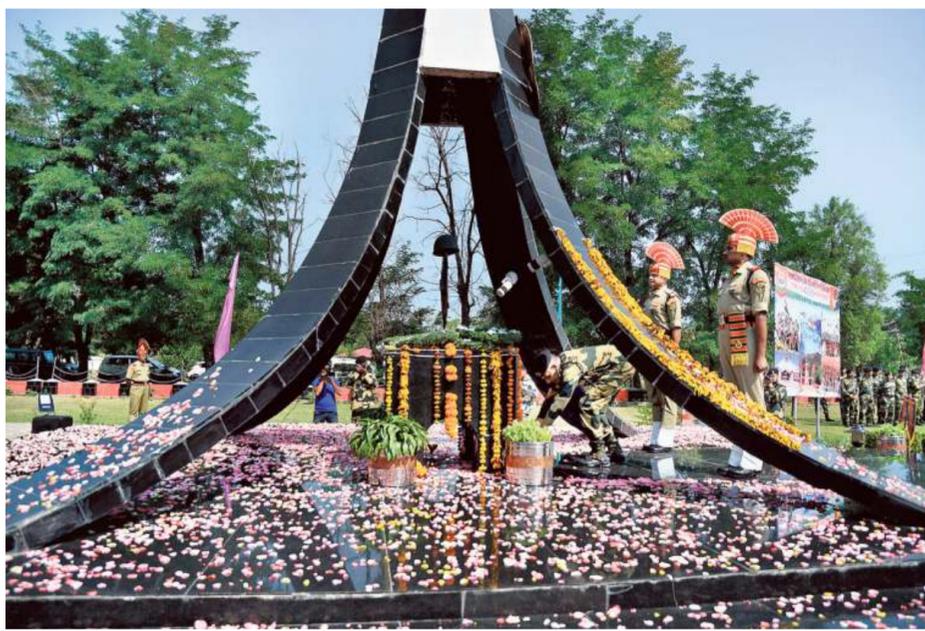
that the police was mounting pressure on him to reveal Dharampal's whereabouts, and that might have pushed him to take his life.

Sambhal Superintendent of Police Yamuna Prasad, however, denied the charge. "He might have succumbed to social pressure. Nobody approached me with charges of mental torture. We are waiting for the post-mortem report," he told *The Hindu* over phone.

It has been a week since Dharampal, Kamal and Shaheel made an audacious escape from police custody. The U.P. police had declared an award of ₹2.5 lakh each on their arrest. Last Saturday, Kamal was gunned down by the police in an encounter on Gawan-Sambhal road under the Adampur police station limits of Amroha district.

"The hunt is on for the other two. We have increased the area of our search," Mr. Prasad said.

## Saluting the brave



A Border Security Force officer places a wreath at the Kargil War Memorial during a function in connection with Kargil Vijay Diwas at Humhama near Srinagar on Tuesday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

## Rajasthan vaccination drive starts amid protests

Parents in Bharatpur prevented health officials from vaccinating children

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

A measles-rubella vaccination campaign, targeted to cover 2.26 crore children up to 15 years of age, has started in Rajasthan amid protests by parents in some parts of the State.

The drive met with resistance on its opening day on Monday at a school in Bharatpur district's Nagar block where the parents of 600 students prevented the health officials from vaccinating the children.

At least 15 children, who were administered the vaccine in Jhunjhunu district's Kakoda village, were shifted to a hospital when they complained of vomiting and nausea. On Tuesday, half-a-dozen girls at Vaidik Kanya Vidyalaya in Jaipur were admitted to Sir Padampat

**Our department is paying highest attention to reduction in infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio**

RAGHU SHARMA  
Medical & Health Minister

Mother & Child Hospital when they felt dizzy after vaccination. They were kept under observation till late in the evening.

### 'Without consent'

While the Medical & Health Department maintained that the vaccination was voluntary, the local officials tried to convince the villagers of its benefits. Some parents alleged that the vaccination was being done without taking their consent and it would have an "adverse im-

pact" on their future generations.

Inaugurating the month-long campaign at Mahaveer Public School here, Medical & Health Minister Raghu Sharma said it would be the biggest vaccination drive in the world, as India accounted for 36% of deaths of the world's children by measles. The campaign's first phase will cover all schools across the State and the second phase will involve outreach to local communities.

About 17,000 trained personnel will undertake vaccination activities at 61,000 Anganwadi centres, while 2.11 lakh principals and nodal teachers, 51,000 accredited social health activists (ASHAs) and 59,000 Anganwadi workers and volunteers will assist in the task. The arrangements for vaccination

have been made in 65,000 government schools and 40,000 private schools.

Dr. Sharma said his department was paying the highest attention to reduction in infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio, as a result of which the health indicators had depicted a continuous improvement. The infant mortality rate in the State had registered an improvement by 4 digits, showing a decline from 32 to 28 per 1,000, he said.

Besides, the World Health Organization has reported that Rajasthan has carried out 90% vaccination in 2018-19. The measles-rubella vaccination drive is set to cover all pre-school children, government and private school children and out-of-school children.

## M.P. government to invoke NSA against milk adulterators

'Identify and act against guilty government officials'

STAFF REPORTER  
BHOPAL

Days after inter-State synthetic milk rackets were busted in two districts of Madhya Pradesh, State Public Health and Family Welfare Minister Tulsiram Silawat has said that the National Security Act, 1980, would be invoked against those involved in adulterating milk and dairy products and selling it.

Directing Divisional Commissioners, District Collectors and Superintendents of Police to invoke the Act whenever necessary and the Food and Drug Administration Department to form flying squads to raid units manufacturing synthetic milk and dairy products, he said,

"Adulterators will not be allowed to play with the health of people. Moreover, if officials adopt a callous attitude in catching them, they will face disciplinary action."

The State, for the first time, had invoked the Act in a case of milk adulteration against four persons in Gwalior two years ago.

Stating that the adulterators were a threat to public health, State Controller of the Food and Drug Administration Department Ravindra Singh said, "After the rackets were discovered, we began collecting samples across the State and have sent them to a lab for testing. Mr. Silawat has asked us to identify and act against government officials who may be part of the nexus."

Spurious products in Morana and Bind may still be on the market shelves, admits Mr. Singh. "We're working on identifying the origin of the chain to break the supply," he added.

On July 19, on a tip-off, a Special Task Force team and the department raided Khadeshwari Dairy and Agrawal Chemicals in Amba in Morena district and found samples of the same shampoo, detergents and chemicals in both the places and milk laced with them. In Lahar in Bind district, another team raided Naveen Traders and Gopal Chilling Centre where adulterated milk was seized.

## BJP leader, wife & son gunned down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KHUNTI (JHARKHAND)

BJP leader Mago Munda, his wife Lakmani and son Liprai were gunned down by unidentified persons in Jharkhand's Khunti district, police said on Tuesday.

Munda was sitting with his family near his house in Hethguha village when the assailants opened fire at them around 8.30 p.m. on Monday, the police said.

Another woman, a relative, suffered bullet wound and was referred to Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences in Ranchi.

Munda was a member of the BJP's Schedule Tribe Executive Committee, party sources said.

Khunti SP Alok said a probe is on.

## Review of rejected claims under Forest Rights Act patchy: activists

'The Madhya Pradesh government is focusing on justifying rejections instead of rectifying them'

SIDHARTH YADAV  
BHOPAL

A day before the States are to file affidavits in the Supreme Court over the status of rejected claims under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, gram sabhas are yet to be organised in several districts of Madhya Pradesh, which resolved to reconsider 3.6 lakh rejected claims afresh, say activists.

"The government's pace is sluggish and it is not working on a mission-mode to review the rejected claims. There is lack of coordination among those on the field and the Collectors, who are not trained to hold the sabhas.

Although the government had declared it would reconsider the rejected claims, there is no road map for it," said Bharat Jan Andolan national convener Vijay Bhai.

Despite this, the government has sent a positive signal, he added, by declaring in the affidavit that the Act is a legislation which doesn't prescribe eviction but grants rights to tribals and other forest dwellers.

In a mammoth drive from July 15 to 20, the State government had decided to review 3,60,181 rejected claims and Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development, Gauri Singh had



Jagrit Adivasi Dalit Sangathan members at a press conference in Bhopal on Tuesday. ■ A. M. FARUQUI

directed the District Collectors to hold the sabhas.

In Burhanpur district, Madhuri Krishnaswamy of the Jagrit Adivasi Dalit San-

gathan, said in almost 50-60 villages having around 100 families each, residents who have been living in forests for years lost another opportuni-

ty to stake claim as gram sabhas were not organised. Of the 14,260 claims in the district, 6,462 were rejected as on June 30.

The district became a flashpoint recently when foresters on July 9 in Siwal village allegedly used pellet guns on tribals, injuring four of them, as part of an eviction drive. On Tuesday, almost 1,000 villagers of Nepanagar tehsil in the district staged a sit-in outside the local police station.

In Jabalpur division, the district administration was mainly trying to justify the 40,012 rejections rather than rectifying them, said Nation-

al Alliance of People's Movement member Rajkumar Sinha. "The officials rejected the claims earlier in an arbitrary manner and now they are not reviewing them properly. They still demand government-issued documents as proof of rightful claim, whereas an affidavit from village elders is allowed," he added.

Shankar, an activist from Alirajpur district, said villagers have no clue about the special gram sabhas being held. "Although the patwaris have started visiting villages, they are busy working for the PM Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi programme," he said.

## OBITUARY &amp; REMEMBRANCE

## DEATH

## OBITUARY



**Sri. G. K. Ramakrishnan (87)**  
s/o Late Sri. G.T. Krishnamoorthy Iyer  
attained the lotus feet of  
Lord Nataraja peacefully  
at his residence on 23-7-2019.  
Last rites at 8:00 am  
on 24-7-2019

Ct: 044-24953123  
9986535305/9677759494

## DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

## THIRD ANNIVERSARY



**Dr. BEETHA SRINIVASA RAO** M.S., M.B.B.S.  
(8 May 1944 - 24 July 2016)

Professor (Retd.), Ramanujan Institute  
for Advanced Study in Mathematics,  
University of Madras.  
President, Indian Mathematical  
Society (2013).

Fondly Remembered by  
Family, Relatives and Friends.  
984 005 8922

## DEATH



**MRS. MARJORIE KINGSLEY (74)**  
Retd. Under Secretary to Govt. (Finance Dept).  
Went to be with the Lord on 21.7.19  
Thanksgiving service on 27.7.19  
in CSI Redeemer Church,  
Anna Nagar East 11:30 am.  
Phone : 9840422172

A woman who fears the Lord shall be  
praised. A gracious woman attains  
honour. Her Children rise up and call  
her blessed; Her Husband praises her.  
- Proverbs 11:16 & 31:28,30

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# Odisha Assembly paralysed again; Oppn. seeks Naveen's resignation

Over rising incidents of missing children and sexual assault on minor girls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

The proceedings of the Odisha Assembly were paralysed for the second consecutive day on Tuesday with Opposition members demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik over rising incidents of missing children and sexual assault on minor girls in the State.

Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress stalled the proceedings as soon as the House assembled at 10.30 a.m., urging the Speaker to discuss the issue by cancelling question hour.

Speaker Surjya Narayan



Naveen Patnaik

Patro had to adjourn the House again and again as the Opposition members stalled the proceedings till evening.

The House transacted business only after the Speaker agreed to allow a discussion on the issue in the

House on Wednesday.

Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra said the House was adjourned as the government was afraid of the Opposition.

### 'No moral right'

"The Chief Minister has no moral right to continue in his post in the wake of the twin issues," he said.

Senior BJD MLA and former Minister Debi Prasad Mishra said the Opposition should cooperate to ensure smooth functioning of the House. "The State has so many issues to be discussed. The Opposition should come forward and

cooperate," Mr. Mishra said.

The Opposition members had stalled the proceedings of the Assembly in a similar fashion on Monday, demanding a debate on sexual assault on minor girls and the deteriorating law and order situation in the State.

When both the BJP and the Congress were trying to highlight the issue in the House, the latter announced at the Congress Bhavan in the city that they would stage demonstrations at all district headquarters towns on Wednesday to highlight the issue of deteriorating law and order situation in the State. (With PTI inputs)

# 'Child lifter' lynched in Jalpaiguri district

Six persons arrested, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

A man was lynched in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district on the suspicion of being a child lifter, the police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred in the Sukhani Basti area under the Nagrakata police station limits of the district on Monday.

Debasish Chakrabarti, Sub-Divisional Police Officer, told *The Hindu* that six persons have been arrested for their involvement in the crime. The officer said that the identity of the victim has still not been ascertained.

### A vagabond

Mr. Chakrabarty said there has not been a single inci-

dent of child-lifting in the area and the unfortunate incident was triggered by rumours. Locals said the man, a vagabond, was usually seen in the area. A section of people said he was either a cross dresser or a transgender, but police said they weren't sure.

Videos of locals, including children, beating up the man have surfaced on the Internet. The police rescued him from the mob but by then he was bleeding profusely and when he was taken to a primary health centre he was declared dead.

Attacks on vagabonds on the suspicion of being child lifters (*chhele dhora*) have been reported in other parts of the State.

# Freshers to sign 'no narcotics, no liquor' declaration in JU

University teachers, students welcome the move

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

Students getting admitted to Jadavpur University this academic year will have to sign a declaration that they will not consume narcotic substances or drink liquor inside the university premises and the hostels, a senior varsity official said.

Admission to Arts, Science and Engineering courses in the university here will begin this week.

"Candidates of all the three streams will have to sign the written undertaking," Engineering Department Dean Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharjee said.

However, the nature of



A view of the Jadavpur University campus. • THE HINDU

punishment for the offenders is yet to be decided, he said.

Asked about the necessity of such a declaration, a university official said, "It has become important to have such a clause for the candidates now, than in the past."

The only undertaking freshers had to sign, over the past two academic years,

pertained to ragging.

Partha Pratim Roy, a senior member of the Jadavpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA), said the teachers have welcomed the move.

"Students will always support constructive moves by the JU administration," Kritika Roy, a second-year Arts student said.

The decision comes after students were reportedly found consuming alcohol and taking drugs inside the campus, following which the administration had regulated the entry of outsiders.

There were also incidents of narcotic and alcohol abuse inside the hostels.

# Stall privatisation of ordnance factories, Mamata tells PM

Ordnance Factory Board has 41 factories in the country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to "stall and reverse the process of corporatisation and privatisation" of the ordnance factories.

"I have been receiving reports regarding a decision that the Government of India has apparently taken to corporatise all the ordnance factories, including the Ordnance Factory Board. It has also been suggested that this will finally lead to privatisation of these great national assets," Ms. Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister said

that Ordnance Factory Board, founded in 1775 with its headquarters in Kolkata, has 41 factories all over the country, nine running institutes and about 1.6 lakh officers and employees and is considered to be the world's largest government set-up for manufacturing arms and ammunition.

### 'Shock and surprise'

She expressed "shock and surprise" that "this vital pillar of the country's defence" and key industrial initiative was now being contemplated to be privatised without holding any consultation with the stakeholders.

"I would request you to

kindly stall and reverse the process of corporatisation and privatisation in the interest of national security and defence of our country," she said.

Ms. Banerjee in her two-page letter noted that her government has not received any "inkling of discourses that have led to such inexplicable initiatives in the Government of India".

Observing that industrial policies of the Centre "has gradually been made more and more friendly towards the private companies", the Chief Minister said "core and strategic areas" should be kept unaffected in future.



## IN BRIEF

**HC bars release of Telugu remake of Hindi movie**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Delhi High Court has held that Yash Raj Films' 2010 movie *Band Baaja Baaraat*, starring Ranveer Singh and Anushka Sharma (in picture), was "blatantly copied" by the makers of Telugu film *Jabardasth*. The HC restrained the makers of the Telugu film from releasing the movie in any format.

**Kerala CPI MLA hurt in lathi charge during protest**

**KOCHI**  
The CPI and the CPI(M) in Kerala are at daggers drawn after Eldo Abraham, CPI legislator, was hurt in police baton charge during a CPI protest on Tuesday. The march was to demand action against police inspector M.K. Murali, who allegedly waylaid CPI district secretary K. Raju when he tried to meet AISF activists who were injured in a clash with SFI activists.

**Another burglary at Padmavati guest house**

**TIRUMALA**  
In a span of less than three weeks, burglars struck for the second time at one of the guest houses in the posh Padmavati area, and decamped with 100 gm of gold ornaments and ₹20,000 in cash. According to the police, the incident took place when a pilgrim party, who was put up in one of the suites in Sannidhanam guest house, had gone out.

**Tusker tramples forest watcher to death**

**HASSAN**  
A tusker, which had been moving around Hassan for the last month, was spotted at Javenahalli tank on Tuesday. Though Forest Department officials had driven it back into the forest, it trampled a forest watcher to death.

# Political instability will haunt you, Kumaraswamy tells BJP

'You will see bombs dropping soon after you form your Ministry'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

Declaring that he was quitting happily without anxiety, outgoing Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Tuesday cautioned the Bharatiya Janata Party's Chief Ministerial candidate B.S. Yeddyurappa that political instability would haunt him as reverse political defections were bound to begin soon.

"The BJP leaders are in a tearing hurry to capture power after effecting political defections from the coalition. But let's see what happens after a week. I'm sure you [Mr. Yeddyurappa] will see dropping of bombs soon after you form your Ministry," Mr. Kumaraswamy remarked minutes before the confidence motion was put to vote.

Declaring that his party would not entertain its rebels if they want to return, Mr. Kumaraswamy felt that it would be better to face mid-term polls as the BJP had vitiated the political environment. "You look anxious, but I'm not. In fact, I'm very happy," Mr. Kumaraswamy taunted Mr. Yeddyurappa. "Yes, I had wept when I had to quit during my earlier stint as Chief Minister, but not now."

Recalling how Income Tax raids had taken place on various non-BJP leaders in Karnataka just ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, Mr. Kumaraswamy wondered why the I-T department was keeping quiet now though hundreds of crores of rupees were allegedly changing hands while effecting defections.

He also accused the BJP of trying to misuse the ongoing inquiry into the IMA scam to pressure an MLA, who alleg-



**Calling it quits:** JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy submitting his resignation letter to Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

edly has a link to the scam, to toe its line. Seeking to set the record straight on the flagship programme of farm loan waiver, he reeled out statistics on the status of its implementation. He said ₹25,000 crore had been earmarked so far. He also touched upon all the major programmes taken up by his government.

**Refutes rebels' claims**  
Debunking claims of the rebel MLAs that neglect of their constituencies was the main reason for them to tender resignations, Mr. Kumaraswamy furnished details to the Legislative Assembly on how the rebels had actually received a huge quantum of funds for development of their segments.

As per the statistics revealed by him, all the rebels have got more than ₹100 crore for their constituency

in the last one year, while some of them have even received more than ₹500 crore.

Mr. Kumaraswamy stated that Ramesh Jarkiholi, who began the episode of rebellion, had received ₹262 crore, while Munirathna had been given ₹559 crore and Byrathi Basavaraj ₹332 crore. Prapatgouda Patil had got ₹517 crore, while K.R. Pet MLA Narayana Gowda, who had been lamenting about lack of funds, had actually been given ₹474 crore, he said.

He particularly chose former JD(S) president and rebel MLA A.H. Vishwanath for attack by saying that he was pained over the veteran's remarks that his government had indulged in demonic politics.

Similarly, he alleged that another JD(S) rebel Gopalaiiah wanted him to protect

his brother who was allegedly involved in a murder.

**'Dangerous trade'**

Terming the defection of MLAs in the present scenario as "wholesale horse-trade," Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said while wholesale trade is dangerous, retail trade is not such an issue.

"How can a democratically elected government survive if there is wholesale trade of MLAs?" he asked.

Condemning the BJP's attempts to form the government using unconstitutional methods, he said: "Horse-trading began as soon as the BJP was given 15 days by the Governor to prove majority last year. If one or two MLAs are traded in retail, it is one thing. If they are traded wholesale, it causes a problem for any government."

# A.P. Assembly passes five Bills for uplift of women, BCs

YSRCP members hail it as a 'historic achievement'

**STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA**

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Tuesday passed five Bills aimed at political, social and economic uplift of women and Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities, in the ongoing second session.

The Bills moved by Minister for Backward Classes Welfare M. Sankaranarayana and passed by the Assembly, include A.P. Commission for Backward Classes, other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Bill, 2019; A.P. (50% Reservation to Women in Works Contracts and Service Contracts Given on Nomination) Bill, 2019; A.P. (50% Reservation to Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled

## 3 TDP MLAs suspended

**STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA**

Three TDP MLAs — K. Atchannaidu, Gorantla Butchiah Chowdary and Nimmala Ramanaidu — were suspended from the A.P. Assembly on Tuesday for obstructing the proceedings. Deputy Speaker Kona Raghupati, who was in the Chair, announced that their

suspension would continue till the end of the ongoing Budget session.

Trouble broke out when the TDP MLAs demanded implementation of promise of extending pension to SCs, STs, BCs and minorities, who attained the age of 45 years, as promised by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Tribes and Minorities in Works Contracts and Service Contracts Given on Nomination) Bill, 2019; A.P. (50% Reservation to Women in Nominated Posts) Bill, 2019, and A.P. (50% Reservation to Backward Classes, Sche-

duled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities in Nominated Posts) Bill, 2019.

Members of the ruling YSR Congress Party called the passage of the Bills a historic achievement by the A.P. government.

# T.N. couple brutally beaten up in Wayanad

Women's panel registers *suo motu* case

**STAFF REPORTER  
KALPETTA**

A couple from Tamil Nadu was brutally beaten up by a truck driver at Ambalavayal in the district on Sunday night. The police identified the accused as Sajeewanand, 39, of Kayattuthara.

The incident came to light on Tuesday after a video of it went viral on social media. The video revealed that a Tamil-speaking youth was brutally beaten up by Sajeewanand, while a mob was watching the scene.

When the woman, who claimed to be the wife of the youth, tried to prevent the attack, she was also beaten up by the accused. Moreov-

er, he used abusive words against the couple.

Later, some youths intervened and tried to produce them before the police station. However, the couple refused to register a case, the police said.

State Women's Commission chairperson M.C. Josephine registered a *suo motu* case on Tuesday. She said the police had committed a fault as they failed to register a case against the culprit.

Meanwhile, Health and Social Welfare Minister K.K. Shylaja extended her support to the couple and said the government would adopt stringent action against the culprit.

# Man held for sexual assault on woman

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

An employee of a private firm, Nabeel, 26, was arrested here for allegedly sexually assaulting a 21-year-old woman and abandoning her on a deserted road on June 10. The woman had come to the city for internship as part of her academic curriculum and was staying in a paying guest accommodation.

In her complaint, she said she met the accused in the company where she was interning. On June 10, Nabeel took her on a drive in his car. The accused stopped at an isolated place and sexually assaulted her, she alleged.

# New classification for Ayurveda centres

Kerala Tourism's new initiative

**S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Holidaymakers coming to Kerala for rejuvenation therapy and wellness-based Ayurveda can look for better quality and standardised services with Kerala Tourism's new classification scheme in place for Ayurveda centres.

Henceforth, all classified units will have to append the term 'Kerala Tourism Ayurveda Centre' to the name of their units on brochures, signages and communications. Besides creating a brand and helping holidaymakers to identify approved centres, this is expected to further promote wellness-based Ayurveda, the USP of Kerala Tourism, and increase footfall.

Road and vehicle access, qualified doctors with 'A' class registration from the Travancore Cochin Medical Council, government-ap-

proved male and female masseurs, 24-hour doctor facility, separate treatment rooms for men and women, English-speaking front office staff, non air-conditioned treatment rooms, and surveillance cameras have been made mandatory at the Ayurveda centres.

Based on facilities and quality, the centres will be classified as per the guidelines and checklist by a five-member committee headed by the Director of Tourism as Ayur Silver, Ayur Gold, and Ayur Diamond. Ayur Silver will offer minimum facilities and Ayur Diamond the maximum.

Ayur Silver and Ayur Gold will replace the existing Green leaf and Olive leaf categories, official sources told *The Hindu*. Only Ayur Gold and Ayur Diamond categories will be eligible for incentives and subsidies.

## Back to life



A view of the rejuvenated Sarakki Lake at J.P. Nagar in Bengaluru. The lake hosted birds of many varieties until it shrank and the water quality began to deteriorate. The Sarakki Lake Area Improvement Trust took up rejuvenation work. ■ BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

# Son of bank employees kidnapped in A.P.

7 teams formed to rescue the 4-year-old

**STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA**

An unidentified person kidnapped four-year-old Jaswith at Mandapeta town in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh on Monday.

As there was no call from the kidnapper and the police could not make any headway in the case, family members have expressed fears over the safety of the boy. Jaswith's parents, Venkata Ramana and Nagavalli, are bank employees. They were staying in an apartment at Vijayalakshmi Nagar in Mandapeta. Jaswith was studying UKG in a nearby school.

The miscreant allegedly kidnapped the boy around 6 p.m. while he was returning after playing in the ground and fled on a bike. A few locals chased and tried in vain to nab the kidnapper.

"We were entering our



Jaswith

apartment building. One person enquired if power was there. Then he slapped me and before I could realise what happened, the accused picked up Jaswith, made him to sit on a motorbike and escaped," said the boy's grandmother Parvathamma.

Seven teams have been formed to trace the kidnapper and rescue the boy, the police said.

# Forget Kashmir — Kerala's apples charm tourists

Fruit hub Kanthallur is playing host to visitors with orchards of ripe fruit ready for picking

**GJI K. RAMAN  
IDUKKI**

Another apple season has started at Kanthallur in Idukki, giving a boost to farm tourism activities there. Kanthallur is the only place in the State where apples are cultivated and tourists throng the farms to enjoy the fruits.

The apple is late entrant to Kanthallur, a fruit hub, where almost all varieties of fruits are grown. Every season has its own delicacy ranging from oranges, guavas, gooseberries, blackberries, egg fruits, peaches, plums, to passion fruit, pears, and tamarillo.

However, tourists prefer apples which they can pluck from the trees even as they



**Fresh and juicy:** Tourists throng Kanthallur to taste apples that they can directly pluck from orchards. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

walk around the orchards. The visitors can also directly buy the apples from the farmers who can command

better prices at the farmgate than in the market.

July and August are the prime apple months. The

fruits is grown at Kulachivayal, Keezhanthur, Perumala, and Puthur in the grama panchayat. Though apple is not the main fruit at Kanthallur, farmers cultivate it with other fruit species. It is estimated that around five hectares are under apple cultivation.

"It is an additional income to the farmers and tourists who taste it also purchase and pay better," says C.T. Kuruvila, an apple farmer, adding that more farmers are taking up apple cultivation.

Kanthallur agriculture officer M. Govindaraj says soil and climate conditions here are suitable for apple cultivation, though the production depends on

weather conditions.

"If the temperature drops below 0° C in the winter, apple production will be better. The average temperature favourable to apple farming in Kanthallur is 5 to 15°C. Unlike oranges, which have been cultivated here for decades, farmers moved to apple cultivation just about a decade ago with Kashmiri species such as Tropical Beauty and Parle Beauty grown there," Mr. Kuruvila says. Apple trees shed leaves in January and new leaves and flowers emerge by February. The majority of the fruit ripen by the end of July. Orange is the other attraction for the tourists visiting the orchards in Kanthallur.

# Bengaluru goes live with facial biometrics-based air travel

Vistara first airline to offer paperless boarding option at KIA

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

Passengers at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will soon have the option of boarding their flight without producing travel documents at each touch point, with the KIA rolling out a biometrics based self-boarding facility.

Vistara passengers travelling from Bengaluru to Mumbai on Monday were the first to experience paperless travel, a facility that the airline expects to expand to all its flights out of the city by the end of October.

For paperless boarding, a passenger has to enroll their ID, facial biometric data and

flight details at a kiosk manned by CISF personnel before entering the terminal area. Thereafter, the passenger will be verified at every touch point including baggage drop, security hold and boarding gate by the facial biometrics based technology.

**Early next year**  
Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), KIA's operator, expects to deploy the paperless biometric system at over 350 passenger touch points in Terminal 1 with the completion of the final phase of the project early next year, BIAL said in a statement on Tuesday.

BIAL asserted that the biometric data would be used only for authentication and verification of passengers to assist the boarding process and not for recognition. "The process offers the highest degree of safety and security while ensuring stringent standards of safety," the airport operator said, adding that passenger data would be deleted within a few hours of flight completion.

"The technology and process will be used extensively for seamless flow in our upcoming Terminal 2 Project as well," Hari Marar, MD and CEO of BIAL, said in the statement.

IN BRIEF



**Rajnath announces hike in awards for NCC cadets**

**NEW DELHI**  
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved an increase in the number of awards given to cadets of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) from 143 to 243 and a big increase in cash incentives, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

**CB-CID grills Mugilan in 'rape case'**

**KARUR**  
The Crime Branch CID was given custody of environmental activist Mugilan alias Shanmugam for three hours by a Karur court in T.N. on Tuesday to investigate him in a "rape case" against him. The police had originally sought him in custody for three days.

**Air India pilot suspended for faulty landing**

**NEW DELHI**  
The DGCA on Tuesday suspended an Air India Express pilot for a year for faulty landing under high speed after his flight veered off the taxiway at Mangaluru airport last month. There were 183 passengers and six crew members on board.

**Kerala jail launches freedom combo pack**

**KOLLAM**  
Customised for online sales, the Kollam District Jail launched its freedom combo pack priced ₹125. The combo includes biriyani, chapati, chicken curry, dessert and bottled water. The meal will be prepared by 14 inmates of the jail and home-delivered to the customers.

**August 31 is last date for filing IT returns**

**NEW DELHI**  
The government on Tuesday extended the due date for filing income tax returns by individuals for financial year 2018-19 by a month till August 31. There have been demands for an extension date since issuance of TDS statement was delayed. PTI

# SC moves to rein in fraudulent builders

Cancels the registration of the Amrapali Group under the Real Estate Regulatory Authority

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Union and State governments to move against builders defrauding homebuyers even as it cancelled the registration of Amrapali Group under the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) and directed the State-owned National Buildings and Construction Corporation (NBCC) to complete the unfinished housing projects of the company in a relief for over 40,000 homebuyers.

A Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and U.U. Lalit listed out how the company and its directors diverted the hard-earned money of homebuyers on luxury watches, cars, helicopter rides, villas in tourist destinations to have "fun", etc. Over 70 per cent of the housing projects initiated a decade ago remained incomplete. Families



**Unfinished business:** Over 70% of the projects initiated by the group a decade ago are still incomplete. •PTI

ended up paying both their rent and the loans due for their "dream home" in one of Amrapali projects.

The court directed the Enforcement Directorate and other law enforcement agencies to investigate and nail the people in the group responsible for fraud and mo-

ney laundering. It sought a progress report. It fixed the next hearing for August 9.

The 270-page judgment made scathing remarks at the lender banks, Noida and Greater Noida authorities who remained mute spectators while the company and its directors conducted

"sham transactions" under their very nose. These included sub-lease of public land got on huge concessions, grant of NOC for illegal mortgages, diversion of loans to "dummy companies" run by their office boys and peons. All this without bothering to pay compensation to the farmers whose lands were taken away for housing projects.

The court accused the banks of "negligence and non-monitoring"; of turning a blind eye to such an extent that even the basic checks were not done. On the other hand, the group owed over Rs.5426.09 crore to the Noida and Greater Noida authorities.

The judgment also exposed the ways in which builders collude with banks and authorities to crush the hand which feeds them - the lower income and middle class homebuyers.

## ED summons 11 persons

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned 11 persons in connection with a money-laundering case against the Amrapali group and its promoters.

The agency had registered the case on July 1, based on the FIRs registered by the U.P. police following complaints lodged by home buyers.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court directed the ED to carry out money-laundering investigation against the group functionaries, following evidence that hundreds of crores were allegedly diverted.

The agency plans to study the order to decide further action.

## Group alleges starvation death of youth in Odisha

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**BHUBANESWAR**

A teenager died after reportedly starving for five days in Odisha's Nuapada district, members of the Odisha Khadya Adhikar Abhiyan (Right to Food Campaign-Odisha) claimed on Tuesday.

The deceased's sister, who was also starving, however, survived. She was shifted to a shelter home after her brother's death.

Waking up late on the distress of the siblings, the Odisha government issued them a ration card under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), a scheme to provide highly subsidised food to the poorest of poor families, three days after the death.

A three-member team of the Right To Food Campaign visited the village on July 13

after receiving information about the death of Goutam Behera, 17, a physically challenged youth. He died on July 6.

**Deserted by father**

Behera was living with his sister Debanti, 22, as their father had deserted them after the death of their mother.

"The siblings were denied an AAY card even after repeated requests by them, the villagers, and a few mediapersons," charged Basudev Mohapatra, a senior journalist and member of the team.

After the death, the administration swung into action and hurriedly supplied 70 kg of rice after issuing an AAY card on July 9, Mr. Mohapatra alleged.

## UGC list of fake universities: 14 out of 23 around since 2005

Yet to close doors despite Anti-Malpractice Cell's efforts

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued a list of 23 fake universities which are "self-styled, unrecognised institutions functioning in contravention of the UGC Act", warning students not to be taken in by their claims. Most of these institutions have been on the UGC's watchlist for well over a decade, despite the regulator's annual claim that its Anti-Malpractice Cell (AMPC) has been taking appropriate legal action against them.

Out of the 23 institutions in Tuesday's public notice, as many as 14 of them also

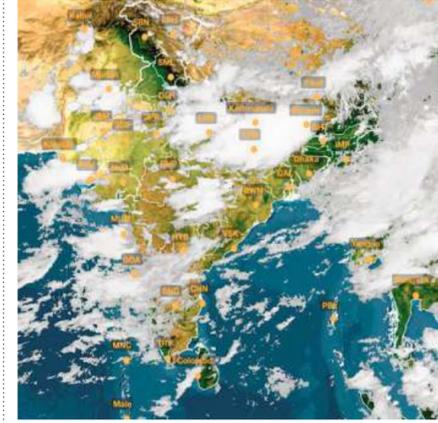
appear on the 2005-06 list of fake universities published by UGC. These long-term offenders include four institutions in Delhi: Commercial University, United Nations University, Vocational University and ADR-Centric Juridical University. Seven institutions in Uttar Pradesh have also been on the list since 2005: Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Mahila Gram Vidyapith/Vishwavidyalaya, Gandhi Hindi Vidyapeeth, National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Open University, Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya and the Maharana Partap Shiksha

Niketan Vishwavidyalaya. Others, which seem to have existed for the last 14 years despite UGC's watchlist, include the Badaganvi Sarkar World Open University Education Society (Karnataka), St. John's University (Kerala) and Raja Arabic University (Maharashtra).

The Anti-Malpractice Cell of the UGC was set up in 1995 to deal with complaints regarding fake universities. Through the years, the UGC's annual reports have documented FIRs and show cause notices filed against some of these institutions. Despite the Cell's efforts, many of the institutions have yet to shut their doors.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18:00 HRS)

**Forecast for Wednesday:** Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, east Rajasthan, Kerala, Mahe, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Odisha, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	35.4	27.0	22.8	Kozhikode	44.0	27.0	22.8
Ahmedabad	4.2	39.7	28.4	Kurnool	34.1	25.4	19.5
Aizawl	28.5	22.8	19.5	Lucknow	37.1	29.1	24.4
Allahabad	38.0	29.2	24.4	Madurai	36.6	26.4	21.8
Bengaluru	25.8	19.2	14.8	Mangaluru	34.8	26.8	21.8
Bhopal	36.1	26.6	21.8	Mumbai	32.1	27.0	19.5
Bhubaneswar	36.0	27.0	19.5	Mysuru	8.0	27.0	19.5
Chandigarh	36.6	28.0	24.4	New Delhi	3.6	37.6	28.2
Chennai	1.6	34.5	26.3	Patna	37.4	27.6	19.5
Coimbatore	2.1	30.8	20.8	Port Blair	3.8	30.7	24.4
Dehradun	25.8	20.8	14.8	Puducherry	0.8	33.4	25.3
Gangtok	41.0	20.6	18.1	Pune	0.1	30.5	24.0
Goa	63.0	27.8	23.6	Raipur	35.5	27.0	19.5
Guwahati	0.2	33.2	26.6	Ranchi	34.4	25.0	17.3
Hubballi	33.0	24.6	17.3	Shillong	10.4	25.0	17.3
Hyderabad	27.9	22.7	17.3	Shimla	25.8	17.2	11.7
Imphal	39.2	27.4	19.5	Srinagar	33.8	19.5	11.7
Jaipur	11.6	30.0	22.0	Thiruvananthapuram	1.3	31.8	22.8
Kochi	7.8	27.8	18.0	Tiruchirappalli	0.5	37.3	26.0
Kolkata	35.2	28.6	21.8	Vijayawada	34.6	27.2	19.5
				Visakhapatnam	34.8	27.9	19.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	..	..	..	..	..	..	In observation made at 4:00 p.m., Jodhpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 187 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Haldia, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 20
Bengaluru	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Chennai	20	33	61	61	61	..	
Delhi	20	56	48	142	244	..	
Hyderabad	22	21	10	22	59	..	
Kolkata	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Lucknow	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Mumbai	18	17	109	21	46	..	
Pune	68	..	67	20	20	..	
Visakhapatnam	21	17	18	27	46	..	

**Air Quality Code:** ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

## High-level probe into three incidents of fire

Union Minister orders fire and safety audit for all their buildings

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

The government on Tuesday ordered a "high-level inquiry" into three instances of fire that occurred at buildings owned by the state-run telecom firms Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in three cities on Monday.

**No casualties**

While two major incidents occurred at the MTNL building in Mumbai and the BSNL

building in Kolkata, one minor incident occurred in the MTNL building in New Delhi.

"These outbreaks were controlled by the fire department. No casualties of the MTNL/BSNL employees or other persons in the buildings were reported," an official statement said.

It said while the reasons were being established by the fire and the police departments, Minister for Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad "has ordered a high-level inquiry by BSNL/

MTNL in relation to the said incidents". He had also asked that the two firms should conduct fresh fire and safety audit for all their buildings.

**Services disrupted**

Following the fire at the nine-floor building in Mumbai, landline services of about 25,000 customers and Internet services of about 8,000 customers were down. These are likely to be restored within four days.

Likewise, due to the inci-

dent at the BSNL building at Salt Lake, Kolkata, mobile services in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and data services in West Bengal have been impacted and are expected to be restored in the next 24 hours.

"Expert teams from BSNL and MTNL have been deployed round the clock to ensure complete restoration of services at the affected premises. The situation is being closely monitored at CMD level in both the organisations," the statement said.



## What suits Trump

The U.S. President violated diplomatic protocols in talking of mediation on Kashmir

Facing a furore in Parliament over the issue, the government has clarified in no uncertain terms that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not request U.S. President Donald Trump to “mediate or arbitrate” on the Kashmir issue, as Mr. Trump claimed on Monday. Addressing Parliament, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said India remains committed to its policy of discussing all outstanding issues with Pakistan only bilaterally, and assured the House that Mr. Modi did not raise this with Mr. Trump at their recent meeting in Osaka during the G-20 summit. In making the claim that has been roundly denied by New Delhi, Mr. Trump breached several well-laid diplomatic protocols, including one against discussing privileged conversations with a leader, during a public conversation with another. Mr. Trump also said a “lot” of his talks with the Pakistan Prime Minister would focus on India and Afghanistan, an odd departure from the precedent of putting bilateral issues to the fore, and being more discreet when discussing sensitive relations involving other countries. For New Delhi, it may be time to recognise that Mr. Trump’s comments are a sign of new realities in international diplomacy, where leaders care less about niceties and more about open communication. Mr. Modi will have to prepare accordingly for some plain-speaking when he visits the U.S. and meets with Mr. Trump, as he is expected to, in September this year.

In the short term, the government’s decision to address the claim by Mr. Trump will have nipped any repercussions in the bud. The government should pursue the issue through diplomatic channels with the U.S. government, and determine whether Mr. Trump made the comments out of confusion or deliberately. India has always opposed any suggestion of third-party mediation on Jammu and Kashmir; both the 1972 Shimla Agreement and the 1999 Lahore declaration included India’s and Pakistan’s commitment to resolving issues between them. It is unlikely that Mr. Modi would have spoken out of line with this policy, and the most charitable explanation for Mr. Trump’s new contention is that he mistook India’s appeal to the international community to hold Pakistan accountable for terror groups on its soil that carry out attacks in Kashmir, for a general desire for mediation. Mr. Trump’s comment in March that the U.S. successfully mediated for the release of captured fighter pilot Abhinandan by Pakistan may have even given him some hope that the U.S. could play a larger role on the Kashmir issue, and New Delhi would need to address that. A more worrying proposition is that Mr. Trump took the line favoured by his Pakistani interlocutors on Kashmir as a way of enhancing his own plans for a pullout from Afghanistan with Pakistan’s help on security and talks with the Taliban. While the damage from Mr. Trump’s words may not have a very lasting impact on India-U.S. ties, that from any rushed measures to force a resolution in Afghanistan will have far-reaching and lasting impact, including on India.

## Caribbean cruise

India goes to the West Indies sensing more cricketing opportunities than threats

In the past, a tour of the West Indies was deemed the toughest endeavour for any cricketer. Reputations were either enhanced or lost and fractures seemed imminent in the battles against the fiery fast bowlers, while the crowds requested the perfume-ball, a euphemism for a nasty bouncer. But times change, and the inherent quality of the Caribbean squads has declined so much that a sporting visit to the isles with their sunny beaches is seen as an exercise towards etching triumphs, fattening batting averages and multiplying bowling yields. With this as the backdrop, India will fly half-way across the earth for a set of three Twenty20s – interestingly, two of them are being hosted in the United States of America – three ODIs and two Tests against the West Indies from August 3 to September 3. India will be the favourites across the three formats, though in limited overs games, where the abridged nature of the sport tends to iron out the flaws, the host might fancy its chances. The tour, coming as it does close on the heels of the World Cup in England, presents an opportunity for India to look ahead, make a few changes in personnel and prepare for the future. Transition always coincides with the quadrennial World Cup and India too is part of that global trend.

M.S. Dhoni has straddled three generations, the one that had Sachin Tendulkar, the second with the likes of Yuvraj Singh and the latest under Virat Kohli as captain. The former India captain has held firm in a storied career of triumphs, losses, frenzied runs, sharp catches and quicksilver stumpings, but at 38 he is near his crickering twilight. Though he avoided retiring from the blue shade by preferring to serve the Army in his role as an honorary lieutenant colonel, Dhoni presented an opportunity to M.S.K. Prasad and his fellow selectors to fast-track Rishabh Pant as the first-choice wicket-keeper batsman across all formats. Dhoni, who retired from Tests in 2014, might still make appearances in the shorter versions, and there is speculation about next year’s Twenty20 World Cup in Australia being his preferred last stop. But it all depends on what the selectors and Kohli prefer as they look at building the team afresh for the 2023 World Cup in India. The imminent West Indies tour will help the team management get a fair idea about the potential in the likes of Shreyas Iyer, Mayank Agarwal, Manish Pandey, Rahul Chahar, Krunal Pandya, Washington Sundar, Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar and Navdeep Saini, besides the other regulars. The opposition may be depleted, but for these players, hope floats and a crucial August awaits.

# A bridge across the India-Pakistan abyss

It would be a travesty to waste the opportunities made possible by the Kartarpur corridor plan



SUHASINI HAIDAR

Ties between India and Pakistan are at an ebb – their lowest in two decades. The thread from this phase, as a series of events – the Kargil war (1999), the Agra Summit (2001), the attack on Parliament (2001) and Operation Parakram (2001-02) – meant a sustained period of deep hostilities, with diplomatic missions downgraded and travel routes truncated. Since 2015 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Lahore visit in the same year, the leaders of both countries have not met for talks. In mid-2018, the backchannel diplomacy between the National Security Advisers of both countries was called off by Pakistan, while in September 2018, India called off a planned meeting between the Foreign Ministers in New York. In the wake of the Pulwama terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in February this year, India attacked terror targets in Pakistan which in turn sent fighter jets to the border. Subsequently, after India moved missiles and deployed submarines, Pakistan raised a full air alert and imposed an airspace ban that lasted till mid-July.

### Unbroken thread

What has been disconnected from all those tensions are the talks on the Kartarpur corridor. The offer from Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan to open the corridor was conveyed first by Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, and accepted by Mr. Modi, marking a rare moment of coordination between the two nations.

That the talks have continued through one of the most difficult years in the relationship is equally remarkable; there have been three rounds of technical-level meetings to ensure both sides complete the infrastructure needed before November 2019, the 550th anniversary of Sikhism’s founder Guru Nanak.

The symbolism for pilgrims who will be able to travel from Dera Baba Nanak town in Punjab to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur just a few kilometres inside Pakistan, which are sites where Guru Nanak spent his last few years, goes well beyond the date and year. This is a route that the Guru and his followers traversed with ease for half a millennium until Partition resulted in the India-Pakistan border cutting through it. While Sikh pilgrims have been given easy access since then to Guru Nanak’s birthplace at Nankana Sahib, the circuitous 200 km route to Kartarpur via Amritsar-Wagah has been off limits. The Kartarpur shrine has one of the last copies of the original Guru Granth Sahib; there are some who believe that it contains not only the wisdom of the 10 Gurus but is itself the 11th and last Guru. Giving life to the wishes of so many will also ensure political dividends in India, an aspect no government in the State or at the Centre can ignore.

### Some irritants

Despite the rich significance of the corridor, there were many reasons for the earlier hesitation to revive the project. The Kartarpur corridor project is an issue that has been raised by India for several decades, with New Delhi’s reasons for wanting the corridor clear. However, in the case of Pakistan, these have not been as transparent, with the military establishment’s surprise backing only raised doubts on whether Islama-



bad has an ulterior motive. In a dossier handed over during the last round of talks on Kartarpur on July 14, India spelt out its apprehensions over Pakistan allowing separatist Khalistani groups, including those funded by groups based in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, to try and influence pilgrims. Of specific concern is the ‘Referendum 2020’ plan by the Sikhs for Justice group (banned by India).

This group has already held a series of public events in the U.S. and the U.K. demanding a ‘worldwide referendum’ on a separate Sikh state. The other irritant is the possible use of the corridor for drugs and arms movement; there are many routes and tunnels at the border between the two Punjab states. The terror threat by Pakistani Punjab-based anti-India groups such as the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad is also a constant concern.

Agreeing to the Kartarpur corridor means the government has made an exception from a matter concerning national policy for a matter of faith. In the last few years, every avenue has been shut down from those for official, bilateral and regional (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) talks to even those for travel and tourism. Trade too has ground to a halt with cross-Line of Control (LoC) trade route suspension the latest casualty.

With such strictures in place, New Delhi’s decision to embark on a course that will need regular and repeated India-Pakistan meetings is nothing short of a breach of its otherwise firm “no talks without terror ending” policy. For example, at a time when Indian and Pakistani Ministers do not even hold talks when they meet at multilateral conferences, New Delhi sent two senior Ministers to Pakistan to participate in the ground-breaking ceremony for the event. It remains to be seen who the government will send to the inauguration, and whether Mr. Modi, who has likened building the Kartarpur corridor to the fall of the Berlin wall, will grace the occasion.

### A range of possibilities

With the Kartarpur exception to India’s policy on Pakistan now established, it is necessary to see whether it can be built on to create a mechanism for broader conversations between India and Pakistan. The obvious extension from this would be for having other faith-based “corridors” for Hindu, Muslim and Sikh pilgrims in both countries; this would be in addition to the list of 20 shrines (15 in Pakistan, five in India) that were negotiated under the 1974 Protocol on visits to Religious Shrines.

The template that Kartarpur has given both sides is also worth considering for the format of other bilateral negotiations given that the talks have been immunised from both terror attacks and election rhetoric. The venue of the talks, at the Attari-Wagah zero point, lends itself to more successful outcomes too away from the glare of the media, without focus on arrangements for both parties. The two sides can cross over, meet for the duration of talks and return after issuing a pre-arranged joint statement.

The timing of the Kartarpur

opening may also lend itself to exploring other bilateral engagements.

Ahead of the next plenary of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in October, Pakistan will remain under pressure to keep terror groups subdued. According to various reports, infiltration figures at the LoC are significantly lower (a 43% reduction since the Balakot strikes in February); officials have marked about 20 terror camps in PoK they believe have been “shut down” recently. Civilian and military casualties from ceasefire violations have also reduced. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan’s government, which has been buoyed by Mr. Khan’s U.S. visit and by Pakistan’s new-found acceptance in the international community for its role in Taliban talks, and Mr. Modi’s government, which has been bolstered by its strong electoral mandate, will also be in the strongest positions politically to forge agreements.

Thus, it would be a travesty to waste the opportunity made possible by the Kartarpur corridor, and by extension, the founder of the Sikh faith himself (revered by Hindus and Muslims in India and Pakistan) to bring both countries back to the table for talks. The most famous story at Kartarpur is the one of the ‘miracle’ that Guru Nanak wrought after his death as his Hindu and Muslim followers debated late into the night whether their Guru should be cremated or buried. When they awoke, his body had vanished, replaced by flowers which they divided up. The Guru Nanak’s ‘samadhi’ and grave were built side by side. As pilgrims across the border pay a visit in November, it should be clear what the bigger miracle is: that the Kartarpur exception has been made at all.

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# Faltering steps in the anti-AIDS march

The commitment to end the AIDS pandemic by 2030 needs strong and fearless leadership



J.V.R. PRASADA RAO

The Joint UN programme on AIDS, commonly known as UNAIDS, is facing one of the worst challenges afflicting the global AIDS response – this time an existential threat questioning its very relevance. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, is expected to appoint a new executive director after the departure of Michel Sidibé in May 2019 on the recommendation of the programme coordinating board which manages the organisation. There are strong contenders from Africa and the U.S. in the reckoning among those who have been shortlisted.

### A pivotal role

At such a crucial time, it is disturbing to hear voices again questioning the relevance of UNAIDS for the global response.

There are suggestions that AIDS should go back to the World Health Organisation (WHO) where it originally belonged to some 25 years ago. And that the new executive director should be equipped

with an exit strategy to wind up the organisation.

Since its establishment in 1994, UNAIDS has been able to successfully mobilise world opinion to mount an exceptional response to an epidemic which has consumed over 20 million lives with still no effective treatment or cure. The UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) 2001 was a game changer with the adoption of a political resolution that itself was exceptional in many ways. The creation of a Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and the slashing of prices of AIDS drugs by Indian generics have brought treatment within the reach of many countries. Today some 22 million people are under antiretroviral therapy (ART) and preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV has become an achievable goal by 2020. The organisation has provided leadership to many countries which in 10 years (2001-2010) could halt the epidemic and reverse the trend.

### The epidemic is still alive

However, at a time when it should be leading the global response to end AIDS as a public health threat, the organisation has started to falter in its strategy. First came the extremely optimistic messaging blitz that the world was going to



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

see the end of AIDS very soon. This is far from true. Regions such as eastern Europe and Central Asia and West Asia are nowhere near reaching that goal, with many countries such as Russia witnessing a raging epidemic among drug users and men who have sex with men (MSM) communities. With the top leadership in UNAIDS exhorting countries to bring AIDS “out of isolation” and integrate with health systems, the political leadership in many countries have thought that AIDS is no more a challenge.

Second has been the thinking that the AIDS epidemic can simply be treated away by saturating anti-retroviral (ARV) coverage. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is forgotten that AIDS affects the poor, the marginalised and criminalised communities disproportionately as they face challenges in accessing the ‘test and treat’ programmes. The ever increasing number of young people who are

joining the ranks of vulnerable populations do not get prevention messages like in the past. National programmes do not any more consider condoms, sexual education and drug harm reduction as central to the prevention of HIV transmission that results from unprotected sex and drug use. Funding for non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations working on prevention has virtually dried up.

Third has been the weakening of country leadership of UNAIDS in many high-prevalence countries. Senior country-level positions are, in many instances, held by people who do not possess the core competence to constructively engage political leadership to undertake legal reforms and provide access to services to marginalised populations.

### Weakening activism

But the biggest setback has been the lost voice of vulnerable communities which was the main driving force of AIDS response in the decade after UNGASS. Activism surrounding AIDS has suddenly fizzled out emboldening many countries, especially in Africa, to further stigmatise and discriminate by enacting new laws that criminalise vulnerable sections of society.

To add to its woes, the charges against one of the senior most staff and his exit from the organisation have seriously compromised UNAIDS at a time when the global response needs its leadership the most. The new executive director will have an unenviable task of not just restoring the credibility and relevance of the organisation but strengthening its presence at country level and making it more meaningful to the communities which look to it for leadership. The new executive director has to work relentlessly to place prevention of the epidemic and empowering communities at the centre of global response.

With 1.7 million new infections and one million deaths occurring every year, we can’t afford to drop the ball half way. The commitment to end AIDS by 2030 is ambitious but not impossible to achieve. What we need is a re-energised UNAIDS with a strong and fearless leadership from a person of high integrity and commitment along with a sincere effort to remove the deadwood from the organisation. Any thought of winding it up or giving the mandate back to WHO would be suicidal at this moment.

J.V.R. Prasad Rao is a former Health Secretary, Government of India. The views expressed are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Trump and the ‘K’ word

The claim by U.S. President Donald Trump that Prime Minister Narendra Modi broached the subject of Mr. Trump’s mediation on the Kashmir issue during the meeting of the two leaders in Osaka in June, is stunning (Page 1, “I would love to be a mediator on Kashmir: Donald Trump”, July 23). Is it a white lie? Or is it a political gimmick? Even if India had sought his assistance, the fact that the U.S. has all along been providing military assistance to Pakistan would by itself make America very unsuitable as a mediator.

B.V.K. THAMPI,  
Thiruvananthapuram

■ Mr. Trump’s offer could well be a trap, a product of his meeting with the Pakistan Prime Minister. The U.S. has a history of long friendship with Pakistan. There may be a hitch at present in their

relationship but self-interest has always been a priority in American foreign policy. The offer may be a part of a strategy relating to Pakistan-China policy. Once we are drawn to the mediation table, our contention of sovereignty over Kashmir will be jeopardised.

S. RAJAGOPALAN,  
Chennai

■ It is significant that as no less than the POTUS himself has named the Indian Prime Minister as personally having sought Mr. Trump’s mediation, it is in the fitness of things and in keeping with the best parliamentary traditions that the Prime Minister offers his own clarification on the floor of the House even if it means causing personal embarrassment to Mr. Trump, who is not known to observe diplomatic niceties. If Mr. Modi chooses to remain silent fearing a diplomatic backlash from the

U.S., a doubt about who is economical with the truth will gain ground hurting the Prime Minister’s credibility.

S.K. CHOUDHURY,  
Bengaluru

■ India may maintain that the Kashmir issue should be resolved bilaterally but the fact is that there have been regular global interventions as far as India-Pakistan relations are concerned. During the Kargil intrusions in 1999, it was the Clinton administration which led Pakistan to step back. Also after 9/11, it was the U.S. and the U.K. which helped in blacklisting Pakistan-based terror outfits. India has relied on global support when it comes to cornering Pakistan. Therefore, Mr. Trump wanting to be a mediator should not raise hackles.

HARVINDER SINGH CHUGH,  
Jalandhar, Punjab

■ Mr. Trump is turning out to be an inexperienced

statesman, examples being his meddling in Obamacare, his unilaterally scrapping the Iran nuclear deal, verbal attacks on European leaders and his mishandling of the immigrants issue in the U.S. Mr. Trump needs to set his own house in order first before he can even think of mediating on Kashmir.

HANNAH JACOB P.,  
Bengaluru

■ The U.S. has most often been at the wrong end of understanding the geopolitical affairs of developing countries, Vietnam, Iran and Iraq being examples. America’s attempt to help these countries has ended in disastrous results. In the Kashmir conflict, a mediator must understand the socio-cultural context of the State as well as its history which Mr. Trump is clearly unaware of.

I am sure that the Prime Minister, despite his shortcomings, did not raise

the question of mediation seriously with Mr. Trump. Observing the U.S.’s previous attempts at mediation, it would be much better if the process involved only India and Pakistan even if it takes another 70 years.

HANNAH JACOB P.,  
Bengaluru

### The ISRO model

The successful launch of Chandrayaan-2 demonstrates what India is capable of doing if there is unwavering focus and funding. The successful model of ISRO should be replicated in the defence sector especially when India is spending billions of rupees buying arms. If we can develop a credible weapons manufacturing ecosystem that is on a par with our space industry, we can save billions and also tap the billion dollar international weapons market.

Dr. N. RATHAN PRASAD REDDY,  
Gajwel, Telangana

### Narcotic hub

That it is not just youngsters from ‘dysfunctional families’ but also those from ‘perfectly normal families’ who are becoming drug victims “solely for recreational purposes” is alarming (“Ground Zero” page, “Ecstasy and the agony”, July 20). This is possibly due to a lack of proper parental monitoring, compounded when one or both parents is/are working abroad as in Kerala. The pocket money being given to middle and upper-class youngsters is way beyond basic requirements.

The statement that Uthampuram is “notorious for ganja trade but remains out of bounds for enforcement agencies” is baffling. The “Student Police Cadet” scheme must be emulated across India.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,  
Hyderabad

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# The complexities of Naga identity

The Nagaland govt. will face many hurdles in its quest to compile a list of indigenous inhabitants



SUSHANTA TALUKDAR

The Nagaland government's move to compile a Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) opens up possibilities in the context of the decision to link the register to the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system without a consensus on the definition of an 'indigenous inhabitant'.

One such possibility is of RIIN pushing the negotiators engaged in the ongoing Naga peace talks to articulate new and hardened positions on the contentious issue of integration of contiguous Naga-inhabited areas.

Though the official notification on RIIN has not mentioned a cut-off date to compile the proposed register, the authorities in Nagaland have till date issued indigenous inhabitant certificates using December 1, 1963 as the cut-off date. Nagaland was inaugurated as India's 16th State on this date following the '16-point agreement' between the government of India and the Naga People's Convention on July 26, 1960.

## Opposition from NSCN (I-M)

The National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah), which has been engaged in peace talks with the government of India since 1997, has opposed the compilation of RIIN asserting that "all Nagas, wherever they are, are indigenous in their land by virtue of their common history".

A statement issued by the 'Ministry of Information and Publicity' of the self-styled Government of the People's Republic of Nagalim reads: "The present move of the State government to implement [the] Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) is contradictory to the inherent rights of the Nagas. It is politically motivated to suit the interest of the groups advocating for the '16-Point Agreement'. The 'Nagalim State' does not and will not represent the national decision of the Naga people. It was formed purely to divide the Nagas." The self-styled government of the People's Republic of Nagalim is the parallel government run by the NSCN(I-M).



Sumi tribesmen performing a warrior dance during the Tuluni festival in Dimapur, Nagaland, in 2016. •GETTY IMAGES

On June 29, the Nagaland government notified that RIIN "will be the master-list of all indigenous inhabitants" of the State. All those to be included will be issued "barcoded and numbered indigenous inhabitant certificates". It added that all existing indigenous inhabitant certificates would become invalid once the process of compiling RIIN is completed and fresh certificates issued.

RIIN is different from Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) as exclusion or inclusion in RIIN is not going to determine the Indian citizenship of anyone in Nagaland.

## Three conditions

Since 1977, a person, in order to be eligible to obtain a certificate of indigenous inhabitants of Nagaland, had to fulfil either of these three conditions: a) the person settled permanently in Nagaland prior to December 1, 1963; b) his or her parents or legitimate guardians were paying house tax prior to this cut-off date; and c) the applicant, or his/her parents or legitimate guardians, acquired property and a patta (land certificate) prior to this cut-off date.

The compilation of RIIN also involves the complexities of deciding claims in respect of children of non-Naga fathers as well as non-Naga children adopted by Naga parents.

If the Nagaland government goes ahead with a compilation of RIIN

with this cut-off date, then all Naga people who have migrated to the State from the neighbouring States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh and elsewhere in India after this day will have to be excluded.

The NSCN(I-M) statement adds, "Nothing is conclusive on the Naga issue, until and unless a mutually agreed honourable political solution is signed between the two entities. Therefore, any attempt to dilute the final political settlement by justifying any past accord of treasons should be seriously viewed by all Nagas."

This clearly indicates the opposition the Nagaland government may have to face if it goes ahead with the move to compile RIIN. The Centre and the NSCN (I-M), which is the largest among all armed Naga rebel groups, signed a Framework Agreement in 2015, the content of which has still not been made public, in turn leaving room for speculation on the contentious issue of integration of all contiguous Naga-inhabited areas of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

Unless otherwise clarified through an official notification, the proposed linking of RIIN with the ILP system may require large numbers of non-indigenous inhabitants of Dimapur district, more particularly the commercial hub (Dimapur town), to obtain an ILP to carry out day-to-day activities. Most of them migrated from oth-

er States and have been carrying out trade, business and other activities for decades. Migration also explains the higher density of population in Dimapur district (409 persons per sq. km) when compared to all the other districts in the State. The ILP is a travel document issued by the government of India to allow a 'domestic tourist' to enter Nagaland, and is valid for 30 days.

## Streamlining ILP

The Supreme Court, on July 2, dismissed a Public Interest Litigation seeking a directive against the Nagaland government's move to implement the ILP in the entire State including Dimapur district, which had so far been kept out of the purview of the ILP system.

A report prepared by the government, in collaboration with the UNDP in 2009, gave information on migration patterns in Nagaland. Titled 'Rural-Urban Migration: A Thematic Report', it said that in 2001, Assam was the State with the highest number of migrants to Nagaland (19,176 people), followed by Bihar (7,249 people) and Manipur (4,569 people). A large section of people (about 45% of them in the case of Assam, 59% in the case of Bihar and 25% in the case of Manipur) had migrated for better employment and business opportunities.

While the move to streamline the ILP system to curb the influx of "illegal migration" to Nagaland has been welcomed by civil society, public opinion is still divided on compiling RIIN without a consensus on the cut-off date.

As the Nagaland government has begun a consultation process on RIIN, it will be under pressure to delink the work of streamlining the ILP mechanism from the proposed register and put it on hold till the ongoing peace process concludes and the final solution is worked out.

Besides this, the complexities that may arise in streamlining the ILP mechanism due to non-issuance of domicile certificates or permanent residence certificates to a large number of non-Naga, non-indigenous inhabitants could also make the task even more difficult for the Neiphiu Rio-led Nagaland government.

Sushanta Talukdar is Editor, nezine.com, a bilingual online magazine on the Northeast

# Making the water-guzzling thermal plants accountable

An improved monitoring mechanism can play a key role



PARUL KUMAR  
BHARATH JAIRAJ

The advancing monsoon has brought relief to many parts of India, but its progress has been slower than average and the country is still in the midst of a rainfall deficit, with millions facing an acute water shortage. Water is essential for human survival, and for agriculture and industry. It is important that India - which has only 4% of the world's renewable water resources but about 18% of the world's population - consumes water more sensibly.

In India's pursuit of 100% electrification goal, the country's installed power capacity will need to be doubled. Even with the growth of renewable energy (RE), coal has been projected to be the backbone of the electricity sector till 2030 and beyond. Managing the electricity needs of a country that's already dealing with water scarcity will be a challenge.

## Located in water-scarce areas

Thermal power plants (TPPs) consume significant amounts of water during the electricity generation process. Most of India's TPPs are located in water-stressed areas, and water shortages have led to electricity-generation disruptions and significant revenue losses to the economy.

In December 2015, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued a notification setting limits for water consumption by TPPs. However, the amended Environment Protection (EP) Rules codified in June 2018 ended up permitting TPPs to use more water than what was initially specified. There are certain mechanisms that need to be strengthened to make these regulations more effective.

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) recently released the format for TPPs to report on their annual water consumption. The power plants were asked to specify both metered and un-metered usage, report on the source (like river, canal or sea), and state the percentage of deviation from the water norms, along with the reasons and the corrective measures undertaken.

These guidelines can be strengthened by including other relevant inputs. First, TPPs should disclose the amount of water consumed by them in previous years, so that a baseline for water consumption per TPP can

be established, and subsequent reductions in water consumption can be quantified. Second, these reporting requirements - currently in the form of an Excel sheet on the CEA website - must be added to the EP Rules, to accord the disclosure process greater transparency and enforceability. Third, TPPs should also be required to submit verifiable evidence (for example, water bills) to support and substantiate the disclosures. Without these, the self-reporting guidelines will remain weak.

Finally, the data supplied by TPPs should be placed in the public domain, so that the parameters disclosed can be studied in the context of region-specific water shortages, outages in the plants, and future research and analysis in this field.

## Specifying penalties

Section 15 of the EP Act provides for a blanket penalty for contravention of any provisions of the Environment Protection Act or EP Rules: up to five years of imprisonment and/or up to ₹1 lakh fine along with additional daily fines for continuing offences. However, the Act does not stipulate specific penalties for specific offences. Perhaps this is an area for review by the government, so that we have a more nuanced framework for enforcement and penalties.

Further, the relevant officials in charge of enforcement, across the Ministry and the CEA, should be identified, and their roles clearly defined. The implementation of these norms should include milestones and time-based targets, and periodic monitoring of the progress of TPPs in making improvements.

In addition to reducing the stress caused by TPPs, shifting to a more aggressive RE pathway will help India achieve its global climate targets. However, this will need further work - particularly to regulate water consumption by specific RE technologies. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has taken a first step by issuing a notice to State governments on reducing water use for cleaning solar panels and to explore alternative mechanisms to ensure that solar panels remain efficient.

India will need to balance the needs of its growing economy with its heightening water stress. Stringent implementation of standards for judicious water use by TPPs, combined with the promotion of RE and energy efficiency, will offer pathways for achieving these goals.

The writers work with the energy programme at the World Resources Institute, India

# Giving ties with Seoul a facelift

India-South Korea relations are yet to reach their full potential despite making significant strides

LAKHVINDER SINGH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met South Korean President Moon Jae-in on the sidelines of the G20 summit last month in Osaka. Both agreed to find common ground between Seoul's 'New Southern Policy' and New Delhi's 'Act East Policy'.

Today, India and South Korea have the shared values of open society, democracy and liberal international economic order and their mutual engagement is at a historically unprecedented level. Significant strides have been made in several areas of science and technology.

The Indo-Korea Science and Technology Centre, established in Bengaluru in 2010 as a collaboration between the Indian Institute of Science and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology, is a shining example in this regard.

The emerging balance of power in the region has also started influencing the trajectory of defence ties. Co-production of the K9 Thunder howitzer is a prime example of the ongoing defence collaboration. With technology transfer from South Korea, India's Larsen and Toubro plans to achieve over 50% localisation by manufacturing the key components of these weapon systems domestically as part of 'Make in India'. Further, both countries have regularised education exchanges. Additionally, there is regular security dialogue between India's National Security Adviser and the intelligence agencies of Korea.



## The fallout of trade war

The ongoing trade war between U.S. and China has also started playing into India-South Korea bilateral ties as South Korean companies are now finding it more difficult to sell their products in the U.S., whenever they are produced in their Chinese branches. Growing trade tensions have forced South Korean companies to contemplate moving their production facilities to locations outside China. India is emerging as a prime beneficiary here, not least because of the considerable size of the Indian

domestic market, its cheap labour costs and a stable legal system.

At the Osaka meeting, both leaders emphasised the need to create a new "synergy" to meet new challenges. Since India opened up its economy in the early 1990s, India-South Korea trade ties have grown from few hundred million dollars to \$22 billion at the end of 2018. Today the major items that India exports to South Korea include mineral fuels, oil distillates (mainly naphtha), cereals and iron and steel. South Korea's main exports to India include automobile parts and telecommunication equipment, among others.

## Trade target likely to be missed

However, despite the robust ties, not everything is going as planned. The trade target of \$50 billion by 2030 is most likely to be missed due to lack of adequate efforts. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, originally the core mechanism for economic ties, requires immediate upgrading. An early harvest agreed to last year, under which India agreed to reduce tariff on 11 commodities and South Korea on 17, failed to see completion.

More than eight years into its existence, the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ICCK), is struggling to find its due space in promoting economic and business ties and spends most of its time organising social and cultural events. A new, empowered commerce body is the urgent need of the hour. The Indian Cultural Centre, established more than ten years ago, has failed to reach out to common South Koreans, who still fail to differentiate between India and Indonesia. While it teaches regional dance forms to children, the bigger picture of introducing India to the general South Korean population has been lost. Further, social and economic discrimination against Indians working and living in South Korea is still a regular occurrence.

The writer is a Seoul-based geo-strategist

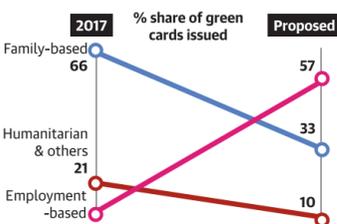


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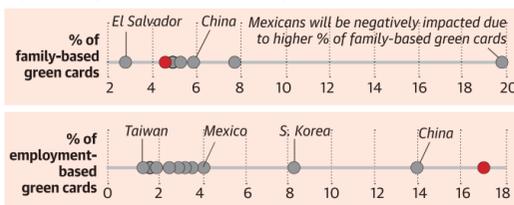
### Advantage Indians?

The U.S. is mulling a reduction in the number of green cards issued based on family ties and an increase in the share of skills-based immigrants. As the total number of green cards issued is proposed to remain the same, the idea may benefit highly-skilled Indians who wish to settle in the U.S. By Sumant Sen & Niharika Pandya

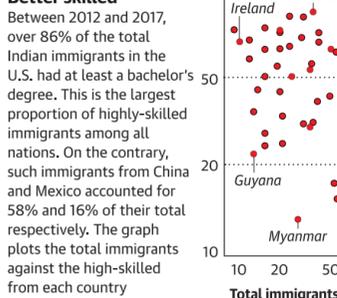
#### Skill over family | The merit-based immigration proposal aims to increase the share of green cards issued based on employment from 12% to 57%



#### Where India stands | Graphs show the share of employment-based & family-based green card beneficiaries across select countries in 2017. Indians received 17% of all employment-based green cards in 2017 - highest among all nations - while receiving only 5% of the family-based ones



#### Better skilled



#### Longer queues

The table shows avg. years waited, until green card became available under quota, across select nationalities as of 2018. The wait time was longest for Indians

Country	Wait time
India	8.5 years
Mexico	8.4 years
Philippines	8 years
China	5.4 years

#### Last word

The proposal to shift from family-based immigration to employment-based may help the highly-skilled Indian green card hopefuls to get the permanent resident status in higher numbers and may also reduce their wait period

Source: DHS, U.S., Cato Institute, Migration policy, org, USCIS, White House

## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 24, 1969

#### Space workshop to be put in orbit

The United States plans to put a space workshop into orbit in 1972, the Space Agency announced here [Houston] yesterday [July 22]. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said the third stage of the giant Saturn 5 rocket used to send Apollo spaceships to the moon would be used to house the orbiting laboratory and observatory. The project will study man's physiological and psychological responses in the space environment, and provide more detailed information on his capabilities for extended manned flight. The workshop is to be fitted out on the ground and will be launched into a 220 nautical mile circular earth orbit. It will be occupied by a crew of three astronauts who will follow in a smaller rocket about a day later. At first, the astronaut-scientists will spend about 28 days in the orbiting workshop, but later visits lasting up to 56 days are planned. The laboratory will be built into a modified S-IVB third stage of the Saturn 5 rocket. The S-IVB is used as the Saturn 5's second stage.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 24, 1919.

#### Castor-oil prices.

Indian castor-oil has now been proved to be an excellent lubricant and the scarcity of mineral oils here has made people to resort to the vegetable lubricant so much so that its prices have soared very high in the past some months. In February 1918 the export of castor-oil was restricted to the United Kingdom but the restriction was removed on 22nd February 1919. Owing to the failure of the south-west monsoon in June and July, the 1918-1919 crop of castor-seed was about 25 per cent, smaller than the large crop of 1917-1918. There was a strong local demand for the oil which was extensively used as a lubricant in the absence of the usual mineral lubricating oil. Local prices helped by speculation, it is stated, rose considerably varying from Rs. 125 to Rs. 225 per candy of 500 lb. and reached figures at which the Ministry of Food was unwilling to buy and increase its large stocks in England. The total shipments amounted to 559,881 gallons in 1918-19 against 920,758 gallons during the previous year, practically the whole of which went to the United Kingdom. The scope for the increased production of castor as a lubricant thus promises to be wide; and it would be well if the Agricultural Department would devote some attention to this raising of castor seeds.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Kumaraswamy govt. loses trust vote

In a tweet outgoing Congress president Rahul Gandhi said, "From its first day, the Cong-JD(S) alliance in Karnataka was a target for vested interests, both within & outside, who saw the alliance as a threat & an obstacle in their path to power. Their greed won today. Democracy, honesty & the people of Karnataka lost."

Mr. Kumaraswamy warned that the political instability, caused by engineered defections, would boomerang on the BJP.

A jubilant Mr. Yeddyurappa termed the fall of the government as a "victory of democracy." He said, "A new era of development will begin in the State from tomorrow. My priority has always been farmers and I assure them that I will work towards their welfare."

CLP leader Siddaramaiah squarely blamed the BJP for the fall of the government. "The BJP that used money and muscle power has won in the numbers game, but has lost morally," he said.

## 'PM did not seek Trump mediation in Kashmir'

Amid uproar, senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, who is also the Minority Affairs Minister, rued that the Opposition parties did not trust their Prime Minister and government and said the Opposition could not dictate terms. He said Mr. Jaishankar's statement was a collective response of the government.

When the proceedings resumed at 2 p.m., Congress member P. Chidambaram expressed anguish over the debate amid protests and said that while a "large section of the Opposition is agitated" the Chair must adjourn the House and try to find a solution instead of allowing the business to go on.

When the House met again at 3.00 p.m., the scenes of disarray continued. BJP member Bhupendra Yadav pointed out that if the Lok Sabha could be satisfied with the External Affairs Minister's statement, why not the House of Elders. To this, Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said the Rajya Sabha should not be needlessly compared to the Lok Sabha all the time. "There is a reason why there are two Houses and not one. If this government wants to run Parliament like a department of any Ministry that you can run on your whims and fancies. It can be run only as per the established principles and rules," Mr. Azad said.

In the Lok Sabha, the Opposition walked out. Mr. Jaishankar was present when the walkout happened and was in the midst of his statement asserting that no such conversation had taken place between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump. Trinamool Congress member Saugata Roy, however, said that rather than Mr. Jaishankar, whom he called a seasoned diplomat, Mr. Modi himself should respond.

**'Modi must speak'**  
Earlier, at the start of Zero Hour, former Union Ministers Manish Tewari of the Congress and T.R. Baalu of the DMK demanded that Mr. Modi himself make the statement and said the House wanted to hear from him.

Mr. Tewari said that since Mr. Trump's statement was serious, the clarification should come from the Prime Minister himself. Speaker Om Birla tried to pacify the Opposition members, but they stood their ground and walked out while Mr. Jaishankar was speaking.

The Opposition, insisting on Mr. Modi's reply, assured the government that they would not seek any clarification. A Congress member of the Rajya Sabha said there were multiple meetings between senior Opposition leaders and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. The Opposition got the impression that Mr. Modi might issue a short statement. When it didn't happen, the Opposition chose to walk out.

## Assam NRC publication deadline is now Aug. 31

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for Assam said the proposed sample re-verification would only take the extended time the court had given till August 31. "It will not harm anybody and will give everybody satisfaction," he submitted.

But the court refused the plea, banking on a July 18 report of the court-appointed NRC Coordinator, Prateek Hajela, that re-verification had been done on a district-wise basis during the adjudication of claims.

"Mr. Hajela, the Centre and Assam have made vehement, fervent pleas for a sample re-verification. You tell us, as an officer of the court, if this is necessary?" Chief Justice Gogoi asked him. "No, I do not see the necessity," he replied.

The CJ said the court was "more than satisfied" from Mr. Hajela's conclusion that a re-verification is not necessary. When Mr. Venugopal repeated that the matter affected lives in the State, the CJ said, "everything we do affects lives."

The Centre and Assam had urged the court for a 20% sample re-verification of names included in the draft in the districts bordering Bangladesh and a 10% sample re-verification in the remaining districts. Even in the last hearing, the court orally voiced its scepticism, pointing out that "Mr. Haje-

la's report said, while disposing of claims, 80 lakh names were reverified."

The court had said re-verification of 80 lakh names would mean that at least 27% of names were covered.

"And you are asking for 20%... So, is there need for a sample re-verification. If we are satisfied that verification has been done properly, then there is no need for a sample re-verification, is it?" Chief Justice Gogoi asked Mr. Mehta then.

### Border districts

The Assam government, represented by advocate Shuvodeep Roy, had said the 20% sample re-verification should target the border districts where the incidence of illegal migration from Bangladesh was higher and where population growth has been reported higher than the State average as per census reports.

The application filed by the Ministry of Home Affairs had tried to impress upon the court the "unprecedented large scale of complexities" involved in the NRC process. The draft NRC had included 2,89,83,677 persons in the State as Indian citizens. But 40,70,707 persons were left out. They were found ineligible to be considered for inclusion. The Centre said re-verification should be done for both inclusions and exclusions.

# Scrutinise RTI Bill: Opposition

No easy passage for the proposed amendments in the Rajya Sabha

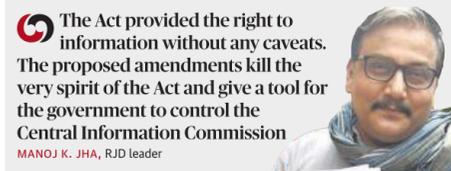
SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019 is going to be the next flash point in the Rajya Sabha with the Opposition members moving a resolution to send the legislation to a select committee.

The resolution was signed by the Biju Janata Dal, a party that maintains a neutral stance in Parliament keeping its distance from the Opposition and the ruling party.

The resolution has been moved by Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool and signed by the Congress, the RJD, the DMK and others. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday.

"It is an important Bill which has far-reaching implications. We are not



MANOJ K. JHA, RJD leader

The Act provided the right to information without any caveats. The proposed amendments kill the very spirit of the Act and give a tool for the government to control the Central Information Commission

against it in toto but we do feel that it needs a detailed scrutiny and since there is no standing committee as of now, it should be sent to a select committee for further study," BJD's floor leader in the Rajya Sabha Prasanna Acharya told *The Hindu*.

Opposing the Bill in the Lok Sabha, B. Mahtab of the BJD said it sought to bring in changes involving the salaries and tenures of the Information Commissioners at the States and the Centre. This would end up reducing

the Information Commission to the level of a government department and weaken its authority, he said.

Under the amendments, the Information Commissioners, who now have five-year tenures, will have "terms as may be prescribed by the Central government" and salaries, instead of being on a par with those of the Election Commissioners, will be decided by the Central government.

"Parliament has so far cleared 13 Bills without a sin-

gle one sent to a standing committee. The Trinamool Congress has decided to demand that every Bill that is introduced from now on be sent to a select committee. It's not to say that we oppose all Bills, but we want to improve them," Mr. O'Brien said. The RTI Bill, he said, will curtail the statutory powers of the Information Commissioners.

RJD leader Manoj K. Jha said that while the government cannot take away the Right to Information Act, it wants to make it dysfunctional.

"The Act provided right to information without any caveats. The proposed amendments kill the very spirit of the Act and give a tool for the government to control the Central Information Commission," he said.

# Labour Bills meet with protest

Refer drafts to the Standing Committee on Labour, says Opposition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday introduced the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019 and the Code on Wages Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha amid protests from the Opposition that the move was being made at the behest of employers and not trade unions.

Opposing the introduction of the Bill, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, said that the Bills should be sent to a Standing Committee for scrutiny. He said it would be a "grave injustice" if the Bill was not sent to a parliamentary panel for scrutiny. The Bills also needed more time to be allocated for discussion, Mr. Chowdhury said.



Santosh Kumar Gangwar

pushed at the behest of employers and not trade unions.

### 'Consultations held'

Mr. Gangwar said the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code was sent to the Standing Committee during the previous Lok Sabha, adding that the legislation had been drafted after consulting 13 workers' organisations and that he would try to assuage concerns raised by the members.

On opposition to the introduction of the Bill, especially the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Code, Mr. Gangwar asked the House to allow the introduction of the Bills, for the House to take a call later. The introduction of the Bills then took place.

The government said it sought to bring in the next wave of labour reforms through these Bills that would subsume 17 Bills and improve the ease of doing business.

The OSH Code simplifies, amalgamates and rationalises the provisions of 13 Central labour laws into a concise volume with certain important changes.

It would apply to all establishments having 10 or more workers, other than those relating to mines and docks.

It provides the concept of one registration for all establishments having 10 or more employees and constitution of the National Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board to give recommendations at the Central and State levels.

# Centre plans to extend session by 10 days amid uproar

BJP keen on clearing its legislative agenda even as Opposition parties question urgency to pass Bills

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Union government plans to extend the ongoing Parliament session by 10 days as it is keen on clearing its legislative agenda, and party MPs should gird themselves for it, BJP president Amit Shah said at a meeting of the parliamentary party on Tuesday.

Sources present at the meeting said Mr. Shah indicated that the extension could be as long as 10 days, pending a final decision. Under the original schedule, the session is to end on July 26.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said there was a "possibility of this [extension of session]



Top deck: Narendra Modi flanked by Amit Shah and J.P. Nadda at the meeting. + SANDEEP SAXENA

but that it had not been officially conveyed yet. However, Opposition parties said they were not in

agreement with the extension after Prime Minister Narendra Modi first hinted at it last week.

The Opposition camp has called a joint meeting on Wednesday afternoon after Congress reached out to all

the Opposition and like-minded parties in the Lok Sabha for the first time in this Lok Sabha session to ensure a unified strategy to oppose the issue.

### 'Speaker under pressure'

"We strongly oppose the government's intent to extend the House in Monday's business advisory meeting," said Kodikunnil Suresh, Congress's Chief Whip in the Lok Sabha. "The Speaker is also not in a mood but the government is pressuring him. The session has been going on for more than a month now, we have been completely disconnected from our constituencies," he added.

Observing that most legis-

lations listed by the government had been pending from the previous Lok Sabha, Opposition members questioned the urgency to clear the Bills.

Meanwhile, during the BJP meeting, the issue of water conservation figured prominently, with Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat making a detailed presentation on the matter, Mr. Joshi said. The MPs were asked to spread awareness of water conservation.

Mr. Shah, the Minister said, also briefed MPs about the 150-km foot march the Prime Minister had asked them to undertake to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

## Terror attacks on the decline, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that the number of terrorist attacks in the country during the past decade had come down by 70% from the previous decade's figure and the number of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir by 86%. He was speaking on the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019.

Congress MP Manish Tewari said, "According to the provisions of the Bill, anyone could be declared a terrorist. This could lead to a lot of misuse." BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi countered, saying, "The Ravan of today can appear in the form of NGO or a social activist and there should be laws to deal with this."

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 by a voice vote.

Several members cutting across party lines supported the safety and traffic violation aspects of the Bill, but said that through the amendment, the Centre was trying to take away the States' powers with certain provisions of the draft law.

"It is up to the States if they want to make their transport system more modern and efficient. The Centre would not interfere with the States' working and only facilitate the implementation of the framework such as facilitating availability of foreign funds," Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said in the House. The Bill seeks to weed out corruption and improve road safety, he said,

# Centre usurping States' rights: MPs

They flag certain provisions of the Motor Vehicles Bill passed by the Lok Sabha

### New order

Key highlights of the Motor Vehicles Amendments Bill, 2019



• **Cashless treatment** likely for victims during golden hour

• **Minimum compensation** for hit-and-run cases hiked in case of death from ₹25,000 to ₹2 lakh, and, in case of grievous injury, from ₹12,500 to ₹50,000

• **Offences and penalties:** The maximum penalty for

driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs has been increased from ₹2,000 to ₹10,000

• **Compulsory insurance:** The Bill requires the Central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India

adding that the government was "fulfilling its promises made on better, smoother roads and latest transport technology".

"The Bill proposes a National Transportation Policy for ushering in guidelines on the transportation of goods and passengers," the Minis-

## Security cover of many VIPs scaled back

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has either removed or downgraded the VIP security cover of over 20 persons, including former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad, in a review done this week. This is the first VIP security review done by Home Minister Amit Shah after he assumed charge.

The Z plus security cover of BSP's Rajya Sabha MP Satish Chandra has been downgraded to Z category. The Z plus cover of A.K. Minha, senior journalist, and Babul Marandi, former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, has been downgraded to Z category. Mr. Prasad, BJP MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy and Uttar Pradesh Minister Suresh Rana have been removed from the Central list.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A day after the Lok Sabha passed amendments to the Right to Information (RTI) Act, Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday accused the Union government of "disempowering every Indian citizen".

"It is a matter of utmost concern that the Central government is hell-bent on completely subverting the historic Right to Information Act, 2005. This law, prepared after widespread consultations and passed unanimously by Parliament, now stands on the brink of extinction," she said in a statement.

Ms. Gandhi, who headed the National Advisory Council during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government, was involved in those consultations before the law was formally drafted and passed by Parliament.

The Congress leader said over 60 lakh people had benefited from the RTI Act, and the law had ushered in a regime of transparency and accountability at all levels of administration.

"The foundation of democracy has, as a result, been strengthened immeasurably. The weaker sections of society have benefited greatly by the proactive use of the RTI by activists and others," she said.

Ms. Gandhi alleged that the government viewed the Central Information Commission (CIC) as a "nuisance and wants to destroy its status and independence that was on a par with the Central Election Commission and the Central Vigilance Commission".

"The Central government may use its legislative majority to achieve its aim, but in



The Centre is hell-bent on completely subverting the historic RTI Act  
SONIA GANDHI  
UPA Chairperson

the process it would be disempowering each and every citizen of our country," she said.

On Monday, the Lok Sabha amended the RTI Act that allowed the Centre to prescribe the term of office, salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions. It also changed the status of the Information Commissioners, who were on a par with the Election Commissioners under the original RTI Act.

Currently, Section 13 (5) of the Act provides that salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions of the service of the Chief Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner, while that of an Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of an Election Commissioner.

"The functions being carried out by the Election Commission of India and the Central and State Information Commissions are totally different. The Election Commission of India is a Constitutional body ... On the other hand, the Central Information Commission and State Information Commission are statutory bodies established under the Right to Information Act, 2005," the amended RTI Bill says.



## Surprised by Indian stand, says Imran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said he was "surprised" over India's reaction to U.S. President Donald Trump's offer of mediation for resolving the Kashmir issue which, according to him, has held the subcontinent hostage for 70 years.

India has not been engaging with Pakistan since the attack on the Air Force base at Pathankot in January 2016 by Pakistan-based terrorists, maintaining that talks and terror cannot go together.

"Surprised by reaction of India to President Trump's offer of mediation to bring Pak & India to dialogue table for resolving Kashmir conflict which has held subcontinent hostage for 70 yrs," Mr. Khan, who is here on a three-day working visit, tweeted at the end of his maiden trip.

"Generations of Kashmiris have suffered & are suffering daily and need conflict resolution," he tweeted.

Mr. Trump on Monday made the offer during his meeting with Mr. Khan at the White House.

# President doesn't make things up: aide

Trump's Chief Economic Adviser dismisses questions on PM Modi's request to mediate on J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump "does not make up things", a top presidential adviser said on Tuesday when asked about his statement that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked him to mediate on the Kashmir issue. India has strongly refuted Mr. Trump's remarks.

It is "a very rude question", Mr. Trump's Chief Economic Adviser Larry Kudlow said at the White House when a journalist, following up on the President's remarks, asked if it was made up.

"The President does not make anything up. That's a very rude question in my



U.S. President Donald Trump speaking during a meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday. •AP

opinion. I am going to stay out of that. It's outside of my lane. It's for Mr. [National Security Adviser John] Bolton, Mr. [Secretary of State Mike] Pompeo and President, so I

am not going to comment on that. The President does not make things up," he said. However, former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns,

who played a key role in the India-U.S. civil nuclear deal during the Bush Administration, said, "This is embarrassing, to say the least, for President Trump. His claim that PM Modi asked him to mediate the Kashmir conflict was denied categorically by Delhi. This is what happens in diplomacy when you make things up."

Mr. Trump offered to be the "mediator" between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue during a press meet with Prime Minister Imran Khan at the White House. Mr. Trump, who is known to make inaccurate statements, said Prime Minister Modi had asked him to mediate on Kashmir when

they met in Osaka on the sidelines of the G20 Summit last month.

### Committee response

The Democratic chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, Eliot Engel, spoke to the Indian Ambassador to say there was no change in the U.S. position on Kashmir, the committee said on Twitter. "Engel reiterated his support for the long-standing U.S. position on the Kashmir dispute, saying he supported dialogue between India and Pakistan, but the dialogues pace and scope can only be determined by India & Pakistan," it said.

(With Reuters inputs)

## Weak Ministry denial not enough, says Rahul Gandhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Outgoing Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday took to Twitter to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi over U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that Mr. Modi had asked him to mediate on the Kashmir issue.

Mr. Gandhi said if the U.S. President was speaking the truth, then Prime Minister Modi has betrayed the interests of the country. He said a "weak" Foreign Ministry denial would not be enough.

"President Trump says PM Modi asked him to mediate between India & Pakistan on Kashmir! If true, PM Modi has betrayed India's interests and 1972 Shimla Agreement," Mr. Gandhi tweeted. "A weak Foreign



Rahul Gandhi

Ministry denial won't do. PM must tell the nation what transpired in the meeting between him and U.S. president," he added.

The Congress leader's attack on the Prime Minister came on a day when the Opposition launched an offensive in Parliament. Slogans of "Pradhan Mantri jawab do" (Prime Minister, give an

answer) echoed in the Upper House.

On Monday evening, soon after the controversy broke out, Congress Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor tweeted to question Mr. Trump's statement.

"I honestly don't think Trump has the slightest idea of what he is talking about. He has either not been briefed or not understood what Modi was saying or what India's position is on third party mediation. That said, the External Affairs Ministry should clarify that Delhi has never sought his intercession," he said.

However, later on Tuesday, he clarified his position to say that the Prime Minister must speak in Parliament.

## J&K parties welcome U.S. mediation offer

Hurriyat wants an early resolution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

The National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and the separatist Hurriyat on Tuesday welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump's push for dialogue between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue.

"It is indeed a welcome step. Any mediation in conflict resolution is not a new approach; it is one of the traditional means of diplomacy that affords the two conflict-ridden countries a suitable solution," National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said.

Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti termed the statement



Farooq Abdullah

a "huge policy shift".

"Being the most affected party, the people of Kashmir want an early resolution. I have been urging for dialogue at all levels. Every effort, pushing India and Pakistan in that direction is welcome by the people of J&K," said Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.



Clean transport: Luis Alfonso de Alba, UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, riding an e-rickshaw in New Delhi. •PTI

## UN climate envoy meets Javadekar

Initiatives by India discussed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The United Nations Special Envoy on Climate Change, Luis Alfonso de Alba, met Union Environment and Forests Minister Prakash Javadekar and discussed India's initiatives to meet its climate commitments.

Ahead of the United Nations Climate Summit in New York in September, Mr. de Alba, appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as his climate envoy, is visiting several countries and urging leaders and businessmen to do more to ensure that global warming does not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"The Secretary-General is exhorting countries and leaders to come with concrete plans at the meeting and not mere policy statements. We need to be getting into a trajectory to achieve emission cuts to cap warming at 1.5°C," Mr. de Alba said in a press briefing here on Tuesday.

This implies countries enhancing their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050, a UN state-

ment noted.

Mr. Javadekar, in a series of tweets said, India was already taking a "leadership position" on achieving its Nationally Determined Contribution (or climate goals).

"India had created 80,000 MW of renewable power and set a target of achieving 175,000 MW by 2022; reduced energy intensity by 21%, was increasing forest cover and that the distribution of 70 million gas cylinders under the Ujjwala scheme had helped save trees, reduce pollution and improve health," the Minister tweeted.

The UN also announced a 'Clean Air Initiative' that calls on governments to achieve air quality that is safe for citizens and to align climate change and air pollution policies by 2030.

"The climate crisis and the air pollution crisis are driven by the same factors and must be tackled by joint action. Governments at all levels must have both an urgent need and huge opportunity to address it," the UN envoy said in a statement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the summit though this has not been officially confirmed.

## ED mulls probe into land cases against Azam Khan

FIRs followed complaints by 26 villagers

DEVESH K. PANDEY NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is examining cases of alleged land grab against Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur district to determine whether money laundering investigations can be initiated in the matter.

"We are looking into details to decide if a probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act can be conducted," said a senior ED official, on condition of anonymity. "The agency is empowered to take up all the FIRs registered under scheduled offences as listed in the Act," the official added.

The U.P. police have regis-



Azam Khan

tered more than a dozen cases allegedly involving the then circle official and Mr. Khan, following complaints lodged by 26 villagers. His name is also on the State's anti-land mafia website launched in June 2017, to help identify and initiate action against land grabbers.

## Thumbs up for new NRC deadline

Re-verification would have caused a lot of misery, says AAMSU

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Various organisations in Assam welcomed the Supreme Court's order extending the deadline for publishing the final NRC to August 31 and turning down the request of the Centre and Assam government to conduct 20% sample re-verification of listed names in the districts bordering Bangladesh and 10% in the other districts on Tuesday.

In a joint statement, the Assam State Jamiat and All-Assam Minority Students' Union (AAMSU) said that the SC foiled a conspiracy of the BJP to delay the publication of the NRC.

"People have undergone a lot of misery in proving their citizenship by being forced to visit NRC service centres in faraway



A file photo of an applicant at an NRC centre in Guwahati.

places. Re-verification would have made these people suffer again," AAMSU president Rezaul Karim Sarkar said.

"The extension is appreciated since people in flood-affected areas could not go to the NRC

centres to settle claims and verify documents. Besides, NRC State Coordinator Prateek Haje-la had said he would publish the final list in two phases if time was not extended. It is good that with a month's time, the final NRC will be published at one go," State Jamiat president Maulana Mustaq Anfar said.

Dipanka Kumar Nath, president of All-Assam Students' Union, said they trusted the Supreme Court, which has been monitoring the NRC exercise, to take steps for ensuring an error-free NRC.

The Assam Public Works, an NGO that had filed a petition seeking 100% re-verification said what mattered was the satisfaction of the court about the NRC groundwork.

## NIA likely to take over ₹2,700 crore Punjab drug smuggling case

Agency suspects it could be related to another operation it is investigating

VIJAITA SINGH VIKAS VASUDEVA NEW DELHI/ CHANDIGARH

Days before the prime suspect in a ₹2,700-crore drug haul case in Punjab died under mysterious circumstances at the Amritsar Central Jail, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had written to the Centre seeking to take over the investigation.

The agency suspects that the case is linked to another terror case pertaining to trade across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kashmir Valley that it is investigating.

### Linked to cross-LoC trade

The Home Ministry on April 18 suspended the cross-LoC trade in J&K, citing "funneling of illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency" as reasons.

Gurpinder Singh, a rock salt trader, and Tariq Ahmad Lone, a trader from Handwara in J&K, were arrested on June 29 by Customs officials for allegedly smuggling narcotics in a truck through the integrated check post on the Attari border from Pakistan. The



Gurpinder Singh, prime suspect in the case, died under mysterious circumstances on Sunday.

drugs were found during a raid by the Amritsar-based Customs Preventive Commissionerate, which then seized 532 kg of suspected heroin. The consignment, hidden under bags of salt in the truck from Pakistan, was seized in the import section at the check post.

Singh and Lone were lodged in the same ward in the jail. However, Singh, a diabetic, was rushed to Guru Nanak Dev Hospital in the city on Sunday but was declared brought dead. He was a crucial link to establish the drug

chain as it was on a licence held by his company, Kanishka Enterprises, that the drugs were smuggled in.

"The Customs Department did not take him into police custody. The Home Ministry is likely to hand over the case to the NIA. All aspects are being ascertained. Though NIA can suo motu take over the case, the convention is to get the State government's nod," a senior official said.

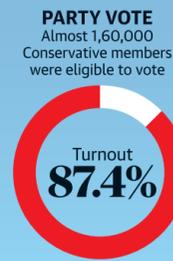
However, a top source in the Punjab government said the State police was also conducting parallel investigations and had not taken a decision on handing over the case to the NIA.

On July 12, Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh said the State government was committed to "the total elimination of drugs" being smuggled into the State not just from Pakistan but from within the country, especially Kashmir.

On the death of the suspect, Additional Director-General of Police (Jails) P.K. Sinha said, "A judicial inquiry would be completed, and action will be taken."

## The rise of Boris

Boris Johnson, the former London Mayor who supported Brexit, is set to become the next Prime Minister of Britain after Conservative Party members elected him as the party leader



**July 24, 2019:** Due to be formally installed as PM at a meeting with Queen Elizabeth II



### CHALLENGES AHEAD

#### Brexit:

- Johnson is committed to getting Britain out of EU by October 31
- EU has said renegotiation is not an option, but Johnson wants a "better deal"

### LIFE OF JOHNSON

**June 19, 1964:** Born as Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson in New York, where his father was studying at Columbia University

**1983:** After schooling at Eton, he enters Oxford's Balliol College where he graduates in classics four years later

**1987-1988:** Works as a journalist for *The Times*. Sacked for fabricating quotes

**1989-1994:** Becomes *The Daily Telegraph's* EU correspondent in Brussels

**1999-2005:** Editor of news magazine *The Spectator*

**2001:** Elected as Conservative MP from the Henley constituency near London. Re-elected in 2005

**2008:** Defeats Ken Livingstone to become Mayor of London. After being re-elected for another four years in 2012, he oversees the city's hosting of that year's Olympic Games

**July 13, 2016:** Appointed Foreign Secretary in PM Theresa May's government

**July 9, 2018:** Resigns over May's Brexit strategy

**July 23, 2019:** Wins race to replace May as Britain's next PM, beating Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt in the Conservative leadership contest

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

### Parliament

He could face a call from the Labour Party for a vote of no-confidence one day after taking

office. With just 311 Conservative seats in the 650-seat Parliament, a failure to win could cause the government to collapse and trigger a general election



**IRAN:** The release of the British-flagged tanker *Stena Impero*, captured by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz



**CHINA:** He will have to decide on what role Chinese firm Huawei will be given in the development of 5G infrastructure in Britain



**U.S.:** The U.K. needs a good relationship with its closest military ally and major export market. The U.K. and the U.S. want to agree to a swift and comprehensive free trade agreement

# Johnson the Brexiteer vows to seal divorce deal

'We are going to deliver it on October 31, take advantage of all the opportunities it will bring, and defeat Jeremy Corbyn'

REUTERS LONDON

Boris Johnson, the Brexiteer who has promised to lead Britain out of the EU with or without a deal by the end of October, will replace Theresa May as Prime Minister after winning the leadership of the Conservative Party on Tuesday.

His convincing victory catapults the United Kingdom towards a showdown with the European Union and towards a constitutional crisis at home, as British lawmakers have vowed to bring down any government that tries to leave the bloc without a divorce deal.

"We are going to get Brexit done on October 31, and we are going to take advantage

of all the opportunities it will bring in a new spirit of 'can do'," Mr. Johnson, 55, said after the result was announced. "Like some slumbering giant, we are going to rise and ping off the gyropopes of self-doubt and negativity."

Mr. Johnson said the mantra of his leadership campaign had been to "deliver Brexit, unite the country and defeat (Opposition Labour leader) Jeremy Corbyn – and that is what we are going to do".

The victory for one of Britain's most flamboyant politicians places an avowed Brexit supporter in charge of the government for the first time since the U.K. voted to leave the EU in the shock 2016 re-



**Three cheers:** A pro-Brexit demonstrator and Brexit Party activists, right, in London on Tuesday. •AFP

ferendum. The Brexit referendum showed a U.K. divided about much more than the EU, and has fuelled soul-searching about everything from regional secession and immigration to capitalism, the legacy of empire, and

modern Britishness. Brexit, which has already toppled two Conservative Prime Ministers, will dominate. Mr. Johnson has pledged to negotiate a new Brexit divorce deal with the EU to secure a smooth transi-

tion out of the EU before October 31. But if the bloc refuses, as it insists it will, he has promised to leave anyway – "do or die" – on the current agreed date. It is a step that many investors and economists say would send shock waves through world markets and tip the world's fifth largest economy into recession or even chaos.

### 'Ready to work with him'

The EU said a no-deal Brexit would be a tragedy for both parties but again said the withdrawal deal was not up for negotiation.

"We look forward to working constructively with PM Johnson when he takes office, to facilitate the ratification of the withdrawal agree-

ment and achieve an orderly Brexit," tweeted the bloc's negotiator, Michel Barnier. A Brexit without a divorce deal would also weaken London's position as the pre-eminent international financial centre while jolting the northern European economy.

Mr. Johnson's Conservatives have no majority in Parliament and need the support of 10 lawmakers from Northern Ireland's Brexit-backing Democratic Unionist Party to govern.

Even then, the majority is wafer-thin – and some lawmakers have threatened to bring down the government, a step that would probably deepen Britain's political crisis and lead to an election.

### IN BRIEF



#### Mark Esper appointed Pentagon chief

WASHINGTON The U.S. Senate on Tuesday confirmed former soldier Mark Esper as Secretary of Defense, filling America's longest-ever Pentagon leadership vacuum as Washington faces mounting tensions with Iran. AFP

#### 'U.S. may have downed 2 Iranian drones last week'

WASHINGTON A U.S. warship may have brought down a second Iranian drone in the Strait of Hormuz last week, the head of the U.S. Central Command said. "We are confident we brought down one drone, we may have brought down a second," General Kenneth McKenzie said. AFP

# Former Chinese premier Li Peng passes away at 90

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BEIJING

Former Chinese premier Li Peng – known for his role in the Tiananmen Square crackdown – has died at the age of 90, state media said on Tuesday.

Mr. Li died of an unspecified illness in Beijing after he failed to respond to medical treatment late on Monday, the official Xinhua news agency said. The ex-premier had previously battled bladder cancer.

Mr. Li gained notoriety worldwide as one of the key architects of the brutal breakup of mass pro-democracy demonstrations in the capital on June 4, 1989, and stayed at the top of the Communist regime for more than a decade, while remaining a



Li Peng

hated symbol of the repression until his death.

After vast crowds of students, workers and others had been encamped for weeks in Tiananmen Square to demand change, Mr. Li proclaimed martial law on May 20, 1989. Two weeks later, on the night of June 3-4, the military put a bloody end to the protests, killing

hundreds of civilians – by some estimates more than 1,000. Though the decision to send in the troops was a collective one, Mr. Li was widely held responsible for the bloody crackdown.

Its taint trailed him through to the end of his official political career in 2003, with his trips abroad generating widespread protests.

Nevertheless, he remained a member of the elite Politburo Standing Committee for 15 years and for most of the 1990s ranked number two behind then Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

He held the premiership for 11 years until 1998, and was Chairman of China's Communist-controlled Parliament until 2003.

# ISI led CIA to Osama, says Imran Khan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

Pakistan's spy agency, the Inter Services Intelligence agency, provided the U.S. with a lead that helped them find and kill al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Monday.

This is a significant revelation as Islamabad has so far denied having any knowledge of the dreaded al-Qaeda chief in the country until he was shot dead by U.S. Navy Seals in 2011.

Mr. Khan made his claim in an interview with Fox News. "It was ISI that gave the information which led to the location of Osama bin Laden. If you ask CIA it was ISI which gave the initial location through the phone connection."

# Trump attacks Mueller ahead of testimony

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump attacked Robert Mueller on Monday, even as he insisted he would not watch the special counsel's potentially damaging Congressional testimony this week about the two-year Russia investigation.

Two days before Mr. Mueller testifies – answering questions for the first time about his high-stakes probe into Russian election meddling and Mr. Trump's alleged obstruction – the President repeated his longstanding claim that it was a biased "witch hunt."

The U.S. leader also repeated his false claim that Mr. Mueller's final report, released in April, found no collusion with Russia by the 2016 Trump campaign team



Special counsel Robert Mueller

and no obstruction of justice by the President himself. "Highly conflicted Robert Mueller should not be given another bite at the apple. In the end it will be bad for him and the phony Democrats in Congress who have done nothing but waste time on this ridiculous Witch Hunt," Mr. Trump tweeted.

"Result of the Mueller Report, NO COLLUSION, NO OBSTRUCTION!"

# U.S. should clarify Trump's remarks: Ghani

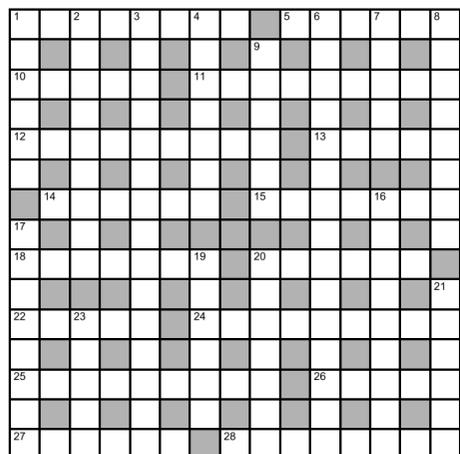
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KABUL

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said on Tuesday the U.S. should clarify remarks President Donald Trump made about Afghanistan, including a claim that he could win the war in 10 days but didn't "want to kill millions".

Mr. Trump made the statements on Monday while meeting with Pakistan PM Imran Khan, whose help he seeks in negotiating a peace deal with the Taliban. Mr. Ghani's office called for clarification on the statements "via diplomatic means and channels." It also said that "foreign heads of state cannot determine Afghanistan's fate in absence of the Afghan leadership."

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12686

(set by Dr. X)



- Incompetent, unresponsive Republican becomes President (5)
- Female is about to ruin brutes (6)
- Jointly presents expenses to maintain house (2-5)
- Having fever, weary one dropped the boards (7)
- Wander around emporium gutted in fire (6)
- Worthless, crazy son kicked out (5)
- Very obvious! Compose a letter to win heart of mesmerizing gal easily (4,5)
- Yank – a fellow with perfect grimace (4,1,4)
- Hallucinatory experience on Ecstasy? Nonsense (5)
- British ballet dancer to prosper (6)
- Writer's point? Be silent perhaps (5,3)
- Close to where a nurse might be dropping daughter (6)
- Abuse of nicotine keeps husband in a precarious situation (2,4,3)
- A reason for dismissal of student involved in throwing the party (8,3,4)
- Right to change clothes (7)
- It seems hotel's prepared to include roast dish from Europe (7,8)
- Refugee in complex lease (5)
- Study time! Get up suppressing worry (8)
- Huge clown entertains son (6)
- Queen left England overwhelmed by gesture (9)
- Son made a mistake, dispossessed (8)
- Envelope from model leaving Antwerp sadly (6)
- Plan to wear torn garments (7)
- Echo effect always found in Rhythm & Blues (6)
- Authorise construction of wall around Mexico at last (5)

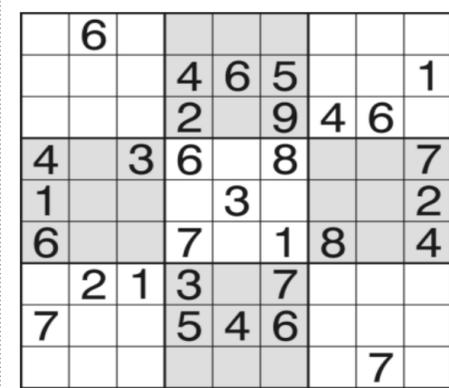
### ACROSS

- Poor husband besieged by poet, a boastful person (8)
- Help to secure new permit (6)
- Glossy fabric in stores at India (5)
- What a fisherman might do to keep in touch? (4,1,4)
- Bad time to enter perfect precision marching unit (5,4)

### DOWN

- Close to where a nurse might be dropping daughter (6)

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

**Solution to puzzle 12685**

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

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

## FAITH

### War and peace

In the Mahabharata, the eternal conflict between dharma and adharma is typified in the trajectory of the lives of the Pandavas and the Kauravas. While the Pandavas are committed to dharma and acknowledge Krishna as their mentor and guide and always remain devoted to Him, Duryodhana openly opts for adharma and refuses to listen to the good counsels of his parents and elders. In a discourse, Nagai Sri Mukundan drew attention to the fact that the Pandava brothers also are fully aware that Duryodhana's nature cannot be changed even as a snake will only emit venom even when fed with nectar. His vidhi is such that his intellect will not listen to good advice. Can one hope to get sweet neem leaves by pouring tons of honey on the root of a neem tree? One's natural qualities cannot be changed.

So when Dhritrashtra is unable to dissuade Duryodhana to abandon the wrong path, he sends Sanjaya to Yudhishtira with a message seeking peace without giving them any share in the kingdom. The Pandavas' reaction is to go ahead with the war and claim their rights. Still Yudhishtira makes an offer that they would be content with five villages at least, though he is sure that even that will be denied. Krishna offers to go to Hastinapura and try to secure the rights of the Pandavas without war. He then solicits the views of the Pandava brothers individually. What emerges from this discussion is an analysis of the cause and effect of war and the need to take all efforts to secure peace. But, in this situation all are aware that peace parleys will fail owing to Duryodhana's desire to rule the entire kingdom. Moreover, the time has come to retaliate against the many taunts and humiliations and Draupadi's tresses that have been left untied have to be answered only with the inevitable war.



## How to keep anxiety out of the cubicle

The process begins when an organisation creates an environment that would encourage employees to seek help

LIFFY THOMAS

Waking up in the middle of the night, with the sleep having been cut short by anxiety over what lies ahead – the day's schedule packed with four back-to-back meetings and a project deadline that can't be pushed to another day.

Can you relate to that? The odds are high that a huge number of those reading this, can.

According to a World Health Organisation study, 264 million people live with anxiety disorder. "This figure for 2015 reflects a 14.9% increase since 2005," says the study.

In a study conducted by ItoHelp.net, a professional counselling company, in 2016, one out of every two employees in corporate India showed signs of anxiety.

Workplace anxiety can be dealt with better, if it is identified right. Sometimes, anxiety can be mistaken for stress. Stress and anxiety are related. As Tanya Percy Vasunia, psychologist and outreach associate, Mpower - The Centre, puts it: "Prolonged stress can lead to anxiety."

However, stress and anxiety have their point of divergence. Anxiety over something cuts deeper, and alters one's personality.

"Anxiety can affect your ability to work, relax and en-



Career-related anxiety is more common than we realise. FILE PHOTO

joy life," says Tanya.

In the workplace context, chronic anxiety can be triggered by uncertainty about the future, and one's place in it.

New reports about companies laying off employees can have an effect on someone, causing them to ask, "Will I be next?"

Anxiety can take various forms, and sometimes it is overcompensation.

Mpower - The Centre, a mental health organisation, has dealt with a case that is pertinent to the point, says Tanya.

Here, a female employee with a legal services firm needed help because she was extremely anxious about not being good enough in the role assigned to her. The trig-

ger seemed mild, but the state of anxiety it led to, didn't.

She had missed an email and her colleague was nasty to her about it. She started feeling like she wasn't good enough for the role, and this made her anxious, which caused her to be extremely hard on herself. She felt the need to answer emails even at odd hours in the night. All of this was affecting her personal life and she ended up feeling constantly exhausted.

Ashwini N.V., director of Muktha Foundation, says there are various theories explaining workplace anxiety and detailing how it can be dealt with.

'Job Demand Control Theory' suggests that anxiety

can result from an inability to make decisions at work, and one's skillset being seen as inadequate, which could be real or perceived.

'Effort and Reward Imbalance Theory', the lack of balance between the efforts put in by employees and the rewards and opportunities for growth received by them creates distress and anxiety.

According to 'Demand Control Support Theory', having a social support system can help tackle anxiety and distress.

No matter what theory one subscribes to, there is no gainsaying the fact that intervention has to take place exactly where the problem started – which is the workplace.

Organisations have to first

create an environment that would encourage employees to seek help for their anxiety. Employee assistance programmes (EAP) can do that for them.

According to the India Health and Well-Being Study 2018, released by Willis Towers Watson, 66% of the employers in India have already developed or are developing a stress or mental health strategy for their employees. And an additional 17% are considering it for 2021.

The study has also noted that one in every four organisations now engage the employees' family, while dealing with workplace anxiety.

**Line manager's role**  
The line manager must be trained. "They must be ap-

proachable, should protect confidential information and know when to empathise with an employee," says Tanya. Ashwini says companies must promote flexi-work schedules, have zero tolerance for harassment and create an environment where employees have clarity about their roles and responsibilities.

If your anxiety spikes when you are unclear about your goals, seek feedback. Face-to-face meeting can help keep unnecessary anxiety at bay.

"Promoting peer support groups is another way of helping employees cope with workplace anxiety," says Ashwini.

### Find volunteers

Companies can carry out internal surveys to gauge the emotional and mental well-being of employees and set benchmarks on how to improve it. Companies can identify mental-health volunteers who will take up the responsibility of facilitating a system where help is on offer for those employees who may need it.

In 2017, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) instituted awards for Best Mental Health Practices in the workplace, which is one of the indications from the larger world that companies are now expected to keep the workplace anxiety-proof.

### NEWS BYTES

#### Accelerator programme for start-ups

Shell is inviting applications from energy-based start-ups for the next edition of its E4 (Energizing and Enabling Energy Entrepreneurs).

The accelerator programme includes a seed fund, access to laboratories for product development and testing, boot camps, mentoring by experts and interaction with investors.

The next cohort is on the theme 'Future of Mobility for India', registration for which opened on

July 15 and closes on October 15. Start-ups in the early, pilot or post-pilot stages can apply.

For details, visit <https://e4.shell.in/how-to-apply>

#### Seminar on customer experience design

NASSCOM, under the aegis of NASSCOM CEO Forum, is conducting a seminar on 'How to become an executive leader in customer experience design' on July 24 in Mumbai. According to the NASSCOM website, Eric Schaffer, CEO, Human Factors International, will conduct the session.

## A peek into the mind of the Gen-Z employee

PTI

How do Gen-Z see themselves? They claim to be the hardest-working generation, but want flexible schedules to stay longer in a company, according to a survey by the Workforce Institute at Kronos Incorporated.

Almost two-fifths (36%) of Gen-Zers believe they 'had it the hardest' when entering the working world compared to all other generations before it, said the study. One in four admit they would work harder and stay longer at a company that supports flexible schedules.

Gen-Z's appeal for flexibility comes with a few actions they would never tolerate from their employer,

like being forced to work when they don't want to (35%), inability to use annual leave days when they want to (34%) and working back-to-back shifts (30%), it added.

The survey is based on a global research done on behalf of the Workforce Institute at Kronos and Future Workplace in 12 countries – including India, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the U.K., and the U.S. – among 3,400 respondents.

One in four Gen-Zers say they are least prepared to handle negotiating (26%), networking (24%), speaking confidently in front of crowds (24%) and resolving work-related conflict (23%).

### GENERAL

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Operator cum Mechanic Trainee	29

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RINL invites applications from Medical Professionals for the following posts on Contract / Tenure basis.

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Medical Officer	06
Radiologist	01

**MANPOWER FOR CAPTIVE MINES ON CONTRACT / TENURE BASIS**

Name of the Post	No. of Vacancies
Operator cum Mechanics (OCMs)	12
Mine Foreman	05
Drill Technician	05
Blaster	02
Blasting Helper	04

For detailed advertisement including required qualifications, experience, age limit, emoluments, mode of selection and other terms and conditions, please log on to our website [www.vizagsteel.com](http://www.vizagsteel.com) and click on the link "Careers". Eligible & interested candidates on their interest may refer to RINL website time to time for further amendments / communication. No separate advertisement will be given.

For any query please contact us at 0891 2740405 (On all working days between 9:00am to 5:00pm)

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### FINANCE/ACCOUNTS

Government of India  
Public Enterprises Selection Board  
invites applications for the post of  
**DIRECTOR (FINANCE)**  
in  
**NLC India Limited**  
Last date of receipt of applications  
in PESB is by  
**15.00 hours on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2019**  
For details login to website  
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

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No. P&A/18(54)/95-Vol II 20 Jul 2019

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For more details visit CSL website [www.cochinshipyard.com](http://www.cochinshipyard.com) (Careers page). Last date of receipt of online application is 28 August 2019.

"Hindi version of detailed advertisement is published in the website ([www.cochinshipyard.com](http://www.cochinshipyard.com)) of CSL" Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HR & TRG)

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CIN: L15492WB1924GOI004835. Website: [www.balmerlawrie.com](http://www.balmerlawrie.com)  
For Email id and Phone No. refer web advertisement

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Sl. No	SBU / Function	Position	Grade (Pay Scale) ₹	No. of Posts
1	Logistics Services	Deputy Manager [Sales] – Freight Forwarding	E2 (50000 – 160000)	1 (One)
2		Assistant Manager (HR & Administration)	E1 (40000 – 140000)	1 (One)
3	Administration	Deputy Manager (Administration)	E2 (50000 – 160000)	1 (One)
4	Regional HR	Deputy Manager (Official Language & Administration)	E2 (50000 – 160000)	1 (One)
5	Health, Safety and Environment (HSE)	Deputy Manager (HSE & Sustainable Development)	E2 (50000 – 160000)	1 (One)
6	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	Assistant Manager (CSR)	E1 (40000 – 140000)	1 (One)

For details & to apply, log-on to Careers at <http://www.balmerlawrie.com/pages/currentopening>

Last Date for Submission of Online Applications : 9th August, 2019



**National Institute of Technology Calicut**  
NIT Campus P.O. Calicut, Kerala - 673601, India

**NOTIFICATION FOR FACULTY RECRUITMENT**  
(Advertisement No.: P1/456-B/FR/2019 dated 25/07/2019)

Online applications are invited from Indian Nationals for faculty positions in the Department of **Architecture and Planning** of the Institute. Candidates having consistently good academic record and motivated with a commitment to teaching, research, outreach and institutional development may apply. Reservations for SC/ST/OBC/PWD/EWS candidates will be applicable as per the Govt. of India norms. For further details regarding eligibility, requirements, pay scale, and other information, please visit the institute website: [www.nitc.ac.in](http://www.nitc.ac.in).

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
Opening date of Online portal : 25/07/2019  
Last date for submission of online application : 25/08/2019  
Last date for receiving the hardcopies, by the Institute : 04/09/2019  
Sd/- REGISTRAR

**National Institute of Technology Calicut**  
NIT Campus P.O. Calicut, Kerala - 673601, India

**NOTIFICATION FOR FACULTY RECRUITMENT**  
(Advertisement No.: P1/456-A/FR/2019 dated 23/07/2019)

Online applications are invited from Indian Nationals having Ph.D. degree for faculty positions in various disciplines of **Engineering and Science** of the Institute. Candidates having consistently good academic record and motivated with a commitment to teaching, research, outreach and institutional development may apply. Reservations for SC/ST/OBC/PWD/EWS candidates will be applicable as per the Govt. of India norms. For further details regarding eligibility, requirements, pay scale, and other information, please visit the institute website: [www.nitc.ac.in](http://www.nitc.ac.in).

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
Opening date of Online portal : 23/07/2019  
Last date for submission of online application : 23/08/2019  
Last date for receiving the hardcopies, by the Institute : 02/09/2019  
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2	Deputy General Manager (Capital Planning)	TEGS-VI	1	
3	SME Credit Analyst (Sector Specialist)	MMGS-III	11	
4	SME Credit Analyst (Structuring)	MMGS-III	4	CRPD/SCO/2019-20/08
5	SME Credit Analyst	MMGS-III	10	
6	Credit Analyst	MMGS-III	30	
7	Credit Analyst	MMGS-II	20	

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For any query, please write to us through link "CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query" which is available on Bank's website URL- <https://bank.sbi/careers> OR <https://sbi.co.in/careers>

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## MARKET WATCH

	23-07-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,983	-0.13
US Dollar	68.44	-0.27
Gold	35,720	-0.69
Brent oil	63.09	-0.53

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	399.75	-7.45
Asian Paints	1429.35	25.15
Axis Bank	728.00	0.55
Bajaj Auto	2523.85	-39.05
Bajaj Finserv	7170.35	7.90
Bajaj Finance	3276.90	30.30
Bharti Airtel	343.60	1.05
BPL	359.05	5.55
Britannia Ind	2730.20	-4.30
Cipla	528.90	-2.05
Coal India	218.05	-3.35
Dr Reddys Lab	2599.35	-33.15
Eicher Motors	17098.45	26.45
GAIL (India)	138.60	0.60
Grasim Ind	883.50	-8.65
HCL Tech	1010.95	-8.00
HDFC	2138.50	-48.40
HDFC Bank	2263.50	-33.75
Hero MotoCorp	2469.30	65.60
Hindalco	203.10	0.70
Hind Unilever	1693.35	12.65
Indiabulls HFL	640.55	-15.35
ICICI Bank	411.95	0.45
IndusInd Bank	1416.75	-1.65
Bharti Infratel	261.80	-2.25
Infratech	790.95	5.55
Indian Oil Corp	160.60	-0.60
ITC	270.65	6.25
JSW Steel	263.30	-1.10
Kotak Bank	1494.00	39.70
L&T	1409.50	5.80
M&M	559.10	-5.80
Maruti Suzuki	5873.75	-38.75
NTPC	133.05	2.20
ONGC	144.60	-2.05
PowerGrid Corp	210.45	6.35
Reliance Ind	1273.55	-6.95
State Bank	342.20	-8.65
Sun Pharma	430.25	0.00
Tata Motors	156.20	-0.55
Tata Steel	459.85	-5.70
TCS	2112.45	2.55
Tech Mahindra	671.20	-0.75
Titan	1099.15	13.60
UltraTech Cement	4539.45	-44.65
UPL	645.15	6.30
Vedanta	168.10	0.85
Wipro	264.50	-0.30
YES Bank	90.65	-0.50
Zee Entertainment	360.80	-3.25

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 23

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.74	69.06
Euro	76.80	77.16
British Pound	85.56	85.96
Japanese Yen (100)	63.57	63.86
Chinese Yuan	9.99	10.04
Swiss Franc	69.91	70.24
Singapore Dollar	50.40	50.64
Canadian Dollar	52.29	52.54
Malaysian Ringgit	16.67	16.77

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

July 23 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	44.5	(44.5)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3332	(3348)

## Post Acharya's exit, RBI rejigs portfolios

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

With Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Viral Acharya demitting office on Tuesday, the central bank has allocated his portfolios to other Deputy Governors.

Deputy Governor B.P. Kanungo gets the all-important monetary policy department, which means he will be a member of the six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) which sets interest rates by voting.

The central bank will announce the review of its monetary policy on August 7. Another important department, the financial markets department that Mr. Acharya was handling, will now be headed by Deputy Governor N.S. Viswanathan.

## SAT asks SEBI to probe Cairn India 'violations'

Cairn U.K. plea is for 340 cr. dividend

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has directed markets regulator SEBI to look into the alleged violation of market norms by Cairn India, a subsidiary of Vedanta, with regard to withholding of dividends payable to Cairn UK Holdings.

The order came after Cairn UK Holdings Ltd. filed an appeal with the tribunal against an order passed by SEBI. In 2017, the U.K.-based firm had approached the regulator over non-payment of dividend amounting to over ₹340 crore by Cairn India and had appealed to SEBI to direct Vedanta's subsidiary to pay the dividend along with an interest of 18% per annum.

In the appeal, Cairn UK

## L&amp;T profit rises 20.5%, margins drop

Increase in profit came on 10% growth in revenue; infra major secures ₹38,700 crore in new orders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Larsen and Toubro (L&T) reported 20.5% growth in its first quarter net profit to ₹1,361 crore even as margins from major business segments such as infrastructure, power, heavy engineering, information technology (IT) and information technology-enabled services (ITES), financial services and others fell.

The rise in profit came on a 10% growth in revenue to ₹29,636 crore, with international revenue contributing 31% of the total revenue or ₹9,268 crore.

L&T secured ₹38,700 crore worth of new orders, registering a 11% growth with international orders contributing ₹9,005 crore or 23%

## Steady state

Metrics	Q1 FY20	Q1 FY19	Growth (%)
Revenue from operations (₹cr.)	29,636.0	27,005.0	10.0
Net profit (₹cr.)	1,361.0	1,129.0	20.5
EPS (₹)	10.5	8.6	

Infrastructure margins can't be judged on a quarterly basis as the value of the projects differs in every quarter

S.N. SUBRAHMANYAN, MD&amp;CEO, L&amp;T

of the total order flow.

"Order wins in infrastructure and power segments were the major contributors to the order inflow during the quarter," said the company in a statement, adding that the consolidated order book of the group stood at ₹2,94,014 crore as on June 30, 2019, with international

order book constituting 21% of the total order book.

L&T's EBITDA margin from the infrastructure segment, which constitutes about 75% of the order book, fell to 6.4% from 6.8% in the year-ago period due to job mix and seasonality of execution.

Commenting on the mar-

gins, L&T MD and CEO S. N. Subrahmanyam said, "Infrastructure margins can't be judged on a quarterly basis as the value of the projects differs in every quarter. It's better to judge on long-term view."

## 'PSU clients chip in'

"While orders from the central and State governments were affected during the general elections, strong PSU and private sector orders enabled the growth during the quarter," the company said. L&T Group CFO R. Shankar Raman said, "We estimate most of the growth will come towards end of the year. We are optimistic on meeting our order flow guidance of 10-12% and revenue guidance of 12-15%."

## Identifies CEO for Mindtree

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

L&T has identified a new CEO for its latest acquisition, Mindtree. The name may be announced after the board meeting on August 2. Asked for comments, L&T's MD & CEO S. N. Subrahmanyam said, "We have identified the CEO and will announce the name shortly."

## Rural blip



Our business is well positioned in terms of navigating the short-term challenges arising from softening of growth

SANJIV MEHTA, CMD, HUL

Metrics	Q1 FY20	Q1 FY19	Growth (%)
Revenue from operations (₹cr.)	9,984.0	9,356.0	7.0
Net profit (₹cr.)	1,755.0	1,529.0	15.0
EPS (₹)	8.1	7.0	

## HUL net up 15% despite sluggish demand

FMCG major expects H2 to be better

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

An overall slowdown in demand growth, especially in the rural markets, affected the country's largest pure-play fast moving consumer goods company Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL), which reported its lowest volume growth in seven quarters.

For the quarter ended June 30, HUL registered a 7% growth in volume with net profit rising 15% to ₹1,755 crore, compared with ₹1,529 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year.

The company, while terming its performance 'resilient', attributed the slowdown to factors such as moderated growth, with rural demand falling and being on par with urban, and said that going ahead, demand may be soft though better on account of government initiatives aimed at aiding consumption.

Rural market growth rates, which have historically been almost double that of the urban market, have been showing signs of moderation in the recent past.

"FMCG is not completely delinked from the state of the economy. But it is not a doomsday scenario," said Sanjiv Mehta, chairman and

MD, HUL, while addressing the media.

"There could be various factors - food inflation has been very tepid, rural wages over the last five years have been modest and those would have been primary contributing factors as to why there has been a slowdown in rural," he added.

The firm reported net sales of ₹9,984 crore for the quarter ended June 30, as compared with ₹9,356 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

## Personal care drags

Subdued growth in beauty and personal care, which accounts for nearly half of HUL's overall sales, was on account of slowdown in a few mass-market brands of the firm, said Mr. Mehta. HUL has brands such as Lux, Dove, Pond's, Lifebuoy and Pears within the personal care segment.

The company expects the second half of the year to be better than the first, though the initial weeks of the current quarter have not shown significant signs of recovery.

"We believe our business is well positioned... in terms of navigating the short-term challenges arising from softening of growth," Mr. Mehta said.

## Etihad in the race to acquire Jet Airways

Abu Dhabi carrier likely to submit bid along with the Hinduja Group

LALATENDU MISHRA  
MUMBAI

Etihad Airways PJSC, the national carrier of Abu Dhabi, is learnt to have initiated a fresh round of talks to bid for Jet Airways through the IBC process.

Etihad had always been interested but wanted a favourable deal, according to people familiar with the development.

The foreign carrier, which has 24% stake in the grounded airline, is reportedly gearing up to submit a bid along with the Hinduja Group.

A detailed email sent to Etihad Airways remained unanswered till the time of going to press.

Similarly, an email to the Hinduja Group seeking a confirmation yielded no response.



In the fray: Etihad may rope in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund to bid for the airline. \*REUTERS

Negotiations are underway between the two parties, the people said, but they did not elaborate.

## Financial investor

The Hinduja Group, which had thrown its hat in the

ring, is likely to come in as a financial investor.

Commenting on the development, Ambareesh Baliga, independent equity analyst said, "Yes, people are interested because Jet Airways still has brand equity. They

Jet will offer nothing for retail or other shareholders as their value has been eroded

AMBAREESH BALIGA  
equity analyst

may benefit but the company will offer nothing for retail or other shareholders as their value has been completely eroded.

"It does not make any sense for strategic investors to provide any premium because the company's net worth is negative. Strategic investors will come at par and the dilution will be so huge that retail investors will be turned into micro minority. There will be nothing left for them," Mr. Baliga said.

It is also believed that the National Investment and In-

rastructure Fund (NIIF), a joint venture between the government of India and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority will be roped in by Etihad to bid for the airline.

All interested parties have been asked to submit expression of interest (EoI) by August 3, 2019 and the bidders will be shortlisted by August 14, 2019.

Besides the Etihad-Hinduja combine, a consortium of Jet Airways Employees' union and the U.K.-based Adi Partners will be key contenders.

Reportedly the Tata Group, Qatar Airways, Apollo Global Management and TPG Capital are forming a consortium to bid.

Jet Airways shares closed with a loss of 1.87% at ₹44.55 on the BSE on Tuesday.

## IMF cuts India's growth forecast for 2019-20 to 7%

Cites weaker-than-expected outlook for domestic demand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's growth forecast for 2019-20 to 7% from its forecast in April of 7.3% on poor demand conditions, it said on Tuesday.

The IMF's World Economic Outlook July update also cut India's growth forecast in 2020-21 to 7.2% from the previous estimate of 7.5%.

"India's economy is set to grow at 7% in 2019, picking up to 7.2% in 2020," the report said. "The downward revision of 0.3 percentage points for both years reflects a weaker-than-expected outlook for domestic demand."

This latest cut in the forecast follows a series of cuts by the IMF in its previous updates.



In April, the IMF had cut India's growth forecast for 2019-20 to 7.3%, which was 0.2 percentage points lower than the forecast made in January, which itself was 0.1 percentage points lower than the forecast made in October 2018.

The forecast of 7.2% growth for 2020-21 is 0.5 percentage points lower than what was forecast made in October and Janu-

IMF also cut India's growth forecast in FY21 to 7.2% from the previous estimate of 7.5%

ary. The 7% forecast for 2019-20, however, is in line with those made by the Reserve Bank of India, Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian and the Asian Development Bank.

The IMF has also cut its forecast for world GDP growth by 0.1 percentage point each in 2019 and 2020 to 3.2% and 3.5%, respectively.

The growth forecast for emerging markets and developing economies has also been cut by 0.3 percentage points for 2019 to 4.1% and by 0.1 percentage points for 2020 to 4.7%.

## 'KVP funds will double in 9 years 5 months'

Govt. raises time period by 1 month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

In view of falling interest rates, the government has increased the time period by 1 month for doubling the money invested in Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) to 9 years and 5 months.

The funds parked in KVP with effect from July 1, 2019, will double in "9 years and 5 months" or 113 months as against "9 years and 4 months" or 112 months earlier, the Finance Ministry said while amending the Kisan Vikas Patra Rules, 2014.

The interest rate on KVP has been lowered to 7.6% for the September quarter, compared with 7.7% in the April-June period. The interest rates on

the government's small savings instruments are revised every quarter.

Individuals can invest their money in KVP in multiples of ₹1,000 and there is no upper ceiling for investments. KVPs are issued in denominations of ₹1,000, ₹5,000, ₹10,000 and ₹50,000.

KVPs are sold at post offices and the certificate can be encashed after two-and-a-half years from the date of issue.

In case of premature withdrawal after two-and-a-half years, a person will get ₹1,173 for every ₹1,000 invested. After 3 years, the amount will go up to ₹1,211 and after three-and-a-half years, the amount would be ₹1,251.

IN BRIEF



**Hyundai Motor India to hike car prices from Aug.**

CHENNAI Hyundai Motor India Ltd. has decided to increase the price of its cars across all models, excluding Kona and Venue. This is due to an increase in input costs, following the introduction of enhanced safety regulations in cars by the government. The carmaker announced a price increase of up to ₹9,200 across all models. The new prices will be effective from August 1, the company said in a statement.

**Five Star Business gets \$50 million in funding**

CHENNAI Non-banking finance company Five Star Business Finance has raised \$50 million in its second round of funding led by private equity major TPG Capital. "The funds will be used for growing the existing portfolio and entering new geographies like central India," said Rangarajan Krishnan, CEO, Five Star Business Finance. "Currently, we have a strong presence in the south. Now, we will enter more States," he added.

**VA Tech Wabag bags ₹1,187-cr. BUIDCO order**

CHENNAI VA Tech Wabag Ltd. has secured an order from the Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation valued at ₹1,187 crore to develop sewage treatment plants of 150 MLD (million litres per day) capacity along with a sewerage network of over 450 km in the Digha and Kankarbagh zones of Patna. This project comprises design, build and operate scope worth ₹940 crore and hybrid annuity scope worth about ₹247 crore.

# Recoveries help IOB narrow loss

Lender trims loss ₹342 crore from ₹919 crore, also aided by lower provisioning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

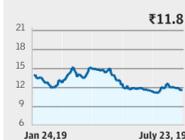
Public Sector Indian Overseas Bank's (IOB) net loss for the first quarter ended June 2019 narrowed to ₹342 crore from the ₹919 crore reported during the corresponding quarter last year, on lower provisioning and improved recovery, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

During the period under review, IOB recovered ₹2,238 crore against ₹3,389 crore during the corresponding quarter last year.

Total fresh slippages (other than debits to existing non performing asset accounts) stood at ₹2,050 crore.

Recovery achieved is higher than slippages during the quarter mainly due to focussed efforts towards recovery, the bank said.

**Green shoots**



The bank has evolved a policy of not taking fresh exposures in stressed sectors. It had also exited from accounts in the stressed sectors

Metrics	Q1 FY20	Q1 FY19
Total income (₹Cr.)	5,006.5	5,326.7
Net profit (loss) (₹Cr)	(342.0)	(919.4)
Capital adequacy ratio (%)	10.0	7.9
Gross NPAs (%)	22.5	25.6
Net NPAs (%)	11.0	15.1

Interest income stood at ₹4,336 crore (₹4,249 crore). Net interest income rose to ₹1,288.50 crore from ₹1,208 crore while net interest margin widened to 2.01% from 1.92%. The bank made provisions and contingencies of

₹1,158 crore (₹2,401 crore). The lender also increased its provision coverage ratio to 72.24% (61.10%). The proportion of current account-savings account (CASA) deposits improved to 38.05% from 36.85%.

Gross non-performing asset (GNPAs) dipped to ₹33,262 crore with a ratio of 22.53% from ₹38,146 crore with a ratio of 25.64%. Net NPAs also came down to 11.04% from 15.10%. In actual terms, they stood at ₹33,262 crore against ₹38,146 crore.

For the first quarter, the bank posted a total business of ₹3,68,777 crore against ₹3,74,530 crore. Total deposits stood at ₹2,21,171 crore (₹2,22,534 crore).

The bank said it had evolved a policy of not taking fresh exposures in stressed sectors. It had also exited from accounts in the stressed sectors. IOB also re-balanced the credit portfolio, with retail, agri and MSME sector share of total domestic advances rising to 68.07% from 66.04%.

# Sundaram-Clayton Q1 net dips 30.6%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Sundaram-Clayton Ltd.'s (SCL) standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 2019 dipped 30.63% to ₹4.87 crore from the ₹7.02 crore registered during the corresponding quarter last year on lower revenue from operations.

During the first quarter, income from operations slipped to ₹374 crore from ₹469 crore. Other income rose to ₹7.13 crore from ₹4.97 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Total expenditure for the auto component maker decreased to ₹375.89 crore from ₹465.17 crore reported for the corresponding year-ago period. Raw material costs also dipped to ₹163 crore from ₹250 crore.

# PayPal mulls data localisation for India

Establishes technology centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA HYDERABAD

American digital payments player PayPal is working with its partners on localisation of data as mandated by the Reserve Bank of India, said vice-president and head (engineering) of PayPal India Guru Bhat here on Tuesday.

"As part of our operating set-up in India, we work with a lot of partners and we are working with them with the proposal right now on how to enable this for the country," he said when asked if Paypal is considering 'data localisation' as mandated by the RBI.

The RBI had, in April last year, asked payment firms to ensure their data were stored exclusively on local

servers, setting a tight six-month deadline for compliance.

That deadline was said to have been missed by some foreign firms, including credit card giants Visa and Mastercard.

Policy-makers in India believe storing data locally would help monitor and conduct investigations if the need arises.

"In all the markets that we are prevalent or operative in, our intent is to have a platform that is compliant across all those platforms. So we have the same approach for India and all the laws of the land we will comply with," Mr. Bhat further said. PayPal also launched its third global technology centre here.

# 'Circular from NHB not to have impact on HDFC'

'Have ability to monitor project status'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Housing Finance Development Corporation Ltd (HDFC) clarified on Tuesday that the latest circular of the National Housing Bank (NHB) which advised housing finance companies (HFCs) to desist from providing loans to finance subvention schemes offered by builders to sell homes is unlikely to impact growth of the individual loan business.

HDFC said it disburses loans to individuals based on the stages of construction and that it has adequate mechanism for monitoring the progress of housing projects. Customer consent is obtained prior to the release



of each stage of payment to the developer, the mortgage lender added. HDFC's exposure to housing loan products involving interest subvention schemes offered by developers is negligible, it said. "The corporation is of the view that there is unlikely to be any significant impact on the growth of its individual business due to the circular," HDFC said.

# Shanthi Gears net up 11% on higher income

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Shanthi Gears Ltd. has reported a 11% rise in its standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 2019 to ₹9.45 crore from the ₹8.50 crore posted in the corresponding quarter last year on a rise in total income.

The company posted a 13.56% increase in its total income to ₹73 crore. Total expenses rose from ₹53 crore to ₹60 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing.

The company added it had bought back 50 lakh equity shares during February 2019 and they were extinguished by April 2019, according to its regulatory filing.

# 'Data breaches cost firms dear'

Each employee lost ₹5,019 on lost data, stolen record: study

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Data breaches have cost Indian enterprises ₹12.8 crore on an average during the first half of calendar 2019, a 7.29% increase compared with a year ago.

Each employee incurred a loss of ₹5,019 on account of lost data or stolen record, an increase of 9.76% from the prior year, said a study conducted by IBM Security in association with Ponemon Institute.

Some 45 enterprises across segments were part of the India leg of the study. By per capital cost, industrial, pharmaceuticals, technology, and financial sectors were the top affected verticals, found the study.

The mean time to identify the data breach increased



• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

causes. System glitches accounted for 27% of data breaches while human errors accounted for 22%.

Commenting on the findings, Vaidyanathan Iyer, security software leader, IBM India/south Asia said: "India is witnessing a significant change in the nature of cybercrimes; it is now extremely organised and collaborative. The cost of data breach continues to grow year after year."

Firms with less than 500 employees suffered losses of more than \$2.5 million on an average.

"The findings highlight the fact it is critical for organisations to invest in risk assessment, cognitive threat, management and building digital trust to beef up cyber security," added Mr. Iyer.

# Rana Kapoor pledges Yes Bank shares

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Rana Kapoor, the co-founder of Yes Bank who was the managing director and chief executive officer till the end of January, has pledged 10 crore shares of the bank, amounting to 4.31% stake, while Morgan Credits Private Ltd., a promoter entity, has pledged 7.02 crore shares or 3.03% stake.

The 7.34% shares were pledged by the two promoters in favour of Milestone Trusteeship Services Pvt. Ltd., the debenture trustee, for the benefit of the holders of debentures issued by MCPL. Yes Bank shares declined 0.5% to ₹90.70 on the BSE compared to its previous close.

Actor Vidya Balan discusses working with Ajith Kumar in *Nerkonda Paarvai*, her first straight Tamil film, which is scheduled for release on August 8

# Kollywood in sight



SRIVATSAN S

Vidya Balan isn't a fan of remakes. She, in fact, despises the remake culture, for she believes that it's a convenient way of making money – arguably the reason why she stayed away from doing remakes – unless there's an exception like *Pink*, remade in Tamil as *Nerkonda Paarvai*, directed by H Vinoth. When producer Boney Kapoor shared the idea of remaking *Pink* in Tamil, her instinctive reaction was: "Why would you remake it?" But now, she is convinced that *Nerkonda Paarvai* is a relevant subject that deserves to be told in Tamil, too.

"If there is a section of audiences who hadn't seen the Hindi original because of the language barrier, they deserve a chance," says Vidya Balan over phone from Kolkata. Though Vidya agreed to act in *Nerkonda Paarvai* for Boney Kapoor and the late Sridevi, who, by the way, she "worships", it so happened that she was paired opposite one of the biggest stars in Tamil cinema: Ajith Kumar. "When I learned that Boney ji brought in Ajith on board, it was just icing on the cake for me," she laughs, "I'm just glad that everything fell in place; my first film in Tamil starring Ajith and produced by Boney ji."

Given her impressive track record in Bollywood, Vidya comes across as a darling actor who headlines projects that have considerable meat for the character



**Shades of pink** Vidya Balan believes that the movie is likely to plant a seed in the minds of those who don't understand consent • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

she plays. By her own admission, her character in the Tamil remake is "small yet special". However, Vidya was unperturbed by the screen time when Boney Kapoor offered the part. "When Boney ji came home, he gave me a sheet of paper and asked me to read. And I said, 'I won't... I'm doing this movie anyway,'" she says, adding, "You do movies for different reasons. This role may not be meaty, but it was something special." There was no trace of Vidya Balan in *Nerkonda Paarvai*'s trailer, which has clocked in more than 12 million views since last month.

Vidya is quite guarded about her character and doesn't mince words, although it's an open secret that she plays Ajith's wife. But those who have seen *Pink* would know the fact that Vidya has very little or no presence to the proceed-

ings, and she's quick to admit that. But where *Nerkonda Paarvai* differs from the original is in its treatment of her character. "My portion is different from *Pink*. There's a song too and anything more would take away the fun," she adds.

#### NO MEANS NO

Long before the #MeToo movement, which took shape last year in India, Amitabh Bachchan delivered a powerful statement about consent – one that roughly translated to: "No means no" in *Pink*. Three years after its release, Vidya feels that the movie is "going to be pertinent for years to come". "Women have been conditioned to believe that they don't have the right to say 'no'. Likewise, men believe that they cannot take 'no' for an answer. But that's changing now,"

she elaborates, "Which is why *Nerkonda Paarvai* might plant a seed in the minds of people who still don't understand consent." And for that to happen, the movie, according to Vidya, required a huge star like Ajith Kumar – to initiate a dialogue in the mainstream Tamil cinema.

"He [Ajith] commands a massive star power and has a huge fan following. When the message comes from him, it'll obviously pander to a wider sect," says Vidya.

Ask her a clickbait-y question – how would you describe Ajith as a co-star? – and she giggles at the mention of the word 'clickbait', saying that she was floored by "Thala's personality". So much so that she wondered if she was acting with Ajith's doppelganger. "I couldn't believe that the guy, who

#### CLEAR-CUT THOUGHTS

If she were to choose between *Pink* and *Nerkonda Paarvai*, which one would she prefer? – "Hmm...*Nerkonda Paarvai*! Because I'm in it," she laughs, adding, "I haven't watched it, but I have faith in Vinoth. He was precise about certain things and showed commendable clarity of thought."

Vidya has been keeping a tab on South Indian movies, thanks to OTT platforms. The recent Tamil movie she watched is *Mahanati*, which she loved.

drives people mad, was standing in front of me with utmost simplicity," she exclaims, "To be honest, I felt as though I was acting with his lookalike. He was that humble. When I spoke to him about the 'Thala' image and how different he was in person, he was shy."

#### WINDS OF CHANGE

There's a significant change in the kind of roles being written for women, and one can't help wonder how much Vidya Balan has contributed to this movement. If anything, women are challenging the status-quo in the industry, which, explains why we have a better representation of women on screen today.

"Status-quo has been upturned in society as well as in movies. These days, women are putting up a strong fight and realising their dreams and desires. I don't think it's a trend because it's soon going to be a reality," she says. At the same time, Vidya is dismissive of "female-centric" movies, even though she's more than happy that they exist. She ends on a positive note: "There will be a day when we stop the distinction and watch movies for what they are."

NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

#### FOOD REVIEW

The busiest of all establishments at Worldmark 1, Aerocity, Delhi's current go-to destination for food and drink, is the Dragonfly Experience. Promoted by the man who has made Delhi drink like no other, Priyank Sukhija (of Flying Saucer and Lord of the Drinks fame), and the sensational rapper Badshah, Dragonfly has a little for everyone. The focus is on dancing and cocktails. In fact, they teamed up with London-based mixologist Richard Hargroves of TGIF and Town House Cafe fame to develop speciality offerings. The food, whilst secondary to the experience, is exactly what one would want at an upmarket bar: an assortment of fried, grilled and spicy, together with sushi, dim sums, pizzas. Whilst not culinary heaven, Dragonfly has the recipe for a great night out.

**The vibe:** As soon as you walk through the entrance you are astounded by the sheer expanse of the restaurant, sprinkled with people

## The night, Badshah style

Dragonfly Experience is a bar and club which ticks most boxes



**Food for all** (Clockwise from above) Butter garlic prawn dumplings; Sushi Donut; Tuna & Salmon Nigiri; Priyank Sakhija with Badshah • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



across three levels of seating. The double-height ceiling gives Dragonfly a welcome sense of openness and levity that one does not easily find

at bars and clubs. A lot of effort has been put into the interiors, which attempts to chronicle the lifecycle of a dragonfly, and is best de-

scribed as "Delhi kitsch". It's energetic, with excel-

lent music – a good mix of '70s and '80s English, with a few latest Bollywood tracks thrown in for good measure. Nothing is played at ear-deafening pitch, so you can have a conversation. All in all, a great addition to Delhi's late night scene. Badshah, "hore dass kinniya tareefan chahidi ae tenu!"

**Do try:** The dim sums – the Chicken Xialong was superb, with a thin skin on the outside and bursting with flavour and spice on the inside. The Crispy Almond and Garlic Prawns were my favourite, and had a generous amount of thinly-sliced almonds that

gave it a perfect texture. The Thai Green Curry Pizza is a novel twist on a thin-crust Italian pizza.

There is also a tremendous selection of veg and non-veg baos, tempura, curries, and mains on the menu, providing much choice, so nobody will go hungry.

**Skip:** Surprisingly, some of the Manga-themed cocktails were a disappointment. I would avoid the Lust (described as a mojito with a Japanese makeover), as it reminded me of RoohAfza; also the Mugen, Japanese whiskey with vanilla and lemongrass cordials – much too sweet.

**Go with:** A big gang and dance the night away. Stags are not permitted.

**Space bar:** 10,000 sq. ft.  
**How much:** ₹3,000 for two (sans alcohol). Cocktails are priced at ₹595 and above.

**Getting there:** Technically it is feasible to take the Metro to Aerocity, but in reality a car/cab is your safest bet. Remember, don't drink and drive.



Amritananda Chakravorty is a Delhi-based advocate, specialising in litigation on gender and sexuality. She was actively involved in the landmark cases of decriminalisation of sodomy (Section 377) and the recognition of transgender rights in India.

#### PLACE

### Cricket in a café



Beyond Lines is a new café in Dwarka, with a cricket theme. It consists of a pitch (in the dimensions of the large-format game) along with a lounge and a casual dining area, with a wall depicting a cricket stadium. The menu is divided into Openers, Toss, Square cut, and Pinch Hitters. The space also has an entertainment parlour for kids. The café has facilities for live screenings of sports events. They serve North Indian, Chinese, Continental fare.

*Beyond Lines, Sec 13, Dwarka; approximately ₹1,000 for two; ₹250 for 3 overs (on the pitch)*

**For a listing or to be featured here, email us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in**

#### 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



#### EXHIBITION

**Paintings**  
The ongoing solo painting show titled, *Spirituality, Serenity and Beauty* by the Karnataka-based artist Gouri Seth attempts to promote compassion and love. Showcasing her Buddhas at the exhibition, the artist has taken up painting after a gap of 42 years. She takes inspiration for her art work from light.  
**VENUE:** Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre  
**TIME:** 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.



#### GOURMET

**Mushroom feast**  
Café Knosh, the all-day dining, multi-cuisine restaurant, is hosting a special mushroom food festival called *Make Room for Mushroom*. On until July 30, the festival presents a complete meal ranging from soups and starters to main-course dishes made of mushrooms, all sourced from different parts of the country.  
**VENUE:** Café Knosh, Hotel Leela Ambience  
**TIME:** 12 noon - 11:30 p.m.



#### MUSIC

**Piano recital**  
New York-based Indian classical raga and jazz pianist, Utsav Lal will perform this evening. He will present Dhruvad-influenced raga renditions in solo *Alap Jod Jhalla*, with Zuheeb Ahmed Khan on the tabla. Lal, a music composer and educator has successfully taken the sounds of Indian ragas on the piano to global venues.  
**VENUE:** Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.



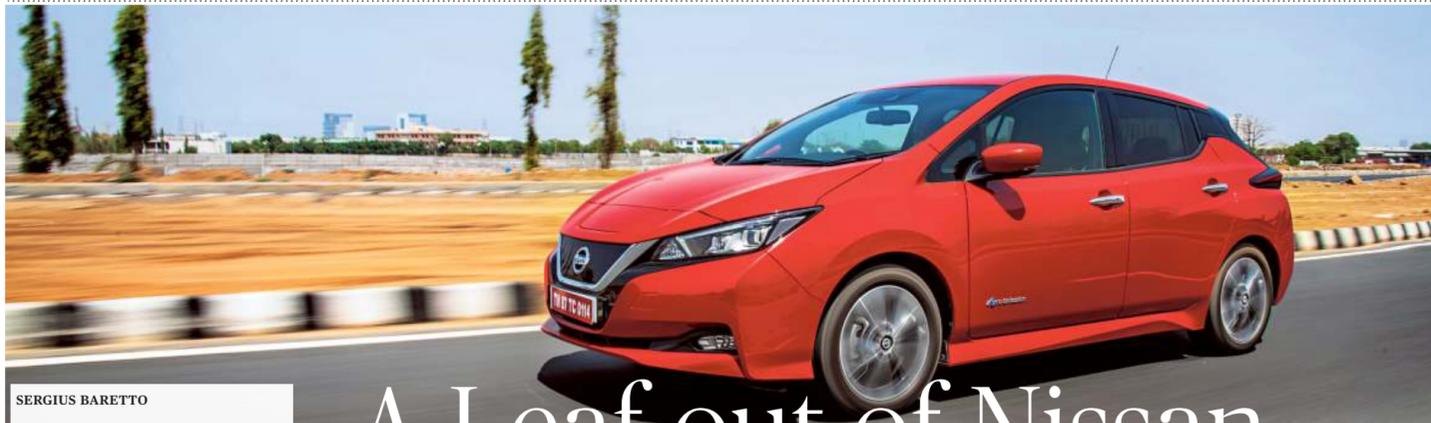
#### FAST FOOD

**Chaat-pakoda special**  
SodaBottleOpenerWala is offering an exciting monsoon menu with street-style chaat and pakodas found on the streets of Mumbai and Delhi – all with a twist. The menu has a wide range of pakodas such as Marcha Na Cheese Poppers, Mangalorean Prawns Coconut Fritters, Chutney Paneer Pakoda, and more.  
**VENUE:** All outlets in Delhi/NCR  
**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.



#### PERFORMANCE

**Comic act**  
Kingdom Come Entertainment is staging a Hinglish stand-up comic show by 'Knotty Commander' Manish Tyagi, this evening. Manish used to be a Commander in the Indian Navy before he decided to become a stand-up comic in 2014. In this act, he has some very funny tales to tell from his life experience.  
**VENUE:** Max Towers, Sector 16B, Noida  
**TIME:** 7 p.m.



SERGIUS BARETTO

With the recent push towards electrification, we're all set to see a slew of new all-electric models arrive on our shores, which will include the Nissan Leaf — one of the pioneer EVs of modern times. Nissan had planned to launch the first-gen Leaf in our market but were deferred. Now, however, the carmaker is set to launch the second-gen model (pictured here) in India by the end of the year. The model will arrive as a CBU import with prices expected to be about ₹40 lakh (ex-showroom).

A lot has been done to make the Leaf stand out from a conventional car. The wedge shape is alluring, especially in red. The headlights flow neatly into a faux-grille area — a black translucent panel that has neat pyramid-like structures beneath. Around the side, the Leaf gets a floating roof and a blacked-out rear section.

If your expectation of EVs is based on what was on sale in India so far, be prepared to be very surprised. While trims and equipment are yet to be finalised, we can expect it to get a fair bit of kit like six airbags, ABS, a Bose sound system, electronic climate control, electric seat adjustment and a 7.0-inch touchscreen with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. Given that the connected car experience has already started in India, Nissan could offer its full connectivity suite, which includes remote diagnosis and pre-cooling the car via a smartphone; as well as Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant control.

On the inside, the dash is quite functional and fairly conventional. The only giveaway to the car's alternate propulsion system is the gear selector, which is a small knob with a joystick-like movement; the pattern isn't intuitive, but there is a small legend printed just ahead, along with a position indicator.

The quality of the switches, door pads and dashboard are all quite acceptable if you think of mid-size se-

# A Leaf out of Nissan

It feels pretty much like a conventional car — the ride is good, it's got all the creature comforts you'd expect



**All charged up** The Nissan Leaf is one of the pioneer EVs of modern times ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### SPECIFICATIONS

**PRICE:** ₹40 lakh (estimated)

**L/W/H:** 4480/1790/1540mm

**WHEELBASE:** 2700mm

**KERB WEIGHT:** 1490-1520kg

**MOTOR TYPE:** Synchronous

**POWER:** 110kW

**TORQUE:** 320Nm

**BATTERY TYPE:** Lithium-ion

**BATTERY CAPACITY:** 40kWh

**RANGE:** 241kms (US EPA)

**CHARGING TIME:** 16hrs (3kW) / 8hrs (6kW) 40min (quick charge)

dans; but you'll be disappointed to not find the finish and luxury you'd normally expect from a car that costs ₹40 lakh. The premium paid is not for a luxury car but for the extra attention it will get you — and for the alternate propulsion system that's billed to be the future of automobiles.

The seats are comfortable and supportive, room at the front is decent and the seating position is quite high (because you sit above the batteries); despite this, you have enough headroom. At the rear, legroom is very good for an average-sized adult and headroom is generous, too. Plus, you can also seat

three people in reasonable comfort, although the middle passenger will have to contend with a centre tunnel.

Having tested a wide variety of EVs, we know range anxiety is real, and so we made sure we were near available charging points. The infrastructure is sparse today, but a few companies have started offering space for public chargers — like DLF, which let us use the facility at DLF Cyber City for our test.

We used about 70% of our charge in 87km, and this included a lot of hard acceleration runs (timing), a lot of stationary time with the AC on (cameramen need time to shoot the insides) and very little use of the car's Eco mode.

As for motive power, there are two powertrains on offer — one with a 40kWh battery system (the one we drove), with an EPA-cycle range of 241km, and the other with a 62kWh battery and a promised range of 364km. The 40kWh system is the version that's likely to launch here. It has a 150hp motor that puts out 320Nm of torque right from the start. Electric motors develop max torque right from the word go. Thus, from behind the wheel, the Leaf feels like every other electric car — very quick off the line, followed by linear acceleration. While the initial burst is very strong, it's not really dramatic. And while the claimed 0-100kph time stands at a quick 7.9sec, it doesn't really feel all that fast due to the lack of any aural drama.

Lift off the pedal and the motor acts like a generator, sending charge back to the batteries; this helps with range and also slows the car down.

It's calibrated to feel close to the slowdown of a conventional car during engine braking. Move to B mode and the effect is stronger. However, it is in e-Pedal mode that it's at its max, where the car also uses the regular friction brakes to come to a full stop. The effect in this mode is dramatic enough for you to drive around ignoring the brake pedal and using just the accelerator most of the time. However, I found it to be a little too much in certain start-stop traffic conditions. Ironically, the brakes — which feel unserved otherwise — are at their best in e-Pedal mode.

The Leaf's ride is good despite the stiff suspension necessitated by the car's heavy 1.5-tonne weight; and apart from some up-down clunkiness, ride on our roads was good. The light steering is great in traffic, and because of the lower centre of gravity (thanks to the weight of the batteries placed low down), you can fling the car around with some level of confidence; just don't expect hot-hatch levels of grip from the new Leaf's 'efficient' tyres.

At the end of the day, the Leaf feels pretty much like a conventional car. The ride is good, it's got all the creature comforts you'd expect, and the space is more than adequate. Of course, being an import, it isn't going to be cheap; but the real issue will be range. It isn't bad on its own, but for now, charging points are few and there isn't a standardised fast-charging plug that can be used by all cars. A home charger would be a must then, but Nissan should consider the 62kWh battery — a potential range of 360km would be far more practical in our environment.

### AUTO SNIPPETS



#### Renault Triber to launch in August

Renault will launch the Triber in India in early August. The car is a crucial part of the model offensive Renault has planned for India to double its sales by 2022. Built on the CMF-A+ platform, the Triber is the only other offering in the Indian market (besides the Datsun Go+) with an overall length just shy of the 4m mark and the capacity to seat seven. The flexibility it gets by being able to remove the third row altogether gives the Renault Triber an added dose of practicality. Upon launch, the Renault Triber is expected to carry a starting price tag of about ₹5.30 lakh (ex-showroom).



#### Ather 450 bookings open in Chennai

Ather has opened bookings for the 450 in Chennai. The booking amount is set at ₹5,000 with the e-scooter priced at ₹1.31 lakh (on-road, Chennai). Deliveries for the first batch of 450s are set to begin in September, followed by the second batch between November and December.

After that, deliveries will take place from February 2020 onwards. Just like with its scooters in Bengaluru, Ather has also listed a lease programme in Chennai, with rentals starting at ₹2,517 per month. Earlier, Ather revealed an ambitious target of selling one lakh units by June 2021.



#### Honda updates WR-V with more kit, new trim level

Honda has updated the WR-V with added kit and also introduced a new mid-level V trim. Prices now start at ₹8.15 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi).

The new V trim, priced at ₹9.95 lakh, is available with the 1.5 diesel engine and sits between the base S and top-spec VX variants. In terms of kit, it packs in most of the features available on the VX, including the 7.0-inch touchscreen infotainment system, reverse camera, cruise control and power-folding ORVMs among others. Interestingly, the only addition is a leather-wrapped steering wheel. However, an electric sunroof is missing.

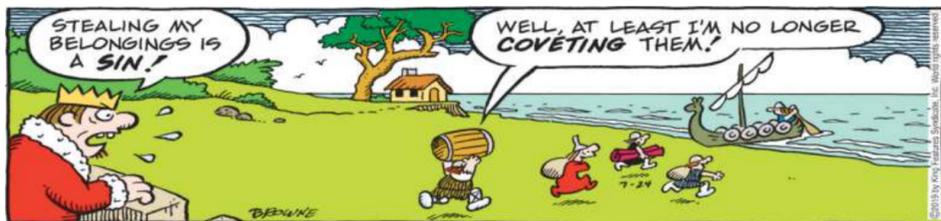
### POOCH CAFE



### PEANUTS



### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



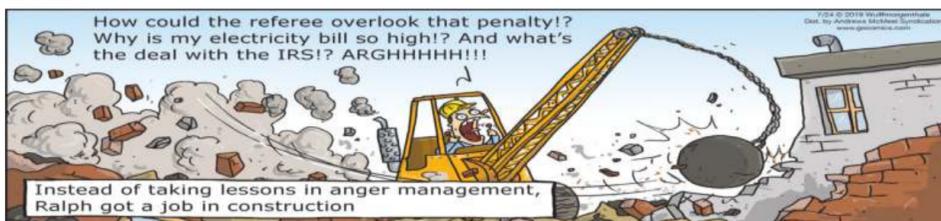
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### TIGER



### WUMO



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



### HEALTH CAPSULES

HOW MANY LAWSUITS HAVE BEEN FILED AGAINST MONSANTO?  
WHAT? NOT ANOTHER LAWSUIT!  
MORE THAN 13,000  
LAWSUITS HAVE BEEN FILED AGAINST MONSANTO, ALL BECAUSE OF THE ACTIVE INGREDIENT GLYPHOSATE IN ITS WEED KILLER PRODUCT ROUNDUP. OVER \$2 BILLION IN DAMAGES HAS BEEN AWARDED TO PLAINTIFFS BECAUSE OF GLYPHOSATE'S LINK WITH CAUSING LYMPHOMA CANCER.

### THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13130

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- Charles de Gaulle, say (7)
- 3 Small bites (4)
- 4 Robin Hood figure? (6)
- 5 Capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (8)
- 6 Birch relative (5)
- 7 Relating to theft (9)
- 10 Abraham or Isaac, perhaps (9)
- 12 French cop (8)
- 15 Guilty party (7)
- 16 Except if (6)
- 18 Not rude (5)
- 20 Gripper — fault (4)
- 23 Title for a baronet (3)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 25, 2019.  
Solution No. 13129

- Across
- 1 Popular starter (5,8)
- 8 Low wall along a roof edge (7)
- 9 Lowest point (5)
- 10 Noise of a small object dropping into water (4)
- 11 Old campaigner (8)
- 13 Nervously restrained laugh (6)
- 14 Hitchcock's 1960 classic (6)
- 17 Event (8)
- 19 Expression of grief (4)
- 21 Large flow of liquid (5)
- 22 Those leaving their own country for political reasons (7)
- 24 Pell-mell (6-7)
- Down
- 1 Get-up-and-go (3)
- 2 Par trio (anag) —

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# Rahul Chahar — finding his spot on the big stage

IPL performance for Mumbai Indians earns the leg-spinner the right to wear India colours



**Bright talent:** Rahul Chahar has been able to absorb pressure, is mentally tough and very accurate, according to Mumbai Indians talent scout Abey Kuruvilla. • FILE PHOTO: K.V.S. GIRI

## Another lifeline for Saha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Wriddhiman Saha will begin his reintegration after a major shoulder injury with his first First Class game in 18 months when India-A takes on West Indies-A in an unofficial Test starting here on Wednesday.

Saha and Hanuma Vihari are the two Test specialists who have been included in the A squad to prepare for the two-Test series starting late August.

Saha, who is only three months shy of his 35th birthday, is returning after a career-threatening injury. Having stayed under M.S. Dhoni's shadow, Saha's injury during the last IPL was a massive blow.

With Rishabh Pant proving his credentials, it's again that phase in his career where he could be seen carrying drinks.

**The squad:** Shreyas Iyer (Capt.), P.K. Panchal, Abhinav Easwaran, Shubman Gill, Hanuma Vihari, Shivam Dube, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), K.S. Bharat (wk), K. Gowtham, S. Nadeem, Mayank Markande, Navdeep Saini, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur and Avesh Khan.



Wriddhiman Saha. • FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUTH

## West Indies recalls Narine and Pollard

Board announces squad for first two T20Is; Bramble only new face

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ST. JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)

The veteran duo of Sunil Narine and Kieron Pollard were on Tuesday recalled to a 14-member West Indies squad for the first two games of the three-match T20 International series against India in Florida in the United States.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Anthony Bramble is the only uncapped player in the squad selected for the T20Is to be played on August 3 and 4 at the Broward County Stadium, Lauderdale, Florida.

The panel could make changes for the third T20I on



Sunil Narine.

• FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

August 6 at the Guyana National Stadium, the West Indies Cricket Board said.

The squad, to be led by Carlos Brathwaite, also includes allrounder Andre Russell subject to passing a fitness assessment.

### Russell injured

Russell had made an early exit from the World Cup to undergo an operation on his troublesome left knee.

Interim selection panel chairman Robert Haynes said veteran opener Chris Gayle had notified that he was unavailable for the series due to commitments in Canada. This has given John Campbell an opportunity.

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

Rajasthan's Rahul Chahar, just a few days from turning 20, is the latest leg-spinner to break into the India team.

Five months ago, Punjab's 21-year-old Mayank Markande made his India debut in the T20 against Australia in Visakhapatnam. Markande was given the chance after his 14-match appearance for Mumbai Indians in IPL Season-11.

And now, Chahar, after 13 matches for Mumbai Indians in IPL Season-12, has won a call-up for the three-match T20 series against the West Indies. Chahar was MI's main spinner, taking 13 wickets at an economy rate well-under seven.

Mumbai Indians can take credit for spotting talent in both Markande and Chahar and bring them onto the T20 stage where batsmen rule the roost.

After Yuzvendra Chahal (31 matches/46 wks) and Kuldeep Yadav's (18/35) success, Indian cricket is looking more at wrist-spin options. India's previous leg-spinners for T20 Internationals were Amit Mishra (10 matches/16 wks), Piyush

Chawla (7/4), Rahul Sharma (2/3), Karn Sharma (1/1) and Sachin Tendulkar (1/1).

Together they have accounted for 106 wickets at 18.34 and an economy rate of a little over seven.

Former India seamer and MI talent scout Abey Kuruvilla feels the ideal situation would be to perform in First Class cricket and impress the selectors. He cited Anil Kumble as an example.

Talking about wrist spinners getting an early break and also of Rahul Chahar he said: "Leg-spinners bring in the novelty factor and wicket-taking ability. The finger spinners are vanishing in this format, given the smaller boundaries and heavy bats. IPL is a high-pressure competition and Chahar has been able to absorb pressure; he's mentally tough and very accurate."

In all 28 leg-spinners — specialists, part-time and casual — have bowled for India in Test cricket, and 15 in ODIs. Most of them found their way into the Indian team through First Class cricket (Ranji, Duleep, Irani Trophy matches). These days the IPL has become the express lane for leg-spinners.

## 'Appoint the correct election officer by July 24'

CoA's directive to BCCI members

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

There are hints that another round of tussle between the Committee of Administrators (CoA) and the BCCI members who are not keen on implementing the Lodha reforms is likely to ensue in the coming weeks.

It has been a little more than three years since the apex court accepted the Lodha reforms on July 2016, and then again on August 9, 2018, after which it asked Amicus Curiae P.S. Narasimha to mediate with the State Associations on the irritating issues and bring about a solution.

On Tuesday, the CoA — which, on May 21, after a meeting with the Amicus Curiae outlined a BCCI AGM deadline for October 22, 2019 — asked the BCCI members to fall in line by correcting anomalies in their by-laws that strayed from the BCCI Constitution approved by the Supreme Court.

### Proactive

The CoA got proactive in the last few days by sending a list of aspects that some BCCI members needed to correct, failing which the member would lose its rights to attend the AGM and contest for posts in the Apex Council.

The CoA's note to the BCCI members pointed out the inconsistencies in the bylaws on (1) the formation of the Apex Council and Committees; (2) voting rights for international cricketers; (3) appointment of the election officer by July 24 (the timeline set on May 21 had actually set July 1 as the date for appointing the election officer); and a few more like checking out, as in the case of the Mumbai Cricket Association, if any of its cricketers clubs are also Social Clubs.

The BCCI members have been told to appoint, by July 24, a retired Chief Election Commissioner of the State or a Central Election Com-

missioner, as the election officer. "Many States were doing the wrong things. They have been told to rectify," divulged an official who has been in touch with the CoA.

### Objection

An official of a State Association countered the CoA move by saying: "Who are they to set deadlines for elections? They are not the Supreme Court. During our meeting with the Amicus [Curiae], certain issues were taken up and the understanding was that the Supreme Court would give its opinion. The CoA is not the Supreme Court."

About 13 members, including Assam and six new members from the North-East, and Vidarbha, have accepted the New BCCI Constitution and hence are receiving their annual subventions.

The CoA has been constantly monitoring the process of Constitutional amendments made by the members in terms with the New BCCI Constitution.

### Jurisdiction issue

An official of the Mumbai Cricket Association said: "We have been told to revert with our positions on the territorial jurisdiction for giving voting rights to retired international cricketers, to reveal if any of the clubs are social clubs and also on the appointment of the election officer. The CoA has said that the State should be the territorial jurisdiction for international cricketers, but we feel the jurisdiction is Mumbai city. All our clubs are cricket clubs and we have been searching for a retired Chief Election Commissioner of the State who can be appointed as the Election Officer."

The CoA believes that once the Election Officer is appointed, the election process can start so that the BCCI AGM and Elections can be held on October 22.

## Ashes jerseys to have players' names, numbers

ANI  
NEW DELHI

Test cricket is all set to undergo a major change as Australia and England will line-up with names and jersey numbers on their Test whites in the upcoming Ashes series.

ODI and T20I jerseys have had personalisation on their backs since a long time, but Test matches had to wait for this change.

### Confirmation

England Cricket official Twitter handle confirmed the jersey number of team's Test match skipper Joe Root and wrote "Names and numbers on the back of Test shirts," as the caption.

Earlier this year, there were reports that the Ashes series between England and Australia would bring in modernisation of cricketing kits.



**Novelty:** Cricket fans are set to witness a spectacle like this, come the Ashes series. • RYAN PIERSE/GETTY IMAGES

Cricketing fans on Twitter seemed divided on this development in Test cricket and made their voices heard on the social-net-

working platform. "Absolutely no problem with numbers 1 to 11 etc., but can't see the benefit of names or random high

numbers on shirts. I guess it's all to do with increasing merchandise sales, hoping a name will sell more. @YorkshireCCC," wrote one fan.

"Names r okay bt never got the idea about these random numbers in cricket... could still live with it in ODIs n T20s bt spare tests... names r fine bt w/o numbers @ICC," another fan tweeted.

"A good addition. Improves both the supporter and media experience of seeing who it is.

On July 14, England scripted history as they managed to win its maiden 50-over World Cup and the side will look to continue its winning momentum going.

England will take on Ireland in a one-off four-day Test from Wednesday and then the team will face Australia in the Ashes, beginning on August 1.

## Caleb Ewan wins Stage 16

TOUR DE FRANCE  
NIMES

Caleb Ewan beat his sprinting rivals in suffocating heat to win Stage 16 of the Tour de France on Tuesday, with Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe keeping the race leader's yellow jersey.

With temperatures soaring as high as 40 degrees Celsius, Alaphilippe and his main rivals did not attack each other over the 177km mainly flat stage in the Nimes rural hinterland.

Defending champion Geraint Thomas crashed about 40km after the race started from the Roman city but escaped largely unscathed, with a few scratches on his left elbow.

Ewan, a Tour debutant, edged Elia Viviani and Dylan Groenewegen to post his second stage win.



Caleb Ewan. • AFP

## No thanks, says Stokes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON

England's World Cup hero Ben Stokes, who was nominated for the New Zealand Order of the Year Award, has graciously turned it down, saying Black Caps skipper Kane Williamson is the "worthy recipient" of the accolade.

The 28-year-old Stokes was born in Christchurch but moved to England at the age of 12, going on to establish himself in the England set-up.

"I am flattered to be nominated for New Zealand Order of the Year," he posted on his social media accounts.

"I feel the whole country should align their support to New Zealand captain Kane Williamson. He should be revered as a kiwi legend."

# The new Indian fan and why he was angry after the final

This is a welcome change and holds out hope that the aggressive follower of the game is beginning to learn to take defeat



BETWEEN WICKETS  
SURESH MENON

The World Cup is done and dusted, the caravan has moved on, the pundits have spoken, the analyses are over. Yet a couple of questions continue to nag. Why, for instance, would umpire Kumar Dharmasena admit to making an error while granting England the extra run in the tied final, and then follow that up with "I will never regret that decision"? The decision was taken in consultation with the other umpire, he tells us, it was a difficult one to make, he assures us, and then ruins that with what

comes across as either arrogance or stupidity.

The second question is the more interesting. Why were Indian fans so angry with the final result? Not merely disappointed or upset, but angry? Can you imagine television debates in England or Australia had India missed out in the manner that New Zealand did?

England skipper Eoin Morgan has spoken to his New Zealand counterpart Kane Williamson "on numerous occasions" since the final, he has said, and neither has been able to get his head around everything that happened. He was quoted as saying, "I'm not sure winning it makes it any easier," adding later, "It would be more difficult to lose, of course."

### Waves

In New Zealand, Kane Williamson told a radio station, "It will take a little bit of ti-

me...you get waves. You just forget about it for 10 minutes then it hits you again ... " And importantly, "The rules were there from the start, we have to swallow that and accept it."

One Indian fan told me, "I didn't mind that India lost in the semifinal. It gave us a chance to watch the greatest one-day international ever." He was the exception, as the majority wanted to do something about that final — from a signature campaign asking the International Cricket Council to alter its playing conditions and letting the teams share the trophy to sacking various officials.

Everybody had an opinion, expressed more forcefully and with greater concern than anything articulated on issues such as the country's water shortage, or fudging in the national budget, which should affect us deeply. An umpiring decision made under pressure in a far away land got even the si-

lent majority raising fists in anger.

### Love for the underdog

It would have been hilarious if it didn't say something interesting about us. Age and gender were no barrier to dissatisfaction; my uncle in his 80s was as cheesed off as nieces in their teens and twenties. Social media, the arbiter of a country's innermost thoughts, could not tear itself away from the subject. Is everybody angry because New Zealand didn't make it or because England did?

Perhaps it is more of the former, which rules out any colonial hangover. Perhaps it is a genuine love for the underdog, although Indian cricket fans are not renowned for this.

Perhaps Williamson came as a breath of fresh air and we wanted to show our appreciation by fighting his team's battles.

New Zealanders weren't nearly as an-

gry, and Williamson didn't once say anything about luck going against them — an easy enough line to take, particularly since it's true — and handled it all with dignity.

Perhaps once India lost in the semifinals, their fans transferred their considerable energies to New Zealand, and thus found a reason to retain their interest in the World Cup. Traditionally, teams in South Asia, from the schools level to the international, have tended to support the opponents of the team that beat them. Not so this time.

### Springs of sorrow

The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins has said that the springs of sorrow are the same. Perhaps it is the same with the springs of anger too. For the course of one match, New Zealand were the India that made it to the final, didn't lose the match but lost the Cup. Blaming the

players was out of the question. Burning effigies didn't make sense. Part of the anger might have risen from the frustration of not being able to do these things. And part from a feeling of 'We wuz robbed'.

The normally demanding Indian fan didn't explode when India lost; didn't question the money the players make outside the field, didn't blame the IPL or the quality of Indian wickets or the standard of domestic matches.

The ones who wanted a change in captaincy were few, and no one called for major changes in the team or asked questions of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. If any players' houses were stoned or effigies burnt, these didn't get any publicity.

All this is new. And welcome. And a sign — let us hope — that the aggressive Indian fan is beginning to learn to take defeat.

# Ireland set for landmark Lord's Test

Chance for the Irish to pull a fast one on England

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Ireland's march to becoming a full-fledged member of cricket's elite will reach another important staging post when it plays its first Test against England at Lord's on Wednesday.

The Irishmen made their Test debut last year, suffering a final-day defeat by Pakistan in Dublin. However, they were well beaten by fellow newcomer Afghanistan in their second Test in March this year.

Since the turn of the century, Ireland has become known for their one-day exploits, beating Pakistan (2007) and England (2011) at World Cups.

## Highlight

The Lord's match is set to be the highlight of Ireland's year given it did not qualify for the World Cup.

The sport has a long history in Ireland and cricket was hugely popular there in the 19th century. But a rising tide of Irish nationalism and the growth of the Gaelic Athletic Association led to cricket being declared a "garrison" or "foreign" game.

Irish cricket went into something of a retreat although memorable occasions such as a televised win over the touring West Indies in 1969



Prepping for the occasion: Ireland's Simranjit Singh and Lorcan Tucker get ready for their Lord's assignment. • REUTERS

helped to change attitudes.

Several of the present side have played county cricket, including Tim Murtagh, a stalwart for Middlesex, who recently took his 800th First Class wicket.

Fast bowler Boyd Rankin was briefly an England player when that was the only way Irishmen could play Test cricket before switching back. "It is a dream come true, and it is something I

never thought would happen in my playing career," said Rankin, who played just the one Test for England on the ill-fated 2013-14 Ashes tour of Australia.

England will be resting

several of its World Cup stars, including fast bowler Jofra Archer, Ben Stokes and batsman Jos Buttler.

Eoin Morgan, the victorious Dublin-born captain, no longer plays Test cricket

# 'Pick your best batsmen'

Border tells Australia not to be averse to having top-three left-handers

IAN S  
SYDNEY

Former captain Allan Border feels Australia should pick its best six batsmen for the upcoming Ashes series against England beginning on August 1 in Birmingham.

Border revealed his first choice team to foxsports.com.au, naming southpaws David Warner, Marcus Harris and Usman Khawaja as his preferred top three.

"The top three batsmen are left-handers, which is not necessarily the wrong thing," Border said.

"A lot of people jump up and down about picking too many left-handers but if they are your best players then go with them.

"If they were right-handers, no one would say anything," he added.

The former Australia skipper also stated that wicket-keeper-batsman Matthew Wade should come into the side considering his good domestic form.

## Nod for Wade

"I'd be very tempted to go with Wade. You talk about picking the guys in form, and he's in great form. (Marnus Labuschagne might get that guernsey in that he can bowl some pretty handy leg-spin and he's good in the field too," Border said.



Border. • FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

A lot of people jump up and down about picking too many left-handers but if they are your best players then go with them

"Wade can bowl some medium-pace. He can get it through alright, you could sling him half a dozen overs if you had to here and there."

The 63-year-old also advised the Australian team to resist from temptation of playing an all-rounder at No. 6 and instead play a proper batsman.

"I wouldn't go the all-rounder at No.6. I'd pick a straight out-and-out batsman.

"England's conditions are a bit softer underfoot and temperature wise. There's not as much physicality and stress on the bowlers," he said.

# Bring back Asian style: Thakur

'Utilise former players' services to help the National team'

## HOCKEY

ASHWIN ACHAL  
BENGALURU

At his peak, Deepak Thakur was a feared forward. Using lightning speed and deft stick work, Thakur gave defenders a horrid time. In general, his Indian team of the noughties played a free-flowing style of hockey. This is in contrast with the 'European style' used now, where the emphasis is on possession and precision technique.

Thakur believes that the 'Asian style' of his era still has its place in modern hockey, and that the Indian team should utilise the services of his former teammates like Prabhjot Singh, Gagan Ajit Singh and Dhanraj Pillay to refine these skills.

## 'Second pattern'

"Today, all international sides employ the European style of play. When all teams are playing like this, you need a second pattern to break their game-play. This is where you need to be adept at Asian-style skills like dodging, return-passes, and stick work.

"If you can develop these aspects of your game, you will be able to break open the defence.

"This Asian style is missing now, which is hurting Indian hockey," Thakur, the IOCL team coach at the Bengaluru Hockey Association Super Division hockey



Plainspeak: Deepak Thakur says India will gain by merging the Asian and European styles of play. • G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

championship here, said.

"Former players like Prabhjot Singh, Dhanraj Pillay and Gagan Ajit Singh were masters of Asian style hockey. They should be brought in to coach the National team in some capacity. This will be hugely beneficial, as we can get the best of both worlds," Thakur added.

## Professional approach

The Arjuna awardee is happy that a more professional approach has entered the sport.

"Money is being invested now. Though top facilities are not available at the grass-root level, it is good that it has come to the elite level.

"Everything is a lot more professional now - players earn good money, and we also have video analysts, physiotherapists and so on,"

Thakur said, "If we had these facilities during our playing days, we could have won Olympic and World Cup medals."

On his electrifying attacking partnership with Prabhjot Singh and Gagan Ajit Singh, Thakur said, "The reason why we were so good together on the field was because we shared a close bond off the field.

"The three of us came up through the junior ranks at the same time.

"And during our senior India days, we spent a lot of time together. In those days, we did not have much entertainment.

"So we played cards together, chatted, and kept each other company.

"This sort of team bonding is missing now, with most players busy with their smartphones."

# No loan move for Bale, says agent

## FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Gareth Bale will not be leaving Real Madrid on loan during the transfer window despite falling out of favour under Zinedine Zidane, his agent said on Tuesday.

The Real boss said at the weekend the *La Liga* giant was poised to offload the 30-year-old Wales star.

But his representative, Jonathan Barnett, told Sky Sports News any deal would have to be a permanent one.

"There will be no makeshift deals to get him out of the club," said Barnett, who said previously that Zidane has shown "no respect" for Bale's achievements at Real.

"Gareth is one of the best players on the planet. I can

guarantee you he will not be going on loan to any club."

Bale has been deemed surplus to requirements at Real despite helping his side to a Spanish title and four Champions League crowns since arriving from Tottenham Hotspur six years ago.

His brace, including a brilliant bicycle kick, sank Liverpool in the 2018 final but he was not used as a regular starter by Zidane after the Frenchman returned to the Real bench in early March.

"Gareth is a Real Madrid player and for now he's staying as a Real Madrid player," said Barnett.

"If something comes along that suits us, then things could change and he could be gone in a day or a week. Or he could still be a Real player in three years, when his contract ends."

# Ehsan Mani named chief of ICC committee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KARACHI

Pakistan Cricket Board's chairman Ehsan Mani has been appointed as the head of the ICC's influential Finance & Commercial Affairs committee.

The appointment was carried out during the International Cricket Council (ICC)'s annual conference

last week.

The PCB announced on Tuesday that another PCB official, Salman Naseer, who is its general counsel and barrister, has been included on the ICC's Safeguarding panel.

The PCB said both appointments were made by ICC chairman Shashank Manohar.

# Chelsea downs Barcelona

Abraham and Barkley fetch the goals, Arrizabalaga stands firm



In you go! Ross Barkley scores Chelsea's insurance goal. • AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SAITAMA

Goals from Tammy Abraham and Ross Barkley saw Chelsea grab a 2-1 victory over Barcelona on Tuesday in an exhibition match.

Chelsea striker Abraham opened the scoring in the 34th minute, pouncing on a botched clearance by Barcelona midfielder Sergio Busquets.

Busquets fumbled under pressure from Jorginho and the ball rolled towards Abraham who only had to step past onrushing goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen and gently send it into the net.

Four minutes later, Chelsea midfielder Christian Pulisic showed off his speed and footwork in infiltrating the Barca defence, but his left-footer went just wide.

Barcelona went on the offensive in the second half, with substitute striker Carles Perez leading the way. But superb saves by Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga

repeatedly denied Barca.

In the 55th minute Perez zipped past three defenders but his left-footer was not good enough to get past Arrizabalaga.

A few minutes later, he dashed deep into the left side to feed a high-speed cross to striker Malcom, but Arrizabalaga again denied them.

Chelsea made it 2-0 with less than 10 minutes left as midfielder Barkley picked up a cross in front of the box and curled it into the net, with substitute 'keeper Neto getting a touch but unable to block it.

Just before injury time, Barcelona got a free-kick just outside the box but midfielder Ivan Rakitic's shot went over the bar.

Rakitic, however, quickly redeemed himself in injury time, picking up a cross and firing a lightning right-footer that went deep into the net for a consolation goal for Barcelona.

# Nagal loses to Gasquet

## INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU  
HAMBURG (GERMANY)

Former World No.7 Richard Gasquet beat qualifier Sumit Nagal 6-2, 7-6(2) in the first round of the 1,855,490 ATP-500 tennis tournament in Hamburg, Germany, on Tuesday.

Sumit converted two of four breakpoints that he forced but the Frenchman capitalised on four of ten breakpoints to make it a straight-forward affair, in about an hour and 30 minutes.

Sumit collected 20 ATP points for qualification, as the first round loser does not get any point, and collected €13,065.

In the €250,000 WTA event in Latvia, the 264th-ranked Patricia Maria Tig of Romania proved too hot for Ankita Raina, in racing to a 6-2, 6-1 victory. Ankita who was the last player to be directly accepted into the draw with her rank of 173, collected one WTA point and €1,694.

**The results:** €1,855,490 ATP-500, Hamburg, Germany: Singles (first round): Richard Gasquet (Fra) bt Sumit Nagal 6-2, 7-6(2).

€ 250,000 WTA, Jurmala, Latvia: Singles (first round): Patricia Maria Tig (Rou) bt Ankita Raina 6-2, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarka, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-qualifier): Sowjanya Bavisetti & Sravya Shivani Chikalapudi bt Elena De Santis & Francesca Delledera (Ita) 6-4, 6-2.

# Chaudari yearning to lay hands on trophy

## PKL

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

It is never easy, even for a lead performer, to brush aside emotions when up against a team for which he played for six seasons. The story was no different for Rahul Chaudari when he debuted for Tamil Thalaivas against former team Telugu Titans in the Vivo PKL Season-7 the other night.

"There were a lot of emotions. I was a bit nervous. I was not sure how things would turn out. Fortunately, we were off to a winning start against Titans," said Chaudari in a chat with *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

"It was a great feeling to be back in Hyderabad and in front of such a vociferous crowd supporting me. I

loved the atmosphere and enjoyed every moment on the court against Titans."

"Honestly, I am just following the guiding principle of my coach - just do well, don't look back. I must say here that there is lot of experience and depth in Thalaivas which was not the case with Titans, where I was the only big player looked up to



Star raider: Rahul Chaudari has already come good for Tamil Thalaivas. • V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

by teammates," said the 26-year-old.

"This in a way should be of great help to me as it is a joy to play alongside such a brilliant raider like Ajay Thakur. He is a huge motivator always telling - *tujhe kahi nahi rokh sakega* (no one can stop you). And, he encourages everyone in the team in a similar way," ad-

ded the star raider.

## Depth and balance

"I sincerely hope that we will reach the final as we have the depth, balance and all-round superiority. We are determined to give more than 100 per cent and pay back to the amazing way the management is taking care of players. We were never found wanting for anything," said the Bijnor (Uttar Pradesh) native.

"I am glad that the PKL is no more about only one Rahul or Ajay Thakur. There are so many brilliant players who are now household names. This is good for the sport itself," Rahul said.

"I was never a member of a winning team. So, I am just praying to give me the opportunity of having my hand on the winner's trophy this time around," he added.

# Srinivas puts his money on team effort

Pink Panthers delighted with impressive start to season

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

"We don't believe in stardom of players. For us, the only superstar is our owner, Abhishek Bachchan," says coach Srinivas Reddy.

The 42-year-old Hyderabad, who earlier coached Haryana Steelers and Telugu Titans in the ProKabaddi League, is visibly delighted at the impressive start his team made against U Mumba on Monday night when it recorded its first-ever win over the opponent in six seasons.

"This is exactly what we are looking for - team effort. We always tell the boys to work as a unit. The focus in the camps has been on fitness with the owner himself setting the benchmark," he says in a chat with *The Hin-*



Coachspeak: Pink Panthers' Srinivas Reddy believes that body language and confidence levels are key factors. • K.V.S. GIRI

du. "It was an unforgettable experience to start on such a winning note in front of my home crowd," he says.

Srinivas, who is into his second season with the Jaipur-based outfit, says his mantra for success to his players is pretty simple - "believe that you are the best, don't look for others as

role models, you should be the ones with your performances".

"I believe that body language and the confidence level are the key factors which play a major role in any sport," says the bank manager.

For someone who played 18 senior Nationals and was

also a member of the 2006 Asian championship gold medal winning Indian team, Srinivas says the first target is to reach the play-offs. The Jaipur coach, who earlier guided India to a gold over Iran in the Dubai Masters championship, reveals that owner Abhishek, despite being a celebrity is a very simple human being, involved in the sport, and takes special care of the players' welfare, especially on the diet front.

"Abhishek keeps reminding us how his father Amitabh continues to work for long hours even now when he can actually take a break and relax. This to emphasise that there is no substitute for work," says Srinivas, who was also the Indian women's team coach in the last Asian where it settled for a silver.

## TV PICKS

**PKL:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



### Aussie Horton warned over podium protest

GWANGJU  
Australian swimmer Mack Horton has been warned by FINA after he snubbed China's Sun Yang on the podium after the 400m freestyle final in the World Championships. Horton, who took silver behind Sun, refused to pose for photos after the medal ceremony as doping allegations swirl around Sun. **AFP**

### Federation Cup basketball in Jan. 2020

CHENNAI  
Pondicherry Basketball Association (PBA) will host the Federation Cup after more than two decades, in the third week of January 2020. The Federation Cup will witness the top eight teams from the senior Nationals held at Bhavnagar, Gujarat from January 5 to 12, in action, apart from the host. In the last edition at Noida, Punjab won the men's title while Indian Navy finished second. In the women's section, Eastern Railway emerged triumphant and Tamil Nadu was the runner-up.

### TT coach Pappu to join next month

NEW DELHI  
The uncertainty over the joining of the National table tennis team's new head coach Dejan Papic ended on Tuesday when the Canadian accepted the one-year contract offered by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) had short-listed Papic back in March but it was only a couple of weeks ago that SAI sent him the contract. "He was travelling and probably that is why the delay in signing the contract. But now he has and he should be in India early next month," TTFI secretary M.P. Singh said. **PTI**

### Indians pugilists continue good run

NEW DELHI  
Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg) assured India of at least a bronze at the Thailand International boxing tournament by making the semifinals in Bangkok on Tuesday. Bhagyabati defeated Vietnam's Nguyen Huong 5-0 to make the medal round. In men's section, Ashish Kumar (69kg) entered the last-eight after easing past Croatia's Petar Cetinic 5-0 while Mohammed Hussamuddin (56kg) out-punched Botswana's George Motwantwa 5-0. **PTI**

# Sun retains 200m freestyle, snubbed again

Bronze medallist Scott refuses to shake hands; King pips Efimova in women's 100 breaststroke

## WORLD SWIMMING

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
GWANGJU (KOREA)

Sun Yang was in the middle of controversy at the World swimming championships again. Only this time, it wasn't his doing. The Chinese star still got snubbed on the medals podium again.

Sun retained the 200m freestyle crown on Tuesday after Danas Rapsys of Lithuania, who finished first, got disqualified for an apparent false start. Sun touched second, but got elevated after Rapsys had already celebrated in the pool.

Sun appeared surprised, clasping his hands to his face, but quickly sat on the lane rope and raised both arms in the air as a mix of cheers and boos rang out.

Katsuhiko Matsumoto of Japan took silver. Martin Malyutin of Russia and Duncan Scott of Britain tied for bronze.

On the podium, Scott wanted no part of sharing the moment with Sun. Scott kept his hands clasped behind his back and refused to shake Sun's hand, standing off on his own while the other medalists joined Sun to pose for photographers.

This action prompted a furious Sun to get in Scott's face and bark "You lose, I



**Well done:** Lilly King, right, being congratulated by Russia's Yuliya Efimova after the American edged out the latter in the 100m breaststroke. **REUTERS**

win!" as they walked downstairs for their lap of honour.

Sun, who served a three-month doping ban in 2014, is being allowed by FINA to compete in Gwangju ahead of a Court for Arbitration in Sport hearing in September that threatens Sun's career.

American Lilly King and Russia's Yuliya Efimova kept all the drama in the pool in the women's 100 breaststroke.

They were neck-and-neck down the stretch before King got her hand on the wall first, touching in 1:04.93. Ef-

mova was second in 1:05.49. Martina Carraro of Italy took bronze.

### Ailing Ledecky withdraws

Without three-time defending champion Katie Ledecky in the field, Simona Quadarella of Italy won the 1,500 freestyle in 15:40.89 well off Ledecky's world record of 15:20.48.

Earlier Tuesday, the American star withdrew from the final because of unspecified illness. Ledecky also dropped out of the 200

freestyle heats.

Olympic and defending world champion Ryan Murphy was upset in the men's 100 backstroke with Xu Jiayu of China winning in 52.43 seconds.

In the women's 100 backstroke, Kylie Masse of Canada won in 58.60, while USA's Kathleen Baker, the world record holder, tied for sixth after being tied for the lead at the turn.

**The results:**  
**Men: 200m freestyle:** 1. Sun Yang (Chn) 1:44.93s, 2. Katsuhiko Matsumoto (JPN) 1:45.22, 3.

Martin Malyutin (Rus) & Duncan Scott (GBR) 1:45.63.

**100m backstroke:** 1. Xu Jiayu (Chn) 52.43, 2. Evgeny Rylov (Rus) 52.67, 3. Mitch Larkin (Aus) 52.77.

**Women: 1500m freestyle:** 1. Simona Quadarella (Ita) 15:40.89, 2. Sarah Kohler (Ger) 15:48.83, 3. Wang Jianjiahe (Chn) 15:51.00.

**100m backstroke:** 1. Kylie Masse (Can) 58.60, 2. Minna Atherton (Aus) 58.85, 3. Olivia Smoliga (USA) 58.91.

**100m breaststroke:** 1. Lilly King (USA) 1:04.93, 2. Yuliya Efimova (Rus) 1:05.49, 3. Martina Carraro (Ita) 1:06.36.

## Sarthak in last eight

### TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU  
CHANDIGARH

Sarthak Gandhi defeated fourth seed Ansh Kundu 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 in the boys' under-16 pre-quarterfinals of the AITA Championship series junior tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex on Tuesday.

In another match in the same section, Ajay Kundu beat eighth seed Yogee Panwar 6-4, 6-0.

In the girls' under-16 section, qualifier Suhani Sabharwal beat sixth seed Kristi Boro 6-3, 6-3.

**The results (pre-quarterfinals):**  
**Boys: Under-18:** Krishan Hooda bt Yogee Panwar 6-0, 6-0; Karan Parashar bt Ajay Kundu 6-3, 7-5; Shashikant Rajput bt Rishi Jalota 6-3, 6-0.

Dhanya Shah bt Ajay Singh 6-4, 6-1; Divanshu Hooda bt Sukhpreet Singh Jhoje 6-2, 6-2; Bhupender Dahiya bt Atul Chhillar 6-3, 6-1.

Torus Rawat bt Manveer Singh 6-3, 6-2; Udayvir Singh bt Sonu Khan 6-0, 6-0.

**Under-16:** Arjun Kundu bt Akash Deb 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; Ajay Kundu bt Yogee Panwar 6-4,

6-0; Sarthak Gandhi bt Ansh Kundu 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Rishi Jalota bt Sarabjot Singh 6-1, 6-3; Ajay Singh bt Samar Bir Singh Sidhu 7-5, 6-1.

Dhanya Shah bt Jitin Kumar Chetry 6-2, 4-6, 6-0; Sukhpreet Singh Jhoje bt Gurust Singh Makkar 6-1, 2-6, 6-2; Kartik Saxena bt Gaurav Kumar 6-1, 6-0.

**Girls: Under-18:** Lakshmi Prabha Arunkumar bt Kristi Boro 6-1, 6-1; Harleen Kaur bt Ridhima Mehra 6-0, 6-1; Sandeep Singh Rao bt Shreya Chakraborty 6-4, 6-2.

Tanushri Pandey bt Sai Bhoyar 6-4, 6-3; Paavanii Pathak bt Ameek Kiran Batth 7-5, 6-4.

Kaavya Sawhney bt Kaavya Palani 6-1, 6-0; Aditi Singh bt Catherine Bhangu 6-1, 6-1; Vanshika Choudhary bt Kaashvi Thapliyal 6-1, 6-0.

**Under-16:** Sai Bhoyar bt Aditi Singh 6-1, 6-0; Kaavya Palani bt Vishita Jhorar 6-0, 6-2.

Lakshmi Prabha Arunkumar bt Mahika Amit Gupta 6-2, 6-3; Paavanii Paathak bt Catherine Bhangu 6-0, 6-0.

Suhani Sabharwal bt Kristi Boro 6-3, 6-3; Tanushri Pandey bt Kuhoo Atrey 6-2, 6-1.

Nandini Dixit bt Snigdha Sran 7-5, 6-0; Sanvi Ahluwalia bt Maitreyi Phogat 6-1, 6-0.

## Bhakti beats top seed Soumya

Moves in to sole lead; Vantika in second spot

### NATIONAL CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KARAIKUDI

Former Asian champion and second seed Bhakti Kulkarni defeated top seed Soumya Swaminathan in the seventh round to emerge the sole leader with 6.5 points in the 46th National women's chess championship here on Tuesday.

### Pawn advantage

Playing white in a Grunfeld Defence game, Bhakti got a pawn advantage on the 23rd move and exerted pressure on the open queenside of her rival.

Under time pressure, Soumya blundered on the 39th move to give a minor piece advantage to Bhakti and resigned immediately.

Vantika Agrawal held the upper hand for most part against Pratyusha Boddha, but failed to capitalise and shared the point with her opponent. Vantika, with six points, now holds the sole second spot.

After the sixth round,



**Stalemate:** Pratyusha Boddha held Vantika Agrawal, who had the upper hand for most part. **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

Bhakti and Vantika remained joint leaders with 5.5 points.

### Important results (seventh round, TN unless specified):

Bhakti Kulkarni (AI) 6.5 bt Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB) 5; Pratyusha Boddha (AP) 5.5 drew with Vantika Agrawal (Del) 6; Michelle Catherine 5.5 drew with P.V. Nandhidhaa 5.5; S. Meenakshi (AI) 5.5 bt Swati Ghate (LIC) 5; Harshita Gudanti (AP) 5 drew with Srija Seshadri 5; Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) 5 bt Priyanka Nutakki (AP) 4.5; J. Saranya 4 lost to Di-

nya Deshmukh (Mah) 5; S. Vijayalakshmi (AI) 4 lost to Potturi Saye Sreerza (TS) 5.

Kiran Manisha Mohanty (LIC) 5 bt M. Mahalakshmi (Rly) 4; Aarthie Ramaswamy (AI) 4.5 drew with Nisha Mohota (PSPB) 4.5; K. Priyanka 5 bt C.H. Meghna (Rly) 4; Isha Sharma (Kar) 4.5 drew with Rutuja Bakshi (Mah) 4.5; P. Bala Kannamma 5 bt Parnali S. Dharina (Mah) 4; Y. Saranya 4 lost to Nityata Jain (MP) 5; V. Nanditha (TS) 4 lost to Bagyasree Thipsay (Mah) 5; Mrudul Dehankar (Mah) 5 bt V. Rindhiya 4.

## Chanda apna lehrayega!



## Agni primed to sizzle

HYDERABAD: Agni, who is in fine trim, may score in the Major Mir Mujtaba Hussain Memorial Cup (1,200m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Wednesday (July 24).

**1. RANI LAXMI BAI PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-30 p.m.:** 1. Blazing Jupiter (II) Kuldeep Singh 56, 2. Brave Syera (7) Aneel 56, 3. Dimension (I3) Rohit Kumar 56, 4. Mehrzad (6) S.G. Prasad 56, 5. Prince Valiant (8) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 6. Son Of Sardar (10) Suraj Narredu 56, 7. Sun Dancer (3) Kunal Bunde 56, 8. Tremendous Desire (12) Santosh Raj 56, 9. Angel Tesoro (I) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 10. Augenstein (9) R. Ajinkya 54.5, 11. Flying Queen (ex: Remember Forever) (2) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 12. Her Legacy (5) N. Rawal 54.5, and 13. Silver Set (4) Harinder Singh 54.5.

**1. SON OF SARDAR, 2. MEHRZAD, 3. HER LEGACY**  
**2. CUPID PLATE (1,100m), 5-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 2-00:** 1. Invasion (I) Ashhad Asbar 60, 2. Recumbentibus (5) R. Ajinkya 60, 3. Composure (7) C.P. Bopanna 59.5, 4. Dippy Dip (10) G. Nares 59, 5. Agilis (3) A.A. Vikrant 58.5, 6. All Star General (12) Deepak Singh 58.5, 7. Cowboys Delight (2) Umesh 57.5, 8. Royal Dancer (8) Ajit Singh 57.5, 9. Silver Dollar (4) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 10. Negress Princess (11) P. Sai Kumar 56, 11. Golden Adara (9) Afroz Khan 53.5 and 12. New Hope (6) B.R. Kumar 50.

**1. INVASION, 2. AGILIS, 3. COWBOYS DELIGHT**  
**3. RANI LAXMI BAI PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 2-30:** 1. Born Creek (12) R. Ajinkya 56, 2. City Of Blossom (II) Deepak Singh 56, 3. Golden Faraska (8) P. Sai Kumar 56, 4. Premier Action (5) Umesh 56, 5. Rathasapthami (3) Kuldeep Singh 56, 6. Sterling King (6) S.G. Prasad 56, 7. Tough And Go (2) Rafique Sk. 56, 8. Vijays Maestro (7) Gopal Singh 56, 9. Aristocrats Charm (II) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 10. Flamingo Fame (10) N. Rawal 54.5, 11. Red River (4) Nakhath Singh 54.5, 12. Royal Gift (9) Ajit Singh 54.5, 13. Top Saga (13) Suraj Narredu 54.5.

**1. RED RIVER, 2. TOP SAGA, 3. VIJAYS MAESTRO**  
**4. FOND HOPE PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3-05:** 1. Warrior Supreme (3) Kiran Naidu 60, 2. Yanga (8) B.R. Kumar 59.5, 3. Somerset (4) Umesh 58.5, 4. Mozambique (I) Ashhad Asbar 58.5, 5. N R I Symbol (7) Kuldeep Singh 56, 6. New State (2) G. Nares 56, 7. Hope Is Eternal (9) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 8. Vancouver (10) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 9. Shandaar (6) Ajit Singh 54 and 10. Euro Zone (5) C.P. Bopanna 53.5.

**1. MOZAMBIQUE, 2. YANGA, 3. N R I SYMBOL**  
**5. WARANGAL PLATE (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3-35:** 1. Egyptian Prince (16) Surya Prakash 61, 2. Amazing Script (2) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 3.

**1. AGNI, 2. LAZER BEAM, 3. ROYAL DYNAMITE**  
**8. ARISTOCRACY PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5-05:** 1. Havlock Cruise (6) Kiran Naidu 60.5, 2. Consigliori (9) Surya Prakash 60, 3. Crimson Fire (11) Rohit Kumar 59.5, 4. Darshish (3) S.G. Prasad 59, 5. Southern Meteor (15) Gaurav Singh 59, 6. Spice Up (5) Nakhath Singh 58.5, 7. Zamora (14) Ashhad Asbar 58.5, 8. Snow Castle (1) B.R. Kumar 57, 9. Supurinto (4) Ajit Singh 56, 10. Handsome Duo (12) Ajeeth Kumar 52.5, 11. Moka (13) Jitendra Singh 52.5, 12. Super Act (7) Harinder Singh 52.5, 13. Wood Bridge (10) Gopal Singh 52.5, 14. Yagastha (8) Afroz Khan 52.5, 15. Ursula (16) B. Nikhil 52 and 16. Just Like That (2) P. Sai Kumar 51.

**1. CONSIGLIORI, 2. HAVLOCK CRUISE, 3. CRIMSON FIRE**  
Day's best: **AGNI**  
Double: **MOZAMBIQUE - CONSIGLIORI**  
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (I): 1, 2 & 3; (II): 3, 4 & 5 (III): 6, 7 & 8; Ta: All races.

## AITA Trust to announce scholarship

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

After four days of matches in tough conditions, as rain had increased the humidity percentage in the atmosphere, the young tennis players had fruitful sessions apart from undergoing physical fitness assessment on Tuesday at the DLTA Complex here.

"We had a very nice awareness session with the expert Dr. Ankush Gupta from National Anti Doping Agency. We had the parents also attending the session, as it is an important subject. It was a very interesting session that went on for an hour," said Prashant Menon, who was coordinating the scholarship scheme for the AITA Trust.

Apart from the anti doping awareness session, the players also had the benefit of listening to a diet and nutrition expert from the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

It was indeed a struggle for some of the under-14 kids on Monday to play two matches, in high humidity, and after three days of matches. However, there was an assurance that the results would not count

as much as the way the players conducted themselves.

With the physical fitness assessment being conducted by Dharmendra Pratap Singh, affectionately called in the tennis circles as Abhimanu, who has worked with some of the best players like Somdev Devvarman and Yuki Bhambri, it was a challenge for the young players to retain their enthusiasm and energy.

The matches were played in the best of 13-game format, which effectively meant one set. It was equally hard on the three members of the selection panel - Balram Singh, Vishaal Uppal and Ankita Bhambri - to keep track of all the players, spread over 11 courts.

There will be a final fitness assessment on Wednesday morning, both on court and in the gym, before the final list of eight boys and eight girls are announced.

The first instalment of ₹50,000 is also expected to be presented to the selected players. The players are scheduled to get ₹100,000 a year, to meet their tennis requirements through the season.