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THE HINDU

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
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NEARBY

Joyride turns tragic, two killed in accident

NEW DELHI

Two persons, including a Delhi University student, were killed and three suffered serious injuries when their speeding car hit an electric pole in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar on Sunday. The victims were out on a joyride after a birthday celebration, the police said. An eyewitness said the impact of the collision was such that the vehicle smashed the grills on the divider and broke a pole.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

Religious functions on roads banned in Aligarh

ALIGARH

The Aligarh administration has put a blanket ban on holding of religious functions on roads. The decision came after some Hindutva groups planned the recital of Hanuman Chalisa to protest against the offering of namaz on roads. The administration has taken this step as a precautionary measure to prevent any disturbance, an official said on Sunday.

NORTH & EAST ▸ PAGE 5

Now and Then

Ashok Kumar (69) was key to India lifting the men's hockey World Cup back in 1975. Ashok talks to us about hockey and his other loves.

▸ PAGE 2

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ 4 PAGES

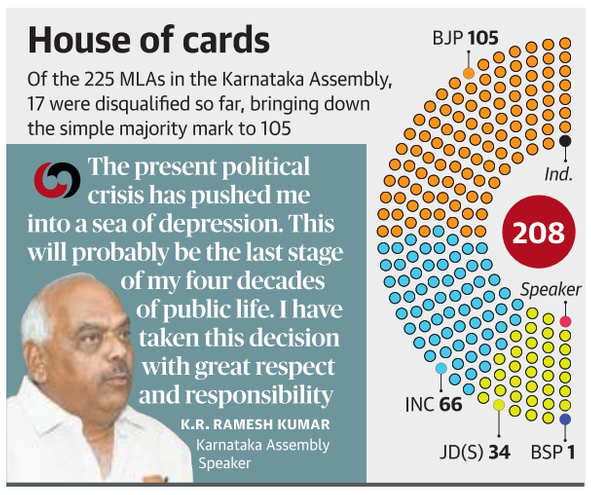
Karnataka Speaker disqualifies 14 more MLAs before trust vote

Rebels camping in Maharashtra say they will approach the Supreme Court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Ahead of the trust vote to be moved by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Monday, Karnataka Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar disqualified 14 rebel MLAs on Sunday, taking the total number of disqualified MLAs to 17 in the last four days.

Now, the effective strength of the 225-member House stands at 208 – which gives an edge to the BJP (105 + 1 Independent) that has a numerical strength of 106 members.



Abstained from session

At a press conference, Mr. Ramesh Kumar announced the disqualification of 11 Congress rebels and 3 Janata Dal (Secular) legislators – all of whom abstained from the session during which former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy lost the trust vote – with immediate effect and till the end of the term of the 15th Assembly.

Their disqualification, he said, is based on four petitions – three by the Congress and one by the JD(S) – filed before him. The disqualified legislators, camping in a resort in Maharashtra, announced that they would move the Supreme Court.

Acting on two petitions filed by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao, the Speaker disqualified Prathapgouda Patil (Maski), B.C. Patil (Hirekerur), A. Shivaram Hebbar (Yellapur), S.T. Somashekar (Yeshwanthpur), B.A. Basavaraj (K.R. Puram), B.S. Anand Singh (Vijayanagara, Ballari), R. Roshan Baig (Shivajinagar), Muniratna (Rajarajeshwari Nagar) and N. Nagaraju (Hosakote).

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SMOOTH SAILING ▸ PAGE 8

Govt. must convince industry of RCEP's benefits: Australia

Envoy bats for agreement after India Inc. raised concerns

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Australia is leading diplomats from various countries involved in the negotiations for the 15-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement to convince India to commit to the deal by the end of the year. According to High Commissioner to India Harinder Sidhu, while there is "political will" that goes "right to the top" within the Indian government to go ahead with the FTA, the government's task is to ensure Indian industry will support the decision.

"The task at hand, which I am sure the Indian government is doing, is to explain that what the RCEP will do for them is to open the door to multiple markets in one fell swoop," Ms. Sidhu said in an interview to *The Hindu*, ahead of the RCEP ministerial talks in Beijing on August 2-3. Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal will attend the talks.

Harinder Sidhu ▪ V.V. KRISHNAN

A team of Indian trade negotiators are in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, until July 31 for talks on concluding "substantial outcomes" by November 1, when the RCEP summit will be held.

Over the past week, Mr. Goyal has held a series of consultations with various industry members, most of whom are ranged heavily against the deal. They expressed serious concerns, including worries over the flooding of the market with Chinese goods, and the lack of access for Indian services in the RCEP countries, which include the 10-nation ASEAN and its five FTA partners – India, China, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

(With inputs from TCA Sharad Raghavan)

INDUSTRY STILL CAUTIOUS ON RCEP TRADE DEAL ▸ PAGE 13

Naga register will shield State from outsiders, says Dy. CM

'We are consulting civil groups and NSCN(IM)'

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Nagaland's Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton has defended the government's decision to compile a register of indigenous Naga inhabitants, arguing that it will help to safeguard the State from outsiders.

Mr. Patton, who also holds the Home portfolio, told *The Hindu*, "The Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) may take more time; we are consulting all civil society groups, including the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah). It can be delayed by a few months."

Yanthungo Patton
▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

In June, the State decided to compile a register to prevent issuance of indigenous inhabitant certificates to ineligible persons. The June 29 notification set December 1, 1963 – the day Nagaland gained Statehood – as the cut-off date.

Mr. Patton said there is a rethink on the cut-off date too: there has been a demand from a section that the date be April 28, 1977.

According to the 1977 notification, the indigenous inhabitant certificate should be issued to only those who had settled in Nagaland or had bought a property before 1963.

"Some are saying that the cut-off date should be 1963 or 1977, we have not decided anything but are contemplating on the date too. There is nothing wrong in compiling the list," said Mr. Patton.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Congress questions Centre's airport privatisation process

Why was Adani group given five airports, asks party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday attacked the Union government over its airport privatisation process and alleged that the Adani group was being favoured in the entire exercise.

The party made the charge after *The Hindu* reported on how the government had ignored the key recommendations of the NITI Aayog and the Finance Ministry that suggested a cap on the number of airports to be handed over to a single company and consideration of their prior experience in handling airport operations.

"There are 123 airports in the country operational today, and of these, only 14 are making profits. All the other airports are incurring a loss. Out of these 14 airports, five have been given to the Adani group," Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said at a press conference.

The highest bidder

After a bidding process conducted by the Airports Authority of India, Adani Enterprises Limited emerged as the highest bidder.

Mr. Khera said that though the Adani group might have emerged as the highest bidder in the tendering process, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) of the Finance Ministry had recommended a cap.

"During the UPA regime, one company, GMR, had qualified for both Delhi and Mumbai, but it was decided that one group will not be given more than one airport. Here too, the DEA had suggested that no company be given more than two airports," he said.

"The recommendations of the NITI Aayog and the DEA were set aside. We want to know why," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Jaipal Reddy passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Sudini Jaipal Reddy, 77, known for his oratorical skills and forthright views, passed away here early on Sunday following a brief illness. He is survived by wife, a daughter and two sons. Mr. Reddy was under treatment for pneumonia at a private hospital.

INDIRA GANDHI'S FEARLESS RIVAL IN MEDAK ▸ PAGE 12

U.P. rape survivor injured in accident

'Conspiracy to eliminate witnesses, family'

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The survivor of the Unnao gang rape in which BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, now jailed, is an accused was seriously injured on Sunday after a truck hit the car she was travelling in with her relatives and lawyer.

The rape survivor, her two aunts and their lawyer Mahendra Singh were in the car, when it met with the accident in Raebareli district.

Taken to Lucknow

The aunts succumbed to their injuries, while the rape survivor and her lawyer were rushed to the Trauma Centre at KGMU in Lucknow.

The four were travelling to Raebareli jail from Unnao to meet the rape survivor's uncle, who is serving imprisonment in a separate case, when the accident happened near Gurbakshganj police station around 1 p.m. The two deceased are the wife of the jailed uncle and her (wife's) sister.

Raebareli Superintendent of Police Sunil Kumar Singh said according to eyewitnesses and local villagers, an 'overspeeding truck' hit the car as it 'lost control.' It was raining at that time, the officer said.

The truck which collided with the car, while driving on the wrong side of the road, had its number plate smeared with black paint, fuelling suspicion.

The rape survivor's sister suspected foul play and alleged that the accident was a 'conspiracy' to eliminate the witnesses and family. She demanded a CBI probe into the accident, calling it murder.

"It's a conspiracy. A man is sitting inside jail and gets such things done. The administration is not doing anything," she told *The Hindu* over phone.

She alleged that Mr. Sengar, an MLA from Bangermau in Unnao, was trying to eliminate the witnesses so that "there is nobody left to run around for the case

Out of danger

Uttar Pradesh DGP O.P. Singh said the rape survivor and the lawyer were out of danger. He said the accident did not appear like a "case of conspiracy or intent to murder" but a probe was on. The truck was seized and its driver arrested, Mr. Singh said.

The security guards allotted to the victim were not travelling with the family. Mr. Singh said nine security guards were providing protection to the family.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said there was room for suspicion of murder in the case and demanded a CBI probe. "There is jungle raj in U.P.," he said, in a statement released by party chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary.

Security tightened in Jammu and Kashmir

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Enhancement of the security grid and fresh orders to local officers continued in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

While top government officials termed the measures "a routine contingency augmentation to counter any rise in militant attacks", regional parties, including the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, termed the measures a hint at "tinkering with its [the State's] special status".

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 12

NOW AND THEN

'I NEED TO KEEP MYSELF BUSY'

The still sprightly hockey player Ashok Kumar on the greatest loves of his life, and why retirement is not an option

UTHRA GANESAN

(Clockwise from left) Ashok Kumar at his residence in New Delhi; with his son Gaurav Singh, granddaughters Vrinda, Jhanvi and daughter-in-law Deepti; in action against the Netherlands in the final of the 1973 World Cup. ▪SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA, FILE PHOTO

Sitting in his living room in south Delhi's Nilgiri Apartments surrounded by family and many, many medals and trophies, Ashok Kumar holds forth. "My grandson (Amber, 13) doesn't talk about it, but he knows he can bank on me if he ever needs relationship advice," says the grandfather of three.

He looks back at 1975, probably the most important of his 69 years. It was a year of drama, uncertainty and triumph, both on and off the field, the kind generally reserved for superstars in movies. The excitement was tempered with the expectations that come from being the son of Major Dhyan Chand, the world's undisputed greatest hockey player of all time.

Not only did the wiry 25-year-old score the all-important goal that saw India edge past fierce rival Pakistan and lift its maiden Hockey World Cup, it also saw him get married, twice over, to the love of his life, Kamal. He says that's his greatest link with Delhi: it gave him a partner for life.

Kamal passed away in 2006 and he retired a year later from Indian Airlines as a manager but that hasn't dimmed his love for either her or hockey. "I cannot sit idle and spend time. It has nothing to do with wanting to work; I need to keep myself busy," says Kumar with a laugh. In fact, he hardly stays in the city for an extended period, travelling between Delhi, Jhansi and Ajmer frequently.

Work-life, balanced

After 10 years as coach with the Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy in Bhopal since its inception, he moved to the Ajmer Girls' Academy, a post he continues to hold. "At times, there is so much travelling that I lose track of where I am exactly. Jhansi, Delhi, Ajmer, Bithoor, Agra – for hockey or family, I keep moving around. I used to drive all over but now my kids insist against it to avoid accidents," he says.

Having first arrived in Delhi in 1969, as a student of Rajasthan University and part of the Combined Universities team at the Nehru Gold Cup, the Jhansi resident had no idea his life would become inextricably linked to the city.

"That was the first visit, but my first proper stint in Delhi was in 1970-71 as part of a national camp. By then, the India dream had already materialised at the 1970 Asian Games, where we got silver. Our camps used to be held at the National Stadium and we stayed in dormitories at the stadium itself," Kumar reminisces. The same rooms were later used to house the trainees of the Air India Hockey Academy, which produced some of India's best players over the years, including the likes of Adrian D'Souza, Deepak Thakur and Gagan Ajit Singh.

His current residence may tick all the right boxes – location, facilities, accessibility – to qualify as an elite locality in the city but Ashok Kumar isn't one to forget the past. "We used to get ₹4 as daily allowance back then, with a month- or month-and-a-half-long camps. It wasn't easy to get the best diet within that amount even back then. So we used to walk down in groups to Pandara market, where we could get *dal* free if we ordered enough *rotis*, for lunch. Saving enough over a week meant we could pool in and have chicken or mutton about thrice a week for dinner," he laughs.

Unlike today, players were simpler. "Some players from Punjab who had friends or families in the city would go occasionally to meet them. For others like me, the stadium was everything – because we knew nothing of the city and we didn't have money either. After morning practice, we would have lunch. Then I would pick up my stick and simply walk into the field and practise alone, trying to work out what I needed to do in the evening session. I had always heard from Dadda [as Dhyan Chand is fondly called even today] that you need to work on your game alone if you want to be the best," he remembers.

Away from hockey, Kumar has only one hobby – singing. He never bothered to develop anything else, specially since it was his singing that brought him close to Kamal for the first time.

Relationship-wise

He spent the first three years in Delhi at friend Ranjit Singh's house in the Karol Bagh area. Ranjit played for India for a while before settling in Barcelona. He also worked with the Indian team as a penalty corner coach for a while. "Back then, it was a mohalla culture where people used to come out on the roads with their folding beds, talk and sing late into the night. Kamal used to stay nearby and would listen to my songs. It gradually developed into attraction and we would occasionally meet at Gurdwara Bangla Sahib or Birla Mandir. I had moved into a rented accommodation in RK Puram by then and was also constantly in national camps across the country, so we hardly got time together, but it was enough," he smiles.

ASHOK KUMAR, 69, FORWARD

CAREER SPAN: 1970-1979

PLAYED: Olympics 1972 (bronze), 1976 (7th); World Cup 1971 (bronze), 1973 (silver), 1975 (gold); Asian Games 1970 (silver), 1974 (silver), 1978 (silver)

HONOURS: Arjuna award

KNOWN FOR: Speed and ball control

FOR THE RECORD: Scored the winning goal against Pakistan in the 1975 World Cup final, the only time India won the title

The climax came in 1975, soon after the team returned victorious from the World Cup. "We were overnight stars! Even though hockey was big back then and people knew all about even non-star players, with blanket coverage in the media, the World Cup took us all to a different level altogether." He landed in Delhi, to find Kamal and his mother at the airport - both had arrived separately; neither knew each other. "Introductions done, we went our separate ways. The national camp reassembled in Bangalore soon after but in between, we ended up marrying at an Arya Samaj temple with five witnesses and both families unaware of it," he says.

A fortnight later, he got a letter from Kamal saying her family was trying to get her married. "It was a shocker. I came to Delhi and convinced her to deboard at Subzi Mandi station on her way back from Amritsar. We spent a couple of nights at different friends' places before flying to Agra to my sister's place. We then moved to Jhansi and while my mother accepted the marriage, my father explained how it would be humiliating if her family filed a complaint."

So back he came to Delhi, to inform her parents, only to find they had left for Jhansi! "I rode back on my Jawa [motorcycle] all the way, about 450 km, had an accident in between and broke three toes, but finally they were cordial enough and only wanted a proper marriage with all rituals. That was in July and finally, on August 11, we tied the knot a second time," he says.

All these experiences have made him much wiser in terms of understanding and accepting people. "My daughter, Preeti, had a love marriage and I have a fantastic son-in-law. I have learnt to accept people without judging them because I understand everyone has some reason for behaving the way they do," he explains.

What he cannot accept is the fact that playing for the country seems not to be a priority anymore. "I am not against players earning money or stardom – they have to and they deserve it. But if it becomes more important than playing and winning medals for the country, then there is a disconnect somewhere. We can proudly claim we have 13 major medals in our family and nothing can ever beat that. Winning medals for the country can never be secondary but sadly, that seems to be the case now," he says.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	64	Gurugram	40
Ghaziabad	54	Faridabad	41
Noida	41	Greater Noida	48

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

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

DELHI TODAY

Talk: A one-day conference on "Education for Equity and Social Responsibility" focusing specifically on school education. The keynote address will be delivered by Gopal Krishna Gandhi, former Governor of West Bengal; and the Valedictory Address will be delivered by Prof. Krishna Kumar at Multipurpose Hall, IIC , 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Talk: "Piloting Justice", a panel discussion on Delhi High Court's 'Zero Pendency Courts' project. The discussion will focus on the findings from this project, feasibility of carrying out pilot projects to study other facets of the judicial process, and what such an approach could mean to judicial reforms in the country. Panellists: Justice (Retd.) Madan B. Lokur, Supreme Court of India; R. Venkataramani, Senior Advocate Supreme Court; and Mr. Arvind Datar, Senior Advocate, High Court of Madras, moderated by Harish Narasappa at Lecture Hall II, India International Centre Annexe, 6 p.m

Dance: Guruvai Namah 2019 - an evening of Kathak recitals. Kathak duet by Dheerendra Tiwari & Samiksha Sharma; Kathak solo by Dr. Shambhauvi Shukla Mishra; Kathak duet by Shashi Sankhla & Dr. Geetanjali Singh at The Stein Auditorium, IHC, 7 p.m.

Dance: India International Rural Cultural Centre presents Bharatanatyam dance recital by Revathi Srinivasraghavan from Mumbai at Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School, E-Block, Nand Nagri, 9 a.m. and Govt. Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, A-Block, Nand Nagri, 11 a.m.

Exhibition: "Fontwala: Stone to mobile, what remains?" by Rajeev Prakash Khare & Shubhra Prakash at Digital Art Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: Celebrating Delhi's rich built heritage by Vidur Sodhani at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Theatre: "Tilsem-e-Hoshruba", a Urdu drama will be staged as part of the ongoing Urdu Drama festival organised by the Ghalib Institute, at Ghalib Auditorium, Aiwan-e-Ghalib Marg, 6:30 p.m.

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

CCS rules inimical to intellectual inquiry, says JNU teachers' body

'Implementation of rules in one university could lead to reverberations in others'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Responding to the "chargesheeting" of 48 teachers for participating in a protest in July 2018, the JNU Teachers' Association (JNUTA) has said that they were being "selectively and vindictively targeted". The chargesheet was framed under Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules 1965,

The teachers' body said that the JNU administration was targeting teachers for "raising their voices against the misdeeds and mismanagement of the university".

The JNUTA said that CCS rules in one university will lead to reverberations in all others and will have an adverse impact on higher education through a number of clauses that are inimical to intellectual inquiry.

The JNUTA said it will resist any attempt to impose CCS rules on teachers.

The JNUTA said that it was "shocked" at the JNU administration's open defiance of the Human Resource Development Ministry's stated position on the non-applicability of CCS rules to the teaching community.

The JNUTA said that "protests in the university over proposed amendments to the Ordinance pertaining to service conditions and tenure of JNU teachers forced the university Vice-Chancellor to withdraw his plans to impose CCS rules in the 276th meeting of the JNU Executive Council held on October 22, 2018, and publicly declare through a press release on the same day that no CCS rules have been incorporated in JNU ordinances."

The association said that they would resist any attempt to impose CCS rules on JNU teachers as they are "antithetical to the idea of a university and are thoroughly unsuited and inapplicable to activities that involve teaching and research".

"The JNUTA General Body Meeting notes that this arbitrary targeting of 48 teachers is the latest in a chain of arbitrary disciplinary proceedings being initiated against individual teachers, with the sole goals of harassment and intimidation. Inquiries are announced on the flimsiest of pretexts and conducted without even the pretence of due process and guarantee of natural justice," the JNUTA said.

The teachers also pointed out that former Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar, in a tweet on October 20, 2018, had said: "We have neither put any restrictions not intend to put any restrictions on Freedom of Speech in JNU, DU or any other university."

IP University extends deadline for M.Voc. courses

Asks candidates and their parents to be wary of touts promising seats

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

IP University on Sunday announced that the last date for submission of application form for Master of Vocation (M.Voc.) programme has been extended to August 20. The university offers M.Voc. in Automobile, Software Development and in Interior Design.

Admission to these courses will be given on the basis of last qualifying exams such as B.Voc. and other applicable degrees mentioned in the admission brochure available on the university's website – www.ipu.ac.in

In a statement, the university said that admission to its various programmes are given purely on the basis of merit through a transparent process comprising either online or offline counselling.

It also warned students and parents to stay away from agents or touts promising them admission.

"The counselling process provides facilities for proper display of seat matrix as well as admitted list of students along with their merit. However, it has come to the knowledge of the university that some agents/touts, claiming to be representatives of the university and promising to facilitate or give admissions in various programmes in the university or affiliated institutes, are demanding money," the university said.

The university has asked candidates and their parents to inform the Chief Vigilance Officer/Registrar, GGSIP University, in case they are approached by any tout or agent.

Teachers' groups buckle up, start campaigning for DUTA elections

Polling, counting of votes to be held on August 29

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Various teachers' groups have started campaigning for elections to the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA), which will be held in late August.

Candidates will be fighting for various posts of the DUTA executive panel, including president and members, which places teachers' issues in front of the administration and the government.

Among the groups that have thrown their hat in the ring are the Democratic Teachers' Front (DTF), which is currently in power; the National Democratic Teachers' Front (NDTF) and the Academics for Action and Development (AAD).

The DTF, which has won the last four elections consecutively has fielded current president Rajib Ray for the post again. DTF said it has tirelessly organised protests, petitions and fought for the rights of teachers. In a statement, it highlighted its efforts to resist government moves to "nudge universities and colleges towards the market" such as a proposal to "generate 30% of expenditure through commercial activities", and the autonomous college scheme which would turn colleges into "commercial entities". It also highlighted campaigns to restore the 200-point reservation roster, and taking up of pension-related issues of teachers and employees.

The DTF's primary contender, the NDTF, has fielded former executive and academic council member A.K. Bhagi, from the Chemistry Department at Dayal Singh College. In a statement, the group highlighted its efforts to fight for teachers' rights by negotiating with the administration and agitating when required. Given that the present government at the Centre has a favourable attitude towards teachers' issues, , it is critical to give rest to Left-affiliated groups that have taken recourse in protests, going to court and other routes that have kept teachers from working over the last several years, it said.

The AAD has fielded Anju Jain from the Department of Commerce at Shyam Prasad Mukherji College. She called for an "overhaul" of the educational landscape to motivate teachers to work.

The election will take place on August 29, with votes being counted on the same day.

DUTA demands additional funds, posts

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has written to the University Grants Commission (UGC) demanding the sanctioning of additional funds and posts for teachers to DU on account of expansion due to the EWS reservation.

While the DUTA welcomed the UGC's recent move to initiate sanctioning of additional posts under the second tranche for the OBC expansion, it said that funds granted for EWS expansion were inadequate.

'Quality of education'

"The DUTA has been repeatedly writing to you to take immediate steps so that the quality of education does not suffer," it said.

Introduction of the Choice-Based Credit System at the postgraduate level this year also warrants adequate number of teachers, it added.

The association stated that the release of the second tranche and posts for EWS expansion was crucial to mitigate the difficulties faced by those displaced by implementation of EWS reservation in teaching cadre.

During its heyday, the Basant Lok Market was frequented by foreigners and diplomats living in Vasant Vihar... there was a craze for imported chocolates and food items

KIRAN KALRA, resident of Nizamuddin

Jaan hi nahi hai market mein [It has become a lifeless market]. Business is affected because of the reconstruction of the floor here. Who would like to come here to buy things? Only our regular customers visit us. We mostly rely on home delivery and online business. Footfall of foreigners has also dropped because they don't want to come to this under-construction market

SURESH DUA, manager in Modern Bazaar

In the mid 90s, watching a film at Priya was a delight. In those days the front-row ticket used to cost ₹3 and the scooter parking cost ₹2

RAVINDER SINGH, resident of D-Block, Vasant Vihar

The quality of work is very poor. The ground reality was exposed after the recent heavy rain when the floor was flooded in front of many shops. Even the ramp is badly constructed

NAVEEN, owner of Citi Shoppe

I used to watch all the latest movies here. It was a weekend hang-out spot with friends, I used to buy a cup of coffee for ₹10 from any kiosk here and roam the market

VINAYAK UNIYAL, a PhD student

My income has been hit since the renovation of the movie hall started and the footfall dropped. Even the metro [Vasant Vihar metro station which opened in 2018] has not been able to bring business to the market. Since the hall shut down for reconstruction, nobody comes to the market

SAFEEQ AHMED, owner of a food shop

Priya's problem: posh past, future tense

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

Once a favourite hang-out for Delhiites, Priya market seems to have lost the race to swanky malls and multiplexes. As its redevelopment continues, the shopping complex watches with anticipation

CITY MATTERS

Priya Market in Vasant Vihar, one of Delhi's most trendy shopping centres till a decade ago, has lost its charm to the swanky stretch of new malls in nearby Vasant Kunj.

Continuous redevelopment work in the market has kept the shoppers further away from the place.

Originally known as Basant Lok Market, Priya market got its name from the popular theatre on its premises. It used to be a hub of activity, featuring pubs, restaurants, banks, bookshops, high-end grocery stores and open spaces, free of traffic.

Its decline began when many of the shops shifted out of the market to the malls. Popular among them were Swatch, Reebok, Adidas, Nike, Puma, Woodland, Punjabi by Nature, Nirulas, Yo! China, United Colours of Benetton, KFC, Passion - My cup of Tea, TGIF, and Subway.

Decline in footfall

Suresh Dua, a manager in Modern Bazaar in the market, said: "*Jaan hi nahi hai market mein* [it has become a lifeless market]. Business is affected because of the reconstruction of the floor here. Who would like to come here to buy things? Only our regular customers visit us. We mostly rely on home delivery and online business. Footfall of foreigners has also dropped because they don't want to come to this under-construction market. They [the authorities] took a year and a half to build this and again they have broken it."

The redevelopment of the market was completed in March but traders complained that the job was left incomplete. A trader from Basant Lok Community Centre Welfare Association said that in 2014, the then Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung gave approximately ₹10 crore for the redevelopment project which got the final clearance in 2016.

The renovation started in December 2017 and it was supposed to be completed in a year, but the work got extended till March 2019.

"It was inaugurated by Hardeep Puri, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, in the presence of Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal, despite the work not being up to the mark. The market still looks shabby and the DDA [Delhi Development Authority] has not given us any reason for it. We have stopped saying anything because then the work will stop, causing delay in the change of flooring which would eventually affect our business," the trader said.

Asked when the flooring would be completed, a shop owner said it will take another six months.

He also said that despite the new flooring, there is a waterlogging problem in the area and it seems it is not going to get better anytime soon. The municipal corporation has slapped a challan of ₹2 lakh on the DDA for the waterlogging, he said.

Theatre renovation

The market suffered another dent to its business when the PVR Priya Cinemas closed for renovation.

Safeeq Ahmed, a food shop owner who was relocated due to the renovation work, said: "My business is badly affected. They have given me a shop at the back, earlier my shop was in the front [of the theatre complex]. My income has lessened since the renovation of the movie hall started and the footfall dropped."

He added that earlier he used to earn ₹6,000 to ₹7,000 a month but now it has come down to ₹2,000.

"Even the metro [Vasant Vihar metro station which opened in 2018] has not been able to bring business to the market. Earlier, moviegoers used to come here and my stall was running smoothly, but since the hall shut down for reconstruction of the walking path, nobody comes to Priya."

The cinema hall reconstruction work will be over only by next year, claimed a shopkeeper. When contacted, PVR Cinemas did not give a date for completion.

Shoppers complained that the newly laid-out cobblestones are dangerous as there have been instances when women have tripped after their heels got stuck in the gaps. Senior citizens too find it difficult to walk on them. Naveen, the owner of Citi Shoppe, said: "The quality of work is very poor. The reality was exposed after the heavy rain two days ago when the floor was flooded in front of many shops. Even the ramp is badly constructed."

(Clockwise from bottom left) Shopkeepers say reflooring of the market is not up to the mark and is taking a lot of time; the fountain in the market square is being converted into an amphitheatre; renovation of PVR Priya Cinemas under way. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Traders said they have had to let go of staff and rope in family members to run their shops because of the slump in profits.

"It's 2 p.m. and I have not sold anything yet," said a shop owner. Asked if he thinks the situation will improve, he said: "Once the hall reopens, I think the sales would improve because people will start coming here."

Good old days

Reminiscing about the days when Priya Cinema used to be a big draw for youngsters, Ravinder Singh, a resident of D Block, Vasant Vihar, said: "In the mid 90s, watching a film at Priya was a delight. In those days the front-row ticket used to cost ₹3 and the scooter parking cost ₹2. The parking area was just behind the movie hall. Those with front-row tickets used to barge in with the word go as the sitting arrangement was on first come, first served basis for the best seat in those five rows. I have done that too."

Kiran Kalra, a resident of Nizamuddin, said Modern Bazaar was her favourite haunt. "In those days there was a craze for imported chocolates and food items. Foreigners and diplomats living in Vasant Vihar would frequent the place regularly. Once my friend Ritu and I spotted Teji Bachchan in the store. She was the mother of Amitabh Bachchan, the superstar! He was then recovering from his near-fatal accident on the sets of the film Coolie. We immediately went to the card section and bought a card for him [Amitabh] and excitedly gave it to his mother requesting her to hand it over to him," Ms. Kalra said.

Traders hope the new additions to the market, such as the amphitheatre that has come up in place of the fountain, and the metro will bring back the good old days once the theatre reopens, but until then the market seems to be a shadow of its past.

Three bodies found in IIT-D: man died three hours after women

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two days after three members of a family were found dead in their flat on IIT-Delhi campus, the autopsy report has revealed a time gap of three hours in the deaths, a police officer said on Sunday.

The post-mortem report stated that the cause of all the deaths was ante-mortem, said the officer.

The preliminary medical reports found that the women (mother and wife of the man) hanged themselves at the same time while the man died three hours later. The contents found in the stomach of the man and his mother were similar in nature.

'Man found women dead'

It seems that the man found his mother and wife dead after he came back from office. He then killed himself. No foul play has been found, said the police. The main gate of the flat was found open but no entry of any outside person was found in the flat, said a police officer.

He added that a day before the suicide, the wife had made multiple calls to her mother.

The woman's mother had lodged a complaint of domestic violence against her son-in-law on July 7.

A case has been registered under section 304 (B) and 498 (A) of the IPC.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -7.30 p.m.

Birthday joyride turns tragic, two dead in road accident

Three others seriously injured; driver was speeding and lost control, say police

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Two persons, including a Delhi University student, were killed and three others suffered serious injuries when their speeding car hit an electric pole in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar on Sunday.

The victims were out on a joyride after a birthday celebration, said the police.

A PCR call about an accident near Surya Nagar red light in Vivek Vihar was received at 5.30 a.m.

An eyewitness said the impact of the collision was such that the vehicle smashed the grills on the divider and broke a pole in half. "Even after hitting the pole, the car did not stop but bounced and hit the footpath and overturned. We all rushed to rescue the occupants," said Mukesh, an auto mechanic.

A police team reached the spot and rushed the victims to a hospital. DCP (Shahdara) Meghna Yadav said Rubal Sama (20) and Prabhjot Singh (19) were declared brought dead by doctors at GTB Hospital while Keshav, Arshpreet and Lakshya are undergoing treatment at various hospitals.

The police said the car was being driven by its owner, Lakshya, a resident of Kamla Nagar. Rubal was from Sirsa and was pursuing a degree from Delhi University. Prabhjot used to live in Malka Ganj. Arshpreet is also from Sirsa and a DU student.

The mangled remains of the car. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Partying till morning

On Saturday, they all gathered at a flat in Dilshad Garden to celebrate Arshpreet's birthday. They partied till morning and then decided to meet a friend in Surya Nagar. On their way back to Dilshad Garden, Lakshya lost control of his car and rammed into a road divider before hitting an electricity pole and overturning.

"Rubal was sitting on the front seat next to Lakshya while Keshav, Prabhjot and Arshpreet were sitting in the back. Prabhjot was in the middle," said a police officer.

The CCTV footage confirmed that no other vehicle was involved in the incident.

The police said Lakshya was speeding.

Only the driver was wearing a seat belt, which saved his life. The others were thrown out of the car due to the impact.

"We have taken Lakshya's blood sample to ascertain whether he was under the influence of alcohol while driving. An FIR under sections 279 (rash driving) and 304 A (causing death by negligence) of the IPC has been registered at Vivek Vihar police station on the basis of information received. We are yet to recieve a complaint in the case," said Ms Yadav.

Policeman shot at while foiling abduction bid in Gurugram

One of the accused arrested, two others are absconding

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

A Special Police Officer (SPO) with the Gurugram Police was shot at while foiling an attempt by three people to abduct a man at Atul Kataria Chowk on Saturday night. The police officer is said to be stable.

One of the accused has been arrested while the other two are absconding.

Anshul, a wrestler, was arrested a few hours after the incident. He is involved in several criminal cases in Haryana and Delhi, and has confessed to having shot at SPO Jaivir Singh, said the police.

Anshul and his accomplices were driving around in their car looking for a possible victim when they hit a luxury car vehicle from behind at Atul Kataria Chowk around 11 p.m., said the police. When the man in the car, later identified as a relative of a liquor trader, got down, the trio tried to push him inside their vehicle to abduct him for ransom.

Anshul in police custody. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Deployed at roundabout

A police team deployed at the roundabout to manage the movement of Kanwariyas rushed to the spot when they heard the man screaming for help. The accused attempted to drive away in the victim's luxury car but could not escape as two cars coming from the opposite direction blocked the way. As the accused tried to flee, Mr. Singh caught up to the car and opened the rear door when he was shot in the stomach by one of the accused.

Anshul allegedly told the police that he along with his two accomplices, including a woman, had stolen an SUV from Panipat in July and had come to Gurugram to steal another car.

The accused, who dropped out from college, had allegedly stolen a car in Jhajjar in 2013. He was arrested and spent over three months in jail where he came in contact with Pradeep Dhaiya, a notorious criminal. He spent 18 months in Tihar Jail in an attempt to murder case in 2014. He was twice arrested by the Delhi Police in 2017 for possessing illegal weapons.

Gurugram Police Commissioner Muhammad Akil awarded appreciation letters and ₹5,000 in cash to each of the nine policemen for foiling the abduction, and arresting one of the accused.

Man involved in over 100 cases of car theft arrested from south-east Delhi

Police say he is the head of the 'Anna gang', which steals vehicles in the National Capital Region and sells them in the grey market in Meerut

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Sunday said it arrested a man involved in over 100 cases of vehicle theft and for allegedly operating an inter-State gang of car thieves in the Delhi-NCR.

The police recovered 11 stolen vehicles from Delhi, Meerut and Garh Mukteshwar. The gang used to sell the stolen cars in the grey market in Meerut. The gang stole over 100 vehicles in the past few years, said the police.

Recruit youngsters

Chinmoy Biswal, DCP (South-East), said Zahid alias Anna is a resident of Meerut. He would recruit youth and train them on how to steal cars quickly by dismantling the security features of vehicles.

Zahid was treated like a big brother in the gang and its members used to call him 'Anna', said the police. Soon, the gang came to be known as the 'Anna Gang' in Delhi and Meerut, said Mr. Biswal.

Zahid was treated like a big brother in the gang and its members used to call him 'Anna'

On July 23, the police received information that the kingpin of a gang involved in vehicle thefts would be going from Kalkaji temple towards Chirag Delhi in a stolen car.

A trap was laid but when the team spotted the car and tried to intercept it, the driver attempted to speed away. He was, however, arrested.

"The man behind the wheels was Zahid. We arrested him when he failed to produce the original documents of the car, which was found stolen from west Delhi's Rohini this year," said the DCP.

Mr. Biswal said that Zahid's interrogation led them to places in various parts of Delhi, Meerut, and Garh Mukteshwar from where stolen vehicles were recovered between July 23 and July 27.

Zahid also disclosed that he started stealing vehicles in early 2000 and was first arrested in 2005.

"Zahid confessed to having stolen over 100 cars from Delhi-NCR in the past few months. His gang mostly used to steal cars as per the demands of the receivers. The gang members used to park the stolen vehicles in remote areas and often changed their parking places," Mr. Biswal added.

Zahid in police custody standing in front of the recovered stolen vehicles. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IN BRIEF

Man held for entering airport on fake ticket

NEW DELHI

A man was apprehended at the Delhi Airport by CISF personnel for allegedly using a fake ticket to enter the terminal area, a senior official said Sunday. The passenger has been handed over to the police. He has been booked him on charges of criminal trespass.

Woman dies in house fire caused by cylinder leak

NEW DELHI

A 60-year-old woman died on Sunday in a fire triggered by a leaking gas cylinder at her home in outer Delhi's Nihal Vihar, said Fire Service officials. Amma Devi was alone in the house at the time of the incident, they said. The fire department said it received a call about the incident at 12.50 p.m. The fire was brought under control within half-an-hour.

HC puts brake on investment firm using 'Suzuki' in its name

Defendant adopted the word with dishonest and mala fide intention, notes court

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court put a brake on an Indian investment and finance firm from using the word 'Suzuki' as part of its corporate name after Suzuki Motor Corporation challenged it as an infringement of its trademark.

The court termed as "afterthought" the explanation given by the Kolkata-based firm that it adopted the word 'Suzuki' based on the name of a friend.

'No justification'

"There is no justification on part of the defendant [Suzuki India Limited] to use trademark Suzuki as part of the corporate name in as much as Suzuki is a Japanese surname and is not associated with any Indian name, place, object or term," said Justice J.R. Midha.

The Japanese multinational company, which has business relations in about 190 countries around the world, had moved the High Court seeking to permanently restrain the Indian firm from using the word 'Suzuki' in its name.

Suzuki Motor Corporation said, in December 2005, the court had restrained Suzuki India Limited from using the word 'Suzuki' as part of its trade or corporate name.

The car and motorcycle maker said it is the registered proprietor of the trademark 'Suzuki' in about 169 countries worldwide, including India.

In addition, Suzuki Motor said it owns about 5,000 other trademarks worldwide including, Suzuki Swift, Alto, Vitara, Samurai, Baleno, and Ignis in India.

Suzuki Motor and the Indian government formed a joint venture company, Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) to produce cars in India in 1982. The joint venture launched Maruti 800 in 1983-84. "Around the same time in 1982, the defendant [firm] with clearly dishonest and mala fide intention adopted the name Suzuki India Limited," Suzuki Motor claimed in its plea.

"The word Suzuki is the family name of the founder of the plaintiff [Suzuki Motor] and is not in any way connected with the defendant," it argued.

The court, in its 30-page verdict, remarked: "The defendant adopted the name Suzuki with the dishonest and mala fide intention of encashing upon the widespread goodwill, name and reputation attached to the plaintiff's name".

Restraining the use of the word 'Suzuki' by the Kolkata-based firm, the court said, "The defendant's illegal adoption of the mark Suzuki without authorization from the plaintiff will also lead to undesirable and highly prejudicial consequences which will whittle down the reputation and goodwill attached to the plaintiff's trademark".

'Daughter-in-law, grandchild not covered under city health scheme'

Says HC while dismissing plea of retired govt. employee

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

Daughter-in-law and grandchild cannot be included as beneficiaries under the Delhi government's Employees Health Scheme (DGEHS), the High Court has said while dismissing a plea of a retired government employee.

The petitioner had sought an extension of the health plan to his widowed daughter-in-law and grandchild.

'A compelling case'

Justice Vibhu Bakhru noted that though the man put forward a compelling case with regard to the medical needs of the two mentioned, however, "medical care facilities under DGEHS cannot be extended to them since they were not the specified beneficiaries of the scheme".

The court order came on the plea of Hukm Tejpratap Singh, a retired government employee who served as a Trained Graduate Teacher (Hindi) in the Directorate of Education, Delhi, for over 30 years. In 1998, the government formulated the DGEHS for providing medical facilities and health benefits to its employees and pensioners. The scheme was also extended to their dependents.

> **The contention that since DGEHS covers some members of his/her family, the same should also extend to all other members, is unsustainable**
>
> DELHI HIGH COURT

Mr. Singh said his son died in 2013 due to dengue.

In 2015, he sought an update of his DGEHS card by seeking the inclusion of the name of his grandson and daughter-in-law as beneficiaries under the scheme.

He contended that they are family members and are completely dependent on him pursuant to the death of his son. However, his plea was denied on the grounds that under the prevalent rules, daughters-in-law and grandchildren are not covered as dependent family members.

The court said: "The contention that since DGEHS covers some members of his/her family, the same should also extend to all other members who are equally part of his/her family, is unsustainable".

"Persons who do not have benefit of the said scheme would necessarily have to be catered to by other measures. So far as the decision of the respondents [the government] to limit the scheme to only some members of a member's family is concerned, the same cannot be faulted," the Delhi High Court said.

Hooda to hold mega public rally in August

To discuss strategy for Assembly polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda will sound Congress's poll bugle for the upcoming Assembly poll in the State at a mega public meeting, Parivartan Maha Rally, in Rohtak on August 18.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's sitting MLAs and other senior leaders in Delhi on Sunday.

Mr. Hooda said the leaders discussed strategies on how to "throw out" the BJP government in Haryana.

He added that a meeting of workers will be held at New Grains Market in Rohtak on August 4 to prepare for the rally. Public sentiment is against the BJP government in the State and all sections of society want a change, the leader said.

The meeting, however, once again underscored factionalism in the party with Haryana Congress party president Ashok Tanwar and a few other senior leaders staying away.

Mr. Tanwar has set up a separate group to prepare for the election and had also held a meeting earlier this month in Gurugram to devise a strategy for the upcoming polls.

However, none of the sitting MLAs attended the meeting.

Downplaying the tussle over State leadership issue, Mr. Hooda said that the party MLAs had already adopted a resolution urging the high command to make a decision in this regard.

While hinting at the need for change in State leadership, Mr. Hooda said that the Congress should fight the BJP government, which had miserably failed on all fronts, with its full strength.

Remembering the heroes

Tri-services band performs at the India Gate during Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations on Sunday. ▪SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Plea seeking relief for guest teachers dismissed

HC imposes ₹10,000 cost on petitioner

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has junked a petition seeking direction to the Delhi government not to disengage guest teachers.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar said petitioner organisation Dilli Athithi Shikshak Sangh wanted "legal appointment of illegal appointees" and there was no reason to entertain this.

The court imposed a cost of ₹10,000 on the petitioner to be deposited with the Delhi High Court Bar Association Library Fund.

It said the petition was espousing the cause of teachers and it was purely a service matter of back door entrance. The High Court said regularisation of services of guest teachers cannot be done in this type of petition and it has to be done based upon service rules.

> **Dilli Athithi Shikshak Sangh wants legal appointment of illegal appointees... there is no reason to entertain this**
>
> DELHI HIGH COURT

It said public at large needs to be given a chance to apply for the vacancies of teachers in Delhi government schools.

The petition, which mentioned huge vacancies of teachers in government schools here, said if the Delhi government is allowed to terminate/ disengage/ relieve guest teachers in an arbitrary and opaque manner, it would directly affect the students who are studying in these schools. It said this will also reduce the quality of education in schools.

Light rain to continue, mercury likely to rise

The Capital has recorded 193 mm of rainfall between July 1 and July 27

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Moderate rainfall continued in the Capital with the Safdarjung weather station recording 6.2 mm of rainfall on Sunday. More rain is expected over the next few days.

The city recorded a maximum of 34.4 degrees Celsius, which is normal for the season, and a minimum of 25.8 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal. The humidity oscillated between 97% and 67%.

Motorists caught in the rain in GTB Nagar on Sunday. ▪SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Forecast for today

The forecast for Monday (July 29) reads: "Generally cloudy sky with light rain/ thunderstorm likely to occur." The temperatures are, however, likely to increase and hover between 28 and 36 degrees Celsius.

The bulletin released by the Meteorological department shows that the maximum temperature will rise over the next 48 hours before falling to between 31 to 32 degrees Celsius thereafter.

Delhi has recorded 193 mm of rainfall between July 1 and July 27, which is around 1% more than the 30-year average of 190.4 mm, officials said. Overall, it has received 204.2 mm of precipitation against the long-term average of 255.9 mm since June 1, when the monsoon season starts, a deficiency of around 20%, according to India Meteorological Department data. The Safdarjung observatory recorded 50.2 mm of rainfall, the heaviest in the monsoon season this year, on July 22. The weather station at Palam gauged 61 mm of precipitation on July 18.

The monsoon trough has shifted to Rajasthan. It will again move towards the Delhi-NCR region on July 31, bringing more rain.

(With PTI inputs)

Parents informed about facilities, provisions of POCSO in SDMC schools

Parent-Teacher Meeting sees 80% turnout

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Around 80% of parents turned up for the parent-teacher meet held for 581 primary schools of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Sunday, the civic body said.

At the meetings, the parents were updated about the facilities provided by the schools like provision for stationery, textbooks, uniform subsidies, science clubs, installation of CCTV cameras, welfare schemes for girl students and minorities, mid-day meals, and steps taken for behavioural adjustments and mental and physical development of students.

The doctors and staff of the School Health Scheme briefed the parents on hygiene. The teachers and parents were also given demonstrations of CPR and told how to prevent water-borne diseases and informed about provisions of the POCSO Act, the SDMC said. The parents called for a mechanism to keep the exchange of views with the administration active in order to monitor students on educational advancements and shortcomings, the civic body said. They also called for the monitoring of mid-day meals on a daily basis.

The parents called for the monitoring of mid-day meals on a daily basis. ▪FILE PHOTO

The political leadership of the SDMC visited multiple schools. Mayor Sunita Kangra said the valuable feedback from the parents would help make interventions to improve the students' health, well-being and learning aptitudes. Education committee chairperson Nandini Sharma said it was essential to make students aware of the POCSO Act to protect them and especially in the face of challenges due to the excessive use of social media.

Two kill man to avenge death of friend, held

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly killing a man in north-east Delhi to avenge the death of their friend, the police said on Sunday.

The accused – Danish (22) and Aman – both from Welcome, each carried a reward of ₹50,000 on their arrest, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East) Atul Kumar Thakur.

They had shot Imran on Wednesday while he was travelling in his car, the police said.

During interrogation, the duo revealed that they committed the crime as they suspected the victim to be responsible for the death of their friend, Mehfuz. A motorcycle, a pistol and four live cartridges were seized from Danish, the police added.

Police issue traffic advisory

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police on Sunday issued an advisory to ensure of smooth movement of the kanwariyas, said officials.

According to the advisory, due to the heavy movement of kanwarias on Monday and Tuesday, all motorists are asked to avoid Road No. 13 A and Agra Canal Road. Motorists and the public are advised to use DND for going towards Noida.

Kanwariya electrocuted in Ghaziabad camp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GHAZIABAD

A 16-year-old kanwariya died of electrocution at a makeshift pilgrims' camp in Shambhu Dayal Degree College here, the police said on Sunday.

Naanu from Vijay Nagar died on Saturday night. Senior Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar Singh said Naanu was returning from Haridwar after getting water from the Ganges. According to preliminary reports, Naanu touched an iron pole, which was being used to instal halogen lights. The pole was conducting electricity due to the rain.

The police reached the spot and rushed Naanu to the district hospital where he was declared brought dead. A group of kanwariyas reached the emergency room of the hospital and created a ruckus, the police said, adding that they demanded early arrest of the "errant" electricity contractor. The officers reached the spot and pacified the kanwariyas.

An FIR has been lodged against the contractor.

Naanu, a kanwariya, was returning from Haridwar after getting water from the Ganges ▪FILE PHOTO

DELHI Timings

MONDAY, JULY 29			
RISE	05:41	SET	19:15
RISE	02:33	SET	16:43
TUESDAY, JULY 30			
RISE	05:42	SET	19:14
RISE	03:28	SET	17:45
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31			
RISE	05:42	SET	19:13
RISE	04:29	SET	18:43

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	34	26
Safdarjang	34	26
Palam	34	25

Delhi Palam Today
34ºC A partly cloudy sky is likely to persist over the district. A warm day lies ahead. A warm night is expected.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36ºC A partly cloudy sky is expected to persist over the district. The evening is expected to be warm.

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THE HINDU
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Oppn. parties all set to corner Punjab government in House

Session begins from Aug. 2; AAP to highlight 'no action' in sacrilege cases

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

With the Punjab Assembly session slated to start from August 2, the Opposition parties are all set to corner the ruling Congress government on the issues of unemployment, prevailing agrarian crisis and deteriorating law and order in the State.

Besides, the issue of closure report filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with sacrilege cases is also likely to be be at the center stage.

Aam Aadmi Party's Harpal Singh Cheema, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, said that his party would take up the issue of CBI closure report with the seriousness it merited.

"Also, we will raise issues of unemployment, drugs menace, farmers' loan and agrarian crisis among other public-centric issues," he said.

Leader of the Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema

"It had been four long years since the incident of desecration of thw Guru Granth Sahib and the police firing incident at Behbal Kalan-Kotkapura took place, but yet nothing had come out of the investigations. Investigating teams are yet to ascertain who were behind the firing incidents at Behbal Kalan-Kotakpura and desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib," he alleged.

The Leader of the Opposition accused the Congress government of running away from deliberating on key issues concerning Punjab and its people. "Its for this reason that the session was restricted to a mere two sittings, which is unfortunate," he said.

The monsoon session of the Punjab Assembly will be held from August 2 to 6.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has also accused the Congress government of shying away from discussing the burning issues of the State and asked Assembly Speaker Rana K.P. Singh to hold a three-week session.

Senior Akali Dal leader Daljit Cheema on Sunday said that party would raise the issue of deteriorating law and order in the State among other issues on the floor of the House.

"The State government has completely failed to maintain law and order. People are not even safe in jails. The recent murder of a person in Nabha Jail and mysterious death of a drugs smuggling accused in Amritsar jail, were the latest instances to prove the point," said Mr. Cheema.

Farmers' suicide

"Earlier this month incessant rain resulted in flooding in Sangrur and Patiala districts but the government failed to deal with the situation aptly, letting people suffer. There are several issues that we will raise, including increasing farmers suicide and rise in power tariffs," said Mr. Cheema.

Manjhi in touch with NDA partner for Jharkhand polls

"Seat sharing arrangements will be decided soon"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GAYA/NAWADA

Former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi on Sunday disclosed that his Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM), a constitutent of the opposition Mahagathbandhan in the State, would be contesting the upcoming Assembly polls in Jharkhand in collaboration with an NDA partner.

"Our talks with AJSU is in the final stages. Seat sharing arrangements will be decided soon. We hope it will be mutually beneficial and there will be seamless transfer of votes during elections," Mr. Manjhi said in Gaya, his native district.

'Not a betrayal'

Asked why he would not be contesting as part of the Mahagathbandhan in the neighbouring State, Mr. Manjhi said: "HAM was never a part of the Mahagathbandhan in Jharkhand. We joined the coalition comprising the Congress, the RJD and others only for Bihar. Beyond the boundaries of the State, the alliance does not exist. So our move should not be seen as betrayal."

HAM chief Jitan Manjhi

He also declined to comment on whether he was in talks with leaders of the BJP, the senior NDA partner in Jharkhand.

He also denied that the development was a signal of his plans to return to the NDA in Bihar.

Mr. Manjhi had floated his own party after walking out of the JD(U) in 2015 after he was asked to step down as Chief Minister to make way for the return of his political mentor Nitish Kumar.

The Mahadalit leader went on to contest the Assembly polls held later that year as an NDA constituent, but his party fared poorly as only Mr. Manjhi managed to win one seat.

About six months after Mr. Kumar returned to the NDA in July 2017, Mr. Manjhi changed track and joined the Mahagathbandhan, which then comprised only the Congress and the RJD.

The RJD, which at present has the highest number of MLAs in Bihar, helped his son Santosh Manjhi get a berth in the legislative council.

Obscene video: BJP suspends two partymen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA

The BJP has suspended a party leader and an office-bearer of its youth wing in Kullu district after a video which purportedly shows them in a compromising position was circulated on social media.

Case registered

The Himachal Pradesh police registered a case on Saturday under the Information Technology Act and warned people against sharing the video, officials said Sunday.

The 12.35-minute video was reportedly shot a few months ago by the two themselves. It is suspected that the now suspended BJYM leader's wife got her hand on the video after the woman sent it to her husband through WhatsApp in February.

Religious functions on roads banned in Aligarh

After plans to recite Hanuman Chalisa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALIGARH (U.P.)

The Aligarh administration has put a blanket ban on holding of religious functions on roads.

The decision came after some Hindutva groups planned the recital of Hanuman Chalisa to protest against the offering of namaz on roads.

The district administration has taken this step as a precautionary measure to prevent any disturbance, a senior official said on Sunday.

The district administration swung into action last week after some Hindutva groups, including the Hindu Jagran Manch, announced that they would hold "aartis" and recite Hanuman Chalisa on roads every Tuesday.

These outfits had been opposing the offering of namaz by Muslims on roads during Friday prayers.

The decision of the Aligarh administration, however, did not go down well with leaders of the Hindu Jagran Manch, which announced that they would "defy the ban".

The State general secretary of the outfit, Surendra Singh Bhagor, publicly challenged the authorities and threatened the Aligarh District Magistrate for having banned all religious gatherings on roads.

DM warned

In a statement on Friday, he had warned DM Chandrabhushan Singh against going ahead with his order of banning the "recital of Hanuman Chalisa". After the video clip of his warning went viral on Saturday, he was booked under various sections of the IPC, the official said.

Holy water

Kanwariyas gather at Har Ki Pauri to collect water from the Ganga in Haridwar on Sunday. ▪PTI

Dalit workers refused water in U.P.'s Shamli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)

Several Dalits staged a protest after some sanitation workers were allegedly not allowed to drink water from a temple in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district, police said on Sunday.

The workers were cleaning a drain outside the temple in Thana Bhawan town on Saturday.

The priest refused to allow them to take water from a handpump inside the temple and closed the door, an officer said.

FIR demanded

Several people belonging to the Valmiki caste staged a demonstration and demanded registration of an FIR against the priest. Police reached the spot and pacified the crowd by assuring an investigation, the officer said.

Rain-related toll in Rajasthan touches 22

Flood-like situation in Kota due to heavy rain, affected people evacuated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

The toll in rain-related incidents in Rajasthan touched 22 on Sunday with nine more causalities reported from various parts of the State as Kota and its nearby areas faced flood-like situation due to heavy rain since Saturday night.

An elderly woman died in Bhilwara after the roof of her house collapsed, while a man was swept away in a swollen drain and three boys were drowned in another drain in Pali, an official said.

Boys drown

In Bundi, a 17-year-old boy was drowned in a drain. In Jaipur's Sanganer area, two boys drowned in a waterbody while one death was also reported from Jodhpur, the official said.

State Disaster Relief Force personnel shifting people from inundated areas in Kota on Sunday. ▪PTI

Kota is the worst-affected district in the State, where nearly 250 people living in low-lying areas were shifted to safer places by SDRF teams.

"Many colonies are inundated. The trapped residents have been shifted to safer places," Kota District Collector Muktanand Agrawal said.

Relief Secretary Ashotosh Pednekar said with nine more deaths in different districts, the toll in rain-related incidents had increased to 22.

Kota recorded the maximum 151.8 mm of rainfall till Sunday morning while Sawaimadhopur registered 68 mm of rainfall.

Heavy rain occurred in isolated parts of the State, including Bundi, till this morning since Saturday, the meteorological department said.

Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner, Ajmer, Ganganagar, Kota registered 113.8 mm, 19.1 mm, 11.7 mm, 10 mm, 9.4 mm and 6.6 mm of rainfall respectively on Sunday. The weatherman has predicted heavy to extremely heavy rain in isolated places of the State till Monday.

Lawyers back demand for railway project

Berhampur-Sambalpur line would bring development to the region

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Lawyers of four districts of Odisha – Ganjam, Kandhamal, Boudh and Sambalpur – have joined hands to strengthen the demand for the long-awaited Berhampur-Sambalpur railway track project.

Representatives of lawyers' associations of these districts met over the weekend to chalk out the future course of action to press upon the Railway Ministry to take up the project as the earliest. The meeting was convened by the Bhanjanagar Bar Association of Ganjam district.

The Bharatiya Bikash Parishad, the Ganjam Chamber of Commerce, different social organisations and leaders of political parties had also at a meeting in Berhampur last week pressed upon this demand. Aska Lok Sabha MP Pramila Bisoi has supported the demand and promised to take up the matter in Parliament as well as with the Ministry.

At the Bhanjanagar meeting, Ganjam lawyers alleged that the length of railway tracks in the district had not increased since 1872. Boudh Bar Association president Tarini Mohapatra said the Berhampur-Sambalpur railway track will be a major catalyst for development of the underdeveloped regions of Kandhamal and Boudh districts.

No rail connectivity

In 2010-11, the Centre had given permission to the East Coast Railway to conduct a survey for the Berhampur-Sambalpur railway line. According to information received by RTI activists, although the East Coast Railway had submitted a survey report to the Ministry, it has not been registered in the 'Pink Book' so far. Any project can start only after it is registered in the 'Pink Book'.

According to the preliminary survey, the track will be 240 km long and connect the four Parliamentary constituencies of Berhampur, Aska, Kandhamal and Sambalpur. Ms. Bisoi has also said that her dream was to have this railway track materialise as it will pass through Aska which has no railway connectivity till date.

According to the report, there will be 16 stations between Sambalpur and Berhampur as well as five tunnels and 38 big bridges.

Nagaland Assembly session to begin on August 6

Election of Deputy Speaker, deliberations on Inner Line Permit on the agenda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOHIMA

The fourth session of the 13th Nagaland Legislative Assembly will be held from August 6 to 8. Election of the Deputy Speaker, deliberations on the Registration of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland and Inner Line Permit will be taken up during the session.

The election of the Deputy Speaker is scheduled on the first day of the session, according to the provisional programme, made available to the media by Assembly Secretary K. Sekhose.

The last date for filing nomination papers is August 1 while the date of withdrawal of candidature is August 3, he said. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio had inducted his brother, Zhaleo Rio, who was the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, as an advisor to the CM on July 23.

Laying of various reports, presentation of Assembly committee reports, introduction and adoption of government bills and resolutions, if any, will also be taken up during the session.

Women-only coaches in NFR trains

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has provided exclusive coaches for women in two popular passenger trains between Guwahati and western Assam's New Bongaigaon town.

Such coaches have been marked with a pink strip.

"A coach each has been opened for women in two passenger trains to ensure their safety and security. Railway Protection Force personnel and a ticket collector have been provided specifically for these coaches," an NFR spokesperson said, adding such specail coaches could be added to other trains operating within the railway zone.

The spokesman said that the pink colour will help women passengers to easily identify the coaches even during rush hours.

Differently-abled women will also be able to travel in the coaches, he said.

(With PTI inputs)

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DELHI THE HINDU
MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019

'Rehabilitate slain cadres' families'

They are going through tough times, ULFA general secretary Anup Chetia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The pro-talks faction of the extremist United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) has resented the State government's indifference to the families of its slain members.

Seeking due recognition and rehabilitation of such families, the outfit's general secretary Anup Chetia wondered if the ULFA has to form a government on its own to ensure that the families of its members get their due after almost four decades of "struggle".

Addressing the group's martyrs' day at Dipila in north-central Assam's Darrang district on Saturday, Mr. Chetia said the government appeared disinterested in keeping its promise of providing assistance to the families of the slain members. These families, he said, were going through a tough time.

"We have almost 1,900 families of our martyrs, including those of 50 members who have been missing from Bhutan for years now," he said.

The armed forces of India and Bhutan had in December 2003 coordinated an operation to destroy camps of ULFA, National Democratic Front of Boroland and Kamatapur Liberation Organisation in southern Bhutan and flush out the extremists. Several extremists were killed, some surrendered while a few have remained untraced.

Five killed in 1991

Mr. Chetia said the outfit observed martyrs' day for the first time after 28 years at Dipila, where the paramilitary personnel had killed five of its members on July 28, 1991. The five were Keshab Deka, Ganesh Deka, Chandra Baruah, Pratap Kalita and Karun Kalita.

The pro-talks ULFA faction, headed by its chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa, has been holding peace talks with the Centre for more than five years.

Most of its leaders have been arrested in Bangladesh and handed over to India since 2009.

The other faction, ULFA-Independent headed by its military chief Paresh Baruah, continues to wage war against what it calls 'occupational India'. This group operates out of the camps of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) in Myanmar.

OSRTC stops bus service in three Maoist-hit districts

Services by private operators to continue

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

The Odisha State Road Transport Corporation has stopped plying its buses for a week in the Maoist-hit regions in the southern parts of the State from Sunday because of martyrs' week being observed by Maoists.

Security was also tightened in the Maoist activity prone districts – Malkangiri, Koraput and Rayagada. The martyrs' week will continue till August 3.

According to authorities of the OSRTC's Berhampur division, buses operating from Jeypore and Rayagada depots have been stopped completely.

Similarly, buses travelling to these districts from Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and Bhanjanagar will have their services cancelled till the end of the week. However, private bus operators continue to run their buses in these districts.

According to sources, the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border in Malkangiri district has been sealed off and combing operations by security personnel have been intensified.

BJP using probe agencies to threaten NCP, Cong. legislators: Sharad Pawar

Calls it a desperate bid to break opposition; claims exit of leaders won't make much difference to his party

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Hitting out at the Centre and the State, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday alleged that several elected representatives of the NCP and the Congress are being pressured to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has unleashed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), and the State Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on NCP and Congress leaders.

Speaking to reporters, he claimed that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had personally called a number of NCP legislators, and that these MLAs were threatened with ED raids if they did not enter the BJP camp.

Scathing attack: NCP chief Sharad Pawar addressing media in Pune on Sunday. ▪ MANDAR TANNU

Gross abuse of power

Mr. Pawar said the BJP is resorting to gross abuse of power in its desperate bid to break opposition parties. He gave the examples of NCP leader and Nationalist Mahila Congress president, Chitra Wagh, who recently quit the party, and NCP legislator from Kagal (in Kolhapur district) Hasan Mushrif, whose home and sugar factory were raided last week. "Before she submitted her resignation, Ms. Wagh had told me that the BJP had said it would withdraw cases pending against her husband [Kishor Wagh] in exchange for her joining the saffron party."

He claimed that after Mr. Mushrif firmly refused a BJP 'offer' to enter its fold, the Income Tax department and the ED were let loose on him. "Mr. Mushrif's factory in Kolhapur was searched and so were the houses of his son and relatives. But the raids yielded nothing."

From all these instances, the NCP chief said, one wonders whether there is any rule of law in this country. "We are witnessing a situation similar to what transpired in Karnataka."

Mr. Pawar further alleged that the State government had violated rules to give aid to the ailing sugar factory of Congress leader Kalyan Kale of Pandharpur (in Solapur district) to bind him to the BJP. "Mr. Fadnavis used the same tactics against Rashtriya Samaj Paksha MLA from Daund, Rahul Kul, to turn him against my daughter Supriya Sule."

Mr. Kul's wife, Kanchan Kul, was the BJP-Shiv Sena's candidate against Ms. Sule in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, but was comfortably defeated by the latter, who was re-elected for the third time.

The NCP chief, on the exodus of its leaders into the BJP camp, said it does not make much difference to the party. "We have experienced similar situations in the past and we are more than capable of coping with it."

Joint fight with Congress

Stating that the Congress and the NCP would jointly contest the Assembly elections, he said there is an understanding on around 240 seats between the two. "We are also in talks with other like-minded parties for the rest of the seats. Seat-sharing arrangements will be clear in the next 10 days."

On Shivendra Raje Bhosale and Sangram Jagtap – NCP MLAs of Satara and Ahmednagar respectively – Mr. Pawar quashed all speculation of them exiting the party. "Mr. Bhosale has assured me he is very much with the party. Shrigonda MLA Rahul Jagtap and Ahmednagar MLA Sangram Jagtap, too, have stated they are not going anywhere. The same is the case with Dilip Sopal, NCP legislator from Barshi in Solapur."

Meanwhile, BJP leader Girish Mahajan said instead of hurtling accusations, Mr. Pawar ought to self-introspect as to why leaders are quitting the NCP and the Congress to join the BJP.

Denying charge

"Ms. Wagh had met us a month before she formally quit the NCP. It is obvious that senior NCP and Congress leaders are fed up with their parties' top leaderships. And if we are indeed influencing probe agencies as Mr. Pawar suggests, we could have carried out investigations against bigger NCP leaders like Ajit Pawar and Sunil Tatkare long ago," Mr. Mahajan said, denying that anyone from the BJP had ever made any 'offer' to Mr. Mushrif to join the party.

Mr. Mahajan claimed more than 50 leaders from the NCP and the Congress are in contact with the BJP. "People are frustrated with the NCP and the Congress and their dynastic politics. We have witnessed how tall leaders like Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil and Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil switched their allegiance to ally with us," Mr. Mahajan said, urging Mr. Pawar to clarify which MLAs were personally called by the Chief Minister and threatened with ED probes.

Cybercrime officials suspect Agent Smith targets Indians

Investigations show 59% of those affected are from country

GAUTAM S. MENGLE
MUMBAI

Indian cybercrime officials, tracking the recently detected Agent Smith malware, believe it is targeted at Indians, who constitute the highest number of victims so far.

The Hindu had on Sunday reported how the malware has raised concerns in the cybersecurity fraternity. According to a report by Checkpoint, a private cyber security firm, Agent Smith is believed to have infected over 25 million devices so far.

First noticed early this year, the malware can replace apps on android phones with malicious versions without the user's knowledge.

According to investigations conducted by several agencies so far, around 59% of those affected by Agent Smith are Indians. Other countries where significant infection was recorded include the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

"Agent Smith is embedded in apps available on Google Playstore, mostly connected to gaming, image editing or adult entertainment. Once a user downloads the app, the malware gets active, looking for other apps that it can take over. Its ability to impersonate apps, as well as the fact that its icon is not visible on the user's screen, makes it next to impossible to detect," a source, who is part of the investigation, said.

The structure of the malware, too, indicates that it is an advanced one. Unlike most malware, the creators of Agent Smith seem to have made the effort to identify all the latest vulnerabilities in the Android operating system and designed it specifically to exploit them, the source said.

One such vulnerability is called the Janus, which was discovered in 2017 by cybersecurity researchers. It allows hackers to modify an app without affecting its own signature, which makes the hack impossible to detect.

"Agent Smith relies heavily on the Janus vulnerability in replacing apps with their contaminated versions while leaving the hash value, which is like a unique signature for any app, intact," the source said.

Cybercrime officials are closely tracking Agent Smith's activities which, for the moment, seem to be limited to throwing up targeted advertisements. However, with the kind of abilities that the malware displays, it can be used for anything that its creators want it to do.

"With 25 million devices being reportedly infected, the makers of Agent Smith already have a huge botnet at their disposal, and the possibilities are almost literally endless," an officer said.

Fadnavis asks NCP chief to introspect

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday came down on Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar and asked him to introspect on why leaders of his party are quitting to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Mr. Pawar in Pune attacked Mr. Fadnavis, and claimed that it is the BJP that is poaching leaders from other parties by misusing law enforcement agencies, and threatening them, ahead of the Assembly polls.

"Mr. Pawar should introspect on why his people are not ready to stay with the NCP. The stand of the BJP is very clear. A lot of leaders from the Congress and the NCP are interested in joining the BJP. However, very few will be allowed. Those with ED cases will not be taken as we do not need such people," Mr. Fadnavis told reporters in Nagpur.

The CM said the BJP does not need to pressure anyone to join it. "We are beyond running behind anyone. Now people (leaders) run behind the BJP. We will take care of those who are good and work for the people," he claimed, adding the people of India are with the party, and trust the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Fadnavis said many sugar factories belonging to the members of Mr. Pawar's party were helped by the government and State banks when they were in trouble. "But, we never asked them to join the BJP. He should introspect."

WB couple on wildlife conservation road

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

A couple who began a nationwide 40,000-km motorcycle journey from Kolkata to create awareness of wildlife conservation and tiger protection reached Nagpur on Saturday.

While the journey since its beginning from West Bengal on February 15 was pleasant and the people they met receptive, Ratindranath Das and his wife Gitanjali said they were mistaken for child lifters in a village in Madhya Pradesh.

"We were going to Satpura Tiger Reserve in Hoshangabad. En route, we stopped near a tree to rest. A school boy alerted nearby villagers who thought we were child-lifters. They were threatening at first but we managed to convince them about our cause, after which they were apologetic and cooperative," said Ratindranath (43), a wildlife conservationist.

> **We stopped near a tree to rest. A school boy alerted nearby villagers who thought we were child-lifters.**
>
> RATINDRANATH DAS

"This journey is to create awareness of wildlife conservation and to ensure steps to protect the tiger. We are touring forest reserves across the country and talking to stakeholders, including forest dwellers of all ages. So far, we have been to reserves of 22 States. After Maharashtra, we plan to proceed to Goa and then further South," he said.

He said almost 80% of the initiative is being financed by Facebook friends while the rest is being pooled in from the public. The couple's next plan is to tour the tiger reserves of 12 countries from March next year.

Raju Shetti to participate in 'long march' against EVM on August 9

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Swabhimani Paksha chief Raju Shetti will join hands with anti-electronic voting machine (EVM) outfits and participate in a 'long march' protesting the use of EVMs in elections in Mumbai on August 9, the anniversary of Quit India Movement.

Mr. Shetti, who will take part in the rally from Azad Maidan to Chaitya Bhoomi, said he hopes the occasion will induce more people and political parties to join in and kick-start a movement against EVMs.

"To ensure that this protest should not appear as a demonstration by defeated Lok Sabha candidates, it is important that it crystallises into a people's movement. Following this, activists of the Swabhimani Paksha on 15 August will urge *gram sabhas* across panchayats in Maharashtra to pass a resolution against the use of EVMs and the return of the ballot paper," Mr. Shetti said.

Raju Shetti

The farmers' leader said in the aftermath of the Lok Sabha elections, there are doubts among voters that their votes may not have gone to the candidates of their choice. "The Election Commission of India (ECI), whose duty is to restore the public's faith in the electoral process, has failed to clear these doubts."

Mr. Shetti, a former two-time MP from Hatkanangale in Kolhapur, was defeated at the hands of the Shiv Sena's Dhairyasheel Mane in the recently concluded general election.

"There were serious discrepancies between the 'votes polled' data on the EVMs and the 'votes counted' data on the machines in more than 370 Lok Sabha constituencies. In my constituency of Hatkanangale, there was a mismatch of 459 votes. Despite writing to the ECI, I have never received a satisfactory answer as to how this occurred," Mr. Shetti said, pointing out that in Germany, as in several western countries, public doubts over EVMs had sufficed for the courts to prohibit their use.

Earlier this month in Delhi, activists and social outfits under the banner of the 'EVM Virodhi Rashtriya Jan Andolan' had called for a nationwide movement against the use of EVMs in elections with the cry of 'EVM Quit India, Back to Ballot, Save Democracy' on August 9.

The organisers have also called for a meeting of representatives from all political parties on July 30 in Mumbai.

When it rains it pours

Choppy: Due to the torrential rain, the water of Khadakwasla dam near Pune has reached its danger level. On Sunday, around five thousand cusecs of water were released into the Mutha river. ▪ JIGNESH MISTRY

SRPF guard found dead in Nagpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

A 26-year-old State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) guard allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle while on duty at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) building in Nagpur. The incident occurred on Saturday night at the security guard room on gate number 8 of the building, situated at Samvidhan Chowk in Civil Lines area in the city, an official said.

Prasnna Maske's body was spotted by his colleague who came to relieve him this morning. The trigger behind him taking such a step is not known yet, the official said, adding no suicide note was found at the spot. Maske was rushed to a private hospital where he was declared dead before arrival. The police have seized his mobile phone and sent it for forensic test.

Tribal youth burn Naxal banners in Gadchiroli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

Tribal youth from two villages in Gadchiroli district on Sunday burnt banners exhorting them to observe 'Naxal Week', an official said. According to a statement from the Gadchiroli police, the Maoist banners were put up on Jarawandi-Kasansur Road.

"Tribal youth from Tadguda and Kusarwahi villages assembled here and set the banners ablaze. They raised slogans against the Maoist ultras and their Naxal Week," the statement said.

> **Tribal youth from Tadguda and Kusarwahi villages raised slogans against the Maoist ultras**
>
> POLICE STATEMENT

In another development, Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Shailesh Balkawde announced the celebration of 'Adivasi Vikas Week' from June 28 to August 3.

As part of the initiative, career guidance and other welfare schemes will be provided to the youth.

In May, the State government had said that 224 security personnel and 246 Naxals were killed in skirmishes and blasts in Gadchiroli since 1980. Naxals had also killed 571 civilians during this period, a government official had said.

Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Gondia have been declared Naxal-affected districts in Maharashtra by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Heavy rain fills up dams in Nashik

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NASHIK

Heavy rain over the past four days in Nashik region has led to water in Gangapur dam reaching 74% of its storage capacity, an official said on Sunday. The dam has the capacity of 5,630 million cubic feet.

He said residents along the banks of the Godavari river have been alerted that water from Gangapur dam could be released any time into the river.

The official said Darna dam in Igatpuri tehsil in the district is now 87% full, forcing the irrigation department to release 16,598 cubic foot per second (cusec) of water into the Darna river. "Bhavali dam is 100% full and we have had to release 1,218 cusec of water to maintain the level."

The official said four medium dams – Manikpunj, Nagasakya, Punegaon and Tisgaon – are still dry. "Barring Igatpuri, Trimbakeshwar, Peint, Surgana and Nashik tehsils, the remaining 10 tehsils in the district are facing deficit rainfall so far this monsoon."

Helplines

BMC mental health helpline:
022 24131212 (24x7)

Vandrevala Foundation:
18602662345/
18002333330 (24x7)

I Call:
022-25521111
(8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
|Monday to Saturday)

The Samaritans Mumbai:
8422984528/
8422984529/
8422984530
(3 p.m.- 9 p.m. all days)

IN BRIEF

MLA alleges 'caste insult' by Youth Congress

THRISSUR

Geetha Gopi, Kerala MLA, has lodged a complaint with the Cherpu police station alleging that Youth Congress workers had insulted her in the name of caste. She said the Youth Congress workers sprinkled gobar water on the spot where she had staged a sit-in in front of the PWD office at Cherpu on Saturday, in protest against the delay in repairing the Cherpu-Thriprayar- Guruvayur road. She ended the protest after the PWD started repairing the road.

Re-post-mortem on Rajkumar's body today

IDUKKI

The re-post-mortem on the body of custodial torture victim Rajkumar will be conducted on Monday. The procedure is as per the suggestion of the judicial commission led by Justice Narayana Kurup, which was appointed by the Kerala government to look into the case. The commission had said that there were lapses in the first post-mortem as the internal organs had not been sent for forensic examination.

In a first, tribals pay tributes to Maoist victims

VISAKHAPATNAM

In what could be termed as a shot in the arm for the police, tribal people erected stupas and paid tributes to those killed by the Maoists after branding them as informers, in the Korukonda area in the Visakhapatnam Agency of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. This was probably the first time the tribals erected stupas in memory of the Maoist victims. The development could be seen as a setback to the banned outfit coming on the first day of the Martyrs' Week.

BJP expected to have a smooth sailing in Karnataka trust vote

Congress is yet to elect a leader who will be the Leader of the Opposition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The disqualification of all rebel MLAs seems to have removed any element of uncertainty from the trust vote Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa will seek on Monday.

A confident BJP, though holding a legislature party meeting on Sunday evening, did not indulge in any flock-keeping exercise. Instead, it asked its MLAs to assemble at Vidhana Soudha on Monday for the session.

Though the BJP vehemently opposed the Speaker's decision to disqualify rebel MLAs, the decision also came as a relief for the party as the coalition leaders were still trying to woo back the rebels. Senior BJP leader R. Ashok had been with the rebels for the past four days to prevent any setback.

"Now that 17 MLAs have been disqualified, the strength of the Assembly has reduced to 208 and 105 is the simple majority, which is also our strength in the Assembly. We also have the support of an Independent MLA," a senior BJP leader said. Many BJP MLAs told *The Hindu* that Mr. Yediyurappa asked MLAs for suggestions on the course the BJP government must take and the meeting turned into a platform for MLAs to give their suggestions.

Numbers game

Meanwhile, the Opposition is not expected to mount a serious challenge to the government on Monday, as many believe that "it is now only a numbers game in which the BJP has the upper hand." However, the principal Opposition, Congress, seems to be mired in confusion. The party is yet to elect a leader who will be the Leader of the Opposition.

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Siddaramaiah is expected to lead the party in the Assembly on Monday. Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad is scheduled to reach the city on Monday to hold parleys and select the Leader of the Opposition.

"Both the BJP and the JD (S) held two legislature party meetings since Tuesday when the government collapsed. But the Congress held no CLP meeting or took any confidence-building measures," said a senior Congress legislator, expressing dismay. The CLP meeting is scheduled for Monday at 9 a.m., but many MLAs said they were yet to receive any intimation of the same.

The Congress and the JD (S), though still in alliance, have not yet formally met to chalk out their strategy in the Opposition.

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa arriving at the BJP Legislature Party meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday. ▪ SAMPATH KUMAR

What if BJP MLAs vote against Yediyurappa, asks Siddaramaiah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

"What if the Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs themselves vote against Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa?" former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said here on Sunday.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who was in Mysuru for the third death anniversary of his son Rakesh, told presspersons that Mr. Yediyurappa does not enjoy a majority in the House.

"Only when a majority of the total number of members present in the House support him during the motion of confidence will he be able to secure a majority. What if the BJP MLAs themselves vote against him?" he asked.

Downplays remark

Mr. Siddaramaiah, however, sought to downplay his own remark by claiming that he was not anticipating it.

"But, why can't it happen?" he asked.

Railways looking at complete redesign of all future coaches

Move comes amid plans to corporatise production units

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Ministry of Railways is looking at a complete redesign of coaches and even procurement of full train rakes from foreign suppliers, provided they set up their facility here to comply with the 'Make in India' policy.

At a high-level meeting chaired by Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal, Members of the Railway Board and top suppliers of rolling stock/propulsion systems held in New Delhi, it was informed that the Railways would be willing to start import of complete train sets from foreign suppliers if they agreed to establish the coach manufacturing facility in India.

To meet global standards, the Railways would evolve standard eligibility criteria for propulsion systems as was done by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs that operates the Metro Railway.

The move comes amid the Centre's plans to corporatise production units like the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai, which is the largest coach making facility in the world, Modern Coach Factory in Raebareli, and Rail Coach Factory in Kapurthala.

Though the railway management has assured them that corporatisation would not affect the employees in anyway but only strengthen the facility with more infrastructure and better governance, trade unions are opposing the idea fearing that it would pave the way for disinvestment or privatisation.

Meeting global standards: Inside view of Vande Bharat Express high speed train. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Replying to a question in Parliament raised by Lok Sabha MPs Deepak Baij and Su. Thirunavukkarasar a couple of days ago Mr. Goyal said the government had envisaged preparation of an action plan for corporatisation of the rolling stock production units. Existing production units would become a part of this structure in a phased manner.

'Export capability'

The Railway Minister said the plan would bring in state-of-the-art technology, managerial autonomy, superior operational efficiency, export capability, employment generation, attract investments and make India an international hub for rolling stock manufacturing.

Mr. Goyal said the performance of existing production units was "very good" as they exceeded the target of manufacturing locomotives and coaches by a sizeable number in 2018-19.

However, he said, no final decision had been taken as regards corporatisation. But if any changes were to be made, "they shall provide better benefits to employees as compared to the existing scenario. The process will involve discussions with all stakeholders, including employees."

When contacted senior Railway officials said it was too early to comment on the role of Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) on the proposed new design coaches. The turn of events came after the ICF rolled out the world class Train18, later named as Vande Bharat Express.

All India Railwaymen Federation National working president N. Kannaiah said the corporatisation was the first step to the bigger plan of privatisation. "Once the production units are brought under the umbrella of public sector unit, the Centre can decide on disinvesting the company. Now the public can purchase shares of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited ... similarly attempts were made to sell shares of IRCON and RITES. Corporatising is nothing but a clear move towards privatisation," he said.

Bumpy road for colistin ban rollout

Kerala urges Centre to curb imports

C. MAYA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala is gearing up to implement the Union Health Ministry's ban on the manufacture, sale and distribution of the antibiotic colistin and its formulations, for food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements. The ban is expected to combat anti-microbial resistance (AMR) in the State.

"The indiscriminate use of antibiotics in the animal husbandry sector, especially the use of colistin for non-therapeutic purposes in poultry farming, is something we had flagged when we launched Kerala Anti-microbial Resistance Strategic Action Plan (KARSAP) last year," says K. L. Saradadevi, Professor and Head of Microbiology, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.

However, the actual implementation of the ban is fraught with challenges.

Import from China

"How does one control the huge colistin imports from China, which may be reaching our poultry farms and backyard farms? The Centre will have to keep a close eye on the imports while the veterinary and drugs control departments in the State will have to ensure that no veterinary medicines or poultry feeds containing colistin are available in the market," says Robin Paul, Quality Manager, State Laboratory for Livestock, Marine and Agri Products.

The poultry market in Kerala has been growing thanks to poultry integration, a kind of contract farming wherein integrators supply chicks, feed, veterinary aid, medication as well as all inputs to farmers and then buy back the birds after five weeks.

Batting for tradition

Golden offering: Badminton player P.V. Sindhu offers 'golden bonam' to Simhavahini Mahankali at the Lal Darwaza temple in Hyderabad on Sunday. ▪ G. RAMAKRISHNA

Landslip stops traffic on NH in Munnar

Rocks fell from a height of 150 feet; parked vehicles and shops destroyed

STAFF REPORTER
IDUKKI

The earth caved in and huge rocks tumbled down at the site of the road-widening works on the Kochi-Dhanushkodi National Highway at Gap Road in Munnar on Sunday, blocking traffic on the stretch.

Sources said the landslip occurred around 4 a.m. from a hill, a portion of which was taken for the widening work. The rocks fell from a height of nearly 150 feet, a few of them on the vehicles parked below. No casualties were reported.

The road was strewn with mud and rocks for nearly 400 metres. Vehicles parked in the site and three shops by the road were damaged. A bison, too, fell down along with the debris, and officials were trying to rescue the animal, sources said.

Devikulam Sub Collector Renuraj visited the spot and directed the National Highway (NH) officials to remove the rocks and earth from the road, and restore traffic.

However, an NH official said at least two weeks would be required to remove the debris as the rocks had to be blasted. Till then, traffic would be blocked on the stretch. In December 2018, landslips on Gap Road had resulted in traffic disruption for a week.

In the floods of August 2018, the NH in Munnar had witnessed many landslips. It was alleged that authorities had failed to take adequate measures to prevent landslips while conducting the earth work on the loose soil in the hill areas. The construction of the road in the ghat area needed to be done scientifically, according to environmentalists in Munnar.

The construction of the 42-km Munnar-Poopara-Bodymettu stretch began last year and is the main route by which visitors reach Munnar.

Tumbled down: Rocks and earth caved in at the site of road-widening works at Gap Road on Kochi-Dhanushkodi National Highway on Monday. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Result of tiger census to be announced today

R. KRISHNA KUMAR
MYSURU

Will Karnataka earn the distinction of hosting the highest number of tigers in the wild in the country? That is the question doing the rounds in Forest Department circles even as they await the results of the tiger census, conducted in January 2018, slated to be announced on Monday. The tiger enumeration exercise is conducted once in four years and Karnataka was home to nearly 406 tigers as per the all-India assessment conducted in 2014, and had earned the distinction of being the 'Tiger State'.

Caught riding helmetless? Get tea and a talk on safety

Under pressure from HC, Chennai police are using innovative ways to ensure compliance with rule

R. SIVARAMAN
CHENNAI

With many motorists in the city still unwilling to wear helmets, Chennai's Traffic Police are now resorting to innovative ways to cajole them into falling in line.

Under constant pressure from a watchful Madras High Court to improve enforcement of the helmet rule, police personnel are now roping in schoolchildren to help persuade their parents to wear helmets while riding on the roads.

The police have also arranged to have shamianas erected at key road junctions, where helmetless two-wheeler riders are welcomed by the police with some flowers or a gift and asked to gather for some refreshments.

Juice and tea

The pleasantly surprised captive audience is then plied with fruit juice or sugarcane juice or even hot tea and biscuits – paid for by the police officers from their own pockets – and a sermon on the risks to one's life and limb from riding without a helmet.

The aim, officials say, is to convince the errant motorists of the need to wear the mandatory helmet.

Given Chennai's humid climate and ineffective implementation by enforcing authorities, most of the city's motorists were until recently indifferent to the need to don a helmet while riding.

The rule requiring both the driver of the two-wheeler and the pillion rider to compulsorily wear a helmet, therefore, largely remained on paper. Now acting on a public interest litigation petition, a Division Bench of the Madras High Court has been issuing ultimatums to the police on a weekly basis to take strict action against helmetless travel on two-wheelers.

ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

Appeal to students

"We approached school students in our area, not for conducting mere awareness campaigns, highlighting the ill-effects of accidents. We appealed to them to ask their parents or relatives to wear helmets while going out in two-wheelers," said J.P. Prabakaran, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Madhavaram.

Karnataka co-op bank offers ₹5,000 for RWH

Incentive to revive open wells

RAVIPRASAD KAMILA
MOODBIDRI

In a novel initiative, a cooperative bank in Dakshina Kannada is offering ₹5,000 as incentive to its members who carry out rainwater harvesting, to re-charge open wells in two villages nearby. The offer will be effective from Monday.

The more-than-a-century-old Moodbidri Cooperative Service Bank Ltd. covers Pranthya and Marpadi villages near the town that is known for its 1,000-pillar Jain *basadi* (temple), Tribhuvana Tilaka Choodamani.

There are at least 500 open wells in the two villages that have around 2,500 households. A 100 members have shown interest in harvesting rooftop water, the chief executive officer of the bank, Chandrashekar M., told *The Hindu*.

The initiative is to tap rainwater as much as possible to keep all the open wells operational in the coming days, he said.

Incidentally, the State government had declared Mangaluru taluk, which includes Moodbidri, as drought-hit in 2017, and the entire Dakshina Kannada was declared 'partially drought-hit' early this year. With scanty rainfall now, another drought year is imminent.

IN BRIEF

Inclement weather forces yatra suspension

JAMMU

The Amarnath yatra from the three main base camps was suspended on Sunday due to widespread intermittent rains in Jammu and Kashmir for the fourth successive day, with the weather department predicting snowfall in the cave area later in the day, officials said. PTI

Air ambulance for anti-Naxal operations

NEW DELHI

An air ambulance service has been sanctioned for troops deployed in anti-Naxal operations and those posted at high-altitude border posts, officials said on Sunday. The ambulance will be on a Mi-17 helicopter platform of the Border Security Force and it will be stationed at Jharkhand capital Ranchi, a recent Union Home Ministry order accessed by PTI said.

Idol found in locked room in police station

TIRUCHI

A metal idol of Lord Perumal was found in a locked room at the Mannargudi Town police station in Tiruvarur district in T.N. on Saturday. Measuring 71 cm in height and weighing 30.5 kg, the idol was handed over to the tahsildar. There were no records at the Mannargudi town police station pertaining to the idol or its recovery.

Minor raped, nude photos circulated

ALWAR

A 14-year-old girl was raped allegedly by two men here on the same day and her nude photographs were circulated on social media, police said on Sunday. Police have detained one of the rape accused along with his wife for abetting the crime and arrested a man for circulating the pictures of the victim PTI

2 policemen suspended over TikTok video

RAJKOT

Two police constables were suspended in Gujarat for shooting and uploading a video on social media video app TikTok while on duty, an official said on Sunday. A former traffic warden had posed on the bonnet of the police control room van driven by a constable while another policeman was shooting the video. PTI

Audit report reveals irregularities within scam-hit Vyapam

Recruitments were carried out during two years under false premises

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

For at least two financial years after the Vyapam scam was uncovered in Madhya Pradesh in July 2013, administrative and financial irregularities running into crores of rupees continued unchecked within the examination board, reveals an audit report.

Glaring irregularities such as unjustified recruitment of volunteers, posting of security guards hired by Vyapam at private bungalows, recruitment of officials on fake community certificates, and the use of whitener and overwriting in cash books, have come to the fore in the audit report for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

The Directorate of Local Fund Audit of the Department of Finance in its report submitted to Vyapam in 2017 stated such irregularities "were an open invitation to fraud and embezzlement". In almost all the instances of financial irregularities, it said "related persons/officials" had to repay the board for the funds used. *The Hindu* is in possession of a copy of the report.

Scam rekindled

The scam has been rekindled as State Home Minister Bala Bachchan recently said the government did not possess the anonymous letter received by the Indore Police on June 20, 2013, that blew the lid off the scam.

The scam involved 13 different examinations conducted by the Vyapam or the Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board for recruitment to government jobs and admissions to educational institutions in the State.

Testing times: The head office of the Mandhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board in Bhopal. • A. M. FARUQUI

In August 2013, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government constituted a Special Task Force to probe the scam. The Central Bureau of Investigation took over in July 2015.

In the two years, while the STF was investigating the scam, several officials were recruited to the board on a false premise. "The board, a respectable organisation which recruits personnel in other Departments, itself has recruited personnel on fake SC/ST certificates, which shows the absence of vigilance within it," says the report.

'Against rules'

Moreover, the team noted that in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, the board hired volunteers and daily wage workers "against the rules and in an objectionable way" and paid them ₹1,21,94,751 as salary.

"It is unclear which work were the volunteers required for, in what numbers and of what category. It is unclear through which process they were recruited and for how long, whether there were vacancies and the work done by them monitored," says the report.

"In the absence of permission from the government to create posts for these volunteers, the payment made to these volunteers stands nullified and should be recovered from individual payers," says the report.

The report says ₹14,25,952 was paid to 23 volunteers in 2013-2014 and 13 in 2014-2015, although they had "not signed against their names" in the attendance records.

Notes from officials

The volunteers received their salaries based on notes sent by higher officials. "In the records, in some places in front of their names 'Secretary' or 'honourable Minister' was found to be written," the report reveals.

In 2013-2014, as much as ₹2,14,925 was paid to guards of Krishna Security, a Bhopal-based firm, from the board's coffers, but they were posted at private houses and bungalows.

'Neglect of duty'

Moreover, in the cash books of the financial years audited, says the report, several figures under the cash and bank columns had been changed using whitener or by overwriting, without being attested by the competent authority.

The team noted that the use of whitener "could make fraud possible and thereby damage the credibility of the board".

"The scam wouldn't have happened in the first place if there was an internal audit of confidential payments," said State Law Minister P.C. Sharma. He said he was not aware of the audit report.

Himalayan States demand green bonus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUSSOORIE

Himalayan States on Sunday came together at a conclave here to demand a separate Ministry to deal with problems endemic to them and a green bonus in recognition of their contribution to environment conservation.

The twin demands formed part of a common agenda of the Himalayan States which was handed over to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Explaining the rationale behind the demand for a green bonus, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said most of the country's rivers originate in the Himalayas and therefore, the Himalayan States had to play the most significant role in the PM's water conservation initiative.

The States were also at a disadvantage because large swathes of land fell into eco-sensitive zones where all sorts of development activities could not be carried out.

Army's first Integrated Battle Groups to be structured by end of next month

Capable of mobilising within 12-48 hours based on the location

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The new concept of Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) which the Army plans to create as part of overall force transformation is close to implementation, a senior Army source said. IBGs are brigade-sized, agile, self-sufficient combat formations, which can swiftly launch strikes against adversary in case of hostilities.

"The concept of IBGs has already been test-bedded by 9 Corps. They are reorganising, based on the feedback and will complete restructuring by end-August. The Army will approach the Government for sanction after that," the source said. The number of IBGs has not been decided yet, the source added.

Each IBG would be tailor-made based on Threat, Terrain and Task and resources will be allotted based on the three Ts. They need to be light so they will be low on logistics, the source stated and added, "They will be able to mobilise within 12-48 hrs based on the location."

While a command is the largest static formation of the Army spread across a defined geography, a corps is the largest mobile formation. Typically each corps has about three brigades. The idea is to reorganise them into IBGs which are brigade-sized units but have all the essential elements like infantry, armoured, artillery and air defence embedded together based on the three Ts. An IBG operating in a desert needs to be constituted differently from an IBG operating in the mountains, the source explained.

The key corps of the Army are likely to be reorganised into 1-3 IBGs. "Government sanction for each will be taken separately once they are constituted," the source observed.

The IBGs will also be defensive and offensive. While the offensive IBGs would quickly mobilise and make thrust into enemy territory for strikes, defensive IBGs would hold ground at vulnerable points or where enemy action is expected. The composition of the IBGs would also depend on this.

Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat has initiated four major studies to undertake overall transformation of the force. These include restructuring of Army Headquarters; force restructuring which includes creation of Integrated Battle Groups (IBG); the cadre review of officers; and review of the terms and conditions of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks. The aim is holistic integration to enhance the operational and functional efficiency, optimise budget expenditure, facilitate force modernisation and address aspirations.

The overall transformation will also see a reduction in the size of the 1.3 million Army. "We are looking to reduce by about a lakh over 4-5 years," the source stated, while adding that actual reduction will be lesser as some numbers will be added for some new risings under way.

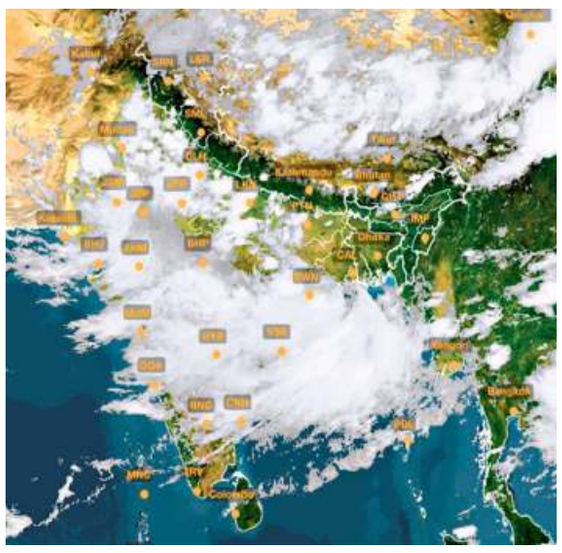
After the Parliament attack, the Indian military undertook massive mobilisation but the formations which were deep inside took weeks to mobilise losing the element of surprise.

What are Integrated Battle Groups?

- IBGs are brigade – sized, agile, self-sufficient combat formations
- Each of them is tailor-made based on Threat, Terrain & Task. Resources will be allotted based on the three Ts
- They will be able to mobilise within 12 – 48 hrs based on the location
- Concept of IBG pilot-tested by 9 Corps. They are reorganising based on the feedback and will be restructured by August end
- Army will approach Centre for sanction after that

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Goa, Gujarat, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan coastal Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, Marathawada, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Assam and Meghalaya

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	36.0	25.6	Kozhikode	0.2`	32.8	24.0
Ahmedabad	21.2	32.7	26.5	Kurnool	–	30.1	24.3
Aizawl	10.0	28.5	21.7	Lucknow	15.8	32.3	25.8
Allahabad	2.6	33.5	27.4	Madurai	–	38.8	26.4
Bengaluru	–	28.2	20.6	Mangaluru	1.9	30.7	23.8
Bhopal	120.9	24.8	22.6	Mumbai	27.7	30.1	24.5
Bhubaneswar	0.4	29.9	25.5	Mysuru	–	29.9	19.4
Chandigarh	1.4	31.4	26.2	New Delhi	3.2	34.4	25.8
Chennai	–	34.1	28.0	Patna	19.0	33.4	26.6
Coimbatore	–	34.3	22.8	Port Blair	27.8	30.9	23.0
Dehradun	29.9	32.2	23.6	Puducherry	–	36.1	24.9
Gangtok	21.0	21.7	18.2	Pune	0.7	26.6	21.0
Goa	4.1	28.4	25.5	Raipur	0.5	29.6	24.0
Guwahati	–	35.5	26.0	Ranchi	5.6	29.2	23.9
Hubballi	–	23.0	21.0	Shillong	8.7	28.1	17.5
Hyderabad	–	26.4	23.2	Shimla	40.6	21.8	17.0
Imphal	–	30.7	22.7	Srinagar	–	22.6	18.8
Jaipur	21.8	33.0	23.4	Thiruvananthapuram	–	32.2	24.2
Kochi	–	30.4	25.0	Tiruchi	–	37.4	26.8
Kohima	18.6	26.3	17.4	Vijayawada	9.2	28.6	24.1
Kolkata	4.9	32.3	27.1	Visakhapatnam	–	28.2	25.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

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

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	95	.49	.–	.60	.–	
Bengaluru	.9	.51	.61	.32	.66	
Chennai	.8	.20	.63	.97	.–	
Delhi	.9	.19	155	.24	.27	
Hyderabad	.6	.–	.31	.24	.45	
Kolkata	.3	.23	.48	.20	.21	
Lucknow	.4	.22	.79	.73	.–	
Mumbai	13	.20	102	.–	.45	
Pune	68	.8	.67	.26	.26	
Visakhapatnam	18	.53	.54	.42	.52	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jodhpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 198 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Patiala, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

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

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

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

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

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

Looking for clues

Villagers watching the rescue operation after a boat with 20 people went missing in the Bhada river at Lokahi village in Bahraich in U.P. on Sunday. • PRAMOD ADHIKARI

T.N. CM cites 'farmer-friendly' policies of AIADMK govt. in Vellore campaign

STAFF REPORTER
VELLORE

Canvassing for New Justice Party founder A.C. Shanmugam, who is contesting the Vellore Parliamentary poll on an AIADMK ticket, for the second consecutive day, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Sunday said his government was for the people and was following in the footsteps of late party leader Jayalalithaa.

Addressing voters at Kilvaithinankuppam, Katpadi and K.V. Kuppam, he said villagers in these areas were dependent on agricultural income. The government had launched a water management scheme, free distribution of cattle and poultry and 100-day employment for women from farmers' families to enhance the livelihood of the farming community, he said.

Referring to DMK leader M.K. Stalin's argument that his party had won more seats (13) than the AIADMK (9) in the April Assembly byelections, Mr. Palaniswami claimed that the DMK had won in those constituencies by making unethical and false assurances. "In contrast, the 9 seats the people gave the AIADMK were for good governance," he claimed.

He said the voters, by electing Mr. Shanmugam, can overshadow the DMK's victory in 37 Parliamentary constituencies. Mr. Shanmugam will bring all the welfare measures announced by the Union government to the State, he claimed.

Need to help boys disclose sexual abuse, say activists

NCRB will for the first time collect gender disaggregated data on children

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The government informed Parliament last week that the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) will for the first time collect gender disaggregated data on sexual assaults against children. But activists say that for this to be a success, a lot will have to be done to ensure boys or transgender children open up about sexual abuse.

Gender distinction

"I am informed by the officers who serve NCRB that earlier cases did not make a referral to the gender of the victim. Hence, to refine the data now, States are being implored to ensure that a distinction in terms of gender can be made between a male victim and a female victim, so that in terms of rehabilitation and other support facilities given to that victim," Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani said in the Rajya Sabha last week.

In fact, the NCRB started the exercise of collecting data for crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, 2012 (POCSO), against girls, boys and transgender children in 2018, according to the forms sent that year to States for collection of data. Social activists rue the delay in making this important information public. The last annual report on crime statistics was made public in 2017 for the year 2016.

Union Minister Smriti Irani had recently spoken about the issue in Parliament.

"Though the gender-wise data collection on victims of sexual abuse is a welcome move, the government needs to release the crime reports since 2017," said Prabhat Kumar, head of Child Protection, Save The Children.

He adds, "The need for gender-disaggregated data was felt following a nationwide study in 2007, which showed that the number of boys who were victims of sexual abuse was slightly more than those of girls."

Reluctance to disclose

The Study on Child Abuse in 2007, commissioned by the government, surveyed 12,447 children in 13 States and found that 53.22% of them had faced one or more forms of sexual abuse. Of these, 52.94% were boys and 47.06% were girls. Only 5.69% of the victims had reported being sexually assaulted and most children did not report the matter to anyone.

The reluctance among children, especially boys, to disclose sexual abuse shows that the government needs to cover a lot of ground before the NCRB exercise can yield the desired results, say activists.

"We have seen from data collected through RTI that there is hardly any reporting by boys of sexual abuse. The government must focus on ensuring a congenial environment for boys to disclose sexual assault and erode into the social constructs which deter boys from doing so. It must recognise in its messaging that all children, including transgender children, are vulnerable to sexual abuse," said Vidya Reddy, founder, Tulir-Centre for Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse.

During a debate in Parliament, MP Derek O'Brien spoke of how, at the age of 13 in a public bus, someone ejaculated on his shorts. Mr. O'Brien said he did not talk about the incident for "six, seven years" before finally telling his parents.

Sexism in Parliament

India needs more women in legislatures to combat the likes of Azam Khan

The triple talaq bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on July 25, silencing Opposition voices that the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 should not be pushed through in a hurry, and without scrutiny. But the dissent on the nitty-gritty of the bill was overshadowed by the sexist remarks made by Samajawadi Party MP Azam Khan, directed against Bharatiya Janata Party member Rama Devi who was in the Chair. Referring to an intervention by Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Mr. Khan quoted a couplet, "... *tu idhar-udhar ki na baat kar* (do not digress)." When Ms. Devi asked Mr. Khan to address the Chair, he made an "objectionable" statement, marking a new parliamentary low. The irony that this was said while the House was discussing an issue concerning women was not lost on Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who quipped: "Don't politicise an issue that affects women." Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani pointed out that Mr. Khan's comment was a "blot on all legislators including men". Mr. Khan, a veteran from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly but a first-time MP who is no stranger to controversy, was banned from campaigning for 72 hours in the recent Lok Sabha polls after his misogynist remarks against BJP candidate Jaya Prada. While Mr. Khan has been asked to apologise to the House, some women members have renewed the pitch for the passage of the women's reservation bill.

The 17th Lok Sabha has the highest number of women MPs, 78, comprising 14.39% of the House. This is higher than 2014 and a long way from the first election in 1951-52, when they made up only 5% of the House. The global average stands at 24.6%, and neighbours Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal have quotas for women in Parliament. In India, the women's reservation bill or the Constitution (108th) Amendment Bill to set aside one-third of seats in Parliament and State Assemblies for women was passed in the Rajya Sabha in March 2010. However, the Bill couldn't overcome odds and the opposition in the Lok Sabha and went into cold storage. Critics have cited several reasons behind the bill being thwarted, not least that the quota for women would be appropriated by powerful stand-ins. But this could hold true for men as well. The Bharatiya Janata Party, which has an overwhelming majority in the Lok Sabha (303 of 543 seats) and has rushed through more than a dozen bills in this session, must take the lead. Slogans such as 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' will sound like mere lip-service if political parties don't speak out against gender prejudice. Women must have greater political representation in decision-making bodies as a first step towards changing chauvinistic mindsets, and Parliament needs to show the way.

Ban or regulate?

There are issues with cryptocurrencies, but a ban might not be the best answer

The recommendation of an inter-ministerial committee that India should ban all private cryptocurrencies, that is, Bitcoin and others like it, hardly comes as a surprise. Indian policymakers and administrators have time and again made clear their distaste for them, their existence owed almost entirely to advanced encryption technologies. In his Budget speech in 2018, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the government doesn't consider them legal tender. The Reserve Bank of India has repeatedly warned the public of the risks associated with dealing with cryptocurrencies. Bitcoin, the most prominent among them, has yo-yoed wildly in value, even over short periods of time. A May 2019 article by Bloomberg, citing data from blockchain analysis firm Chainalysis, said "speculation remains Bitcoin's primary use case". Its use in illegal online marketplaces that deal with drugs and child pornography is well-documented. There have been cases of consumers being defrauded, including in India. Given all this, it is understandable that the committee, under the chairmanship of Subhash Chandra Garg, the former Economic Affairs Secretary, has come across as being wary of private cryptocurrencies even while advocating a central bank-issued cryptocurrency.

Governments and economic regulators across the world are wary of private cryptocurrencies. As they need neither a central issuing authority nor a central validating agency for transactions, these currencies can exist and thrive outside the realm of authority and regulation. They are even deemed a threat to the official currency and monetary system. The question then is whether banning cryptocurrencies is the most effective way to respond. The inter-ministerial committee believes it is, going so far as to draft a law that mandates a fine and imprisonment of up to 10 years for the offences of mining, generating, holding, selling, dealing in, transferring, disposing of, or issuing cryptocurrencies. But six of the seven jurisdictions that its report cites have not banned cryptocurrencies outright. Many of them, including Canada, Thailand, Russia and Japan, seem to be moving on the path of regulation, so that transactions are within the purview of anti-money laundering and prevention of terror laws. China, which India has taken a cue from, has gone for an outright ban. Even there, the report says, "owing to the network-based nature of cryptocurrencies, after banning domestic crypto exchanges, many traders turned to overseas platforms to continue participating in crypto transactions." Trading in China is now low but not non-existent. But why would an outright ban be a superior choice to regulation, especially in a field driven by fast-paced technological innovations? The report, unfortunately, doesn't clarify that point.

Governing India through fiscal math

A focus on fiscal deficit reduction alone is not sound economic management. The revenue deficit must be in the picture

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

While it is important for a government to pursue a sound economic policy, including management of the public finances, it is yet another matter to make a fetish of any one aspect of it. The latter appears to govern this government's approach to policy when the fiscal deficit is given pride of place in its self-assessment. Not only is this unlikely to yield results on its own, it is not even necessarily prudent.

Thread of fiscal discipline

Soon after the Budget for 2019-20 was presented, one of the Finance Minister's predecessors remarked that "fiscal prudence rewards economies". This was perhaps issued both as praise for the Budget itself and as a justification of the approach taken during his own tenure. Though a concern for the size of the fiscal deficit would have been inevitable since the enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill in 2003, and has therefore been on the radar of political parties of all persuasions at the Centre, it has been raised to special significance since 2014. It figured in the most recent Economic Survey, and its anticipated magnitude for 2019-20 was the final statement in the Budget speech that had followed. The Finance Minister had commenced the speech saying how the government was committed to fiscal discipline.

In the context, "fiscal discipline" is understood as taking the economy towards the 3% of the gross domestic product. The basis for this figure can be queried but that is beside the point. Actually, the point is two fold: whether the fiscal deficit should be the sole index of fiscal management and what a reduction in the deficit would achieve. To suggest that fiscal prudence rewards economies is to suggest both that the fiscal deficit is the right indicator of fiscal soundness and that reducing it is bountiful.

Not always a perfect measure

While a sound fiscal policy is highly desirable, the magnitude of the fiscal deficit is not always and everywhere – think here of the state of the economy – a good measure of soundness. First, the fiscal deficit reflects the overall imbalance in the Budget. Embedded in the accounts of the government is the revenue account which is a statement of current receipts and expenditure. A fiscal deficit may or may not contain within it a deficit on the revenue account, termed the "revenue deficit". The possible embeddedness of a revenue deficit within a fiscal deficit muddies the waters somewhat. For movements in the overall, or fiscal, deficit by itself tell us nothing about what is happening to the revenue deficit. Why should we worry, one might ask. We worry because it is the balance on the revenue deficit that indicates whether the government is saving out of its income or spending more than it receives as current revenue. A revenue deficit implies that the government is dissaving.

A fiscal deficit co-terminus with a revenue deficit is to be frowned upon as it implies that at least some part of the borrowing is to finance current consumption, something a government ought prudently to avoid, at least for long. Therefore, unless the revenue deficit is kept explicitly in the picture, we cannot deduce the soundness of economic management from a mere reduction in the fiscal deficit. In fact, in the Budget for 2019-20, while the fiscal deficit projected is marginally lower than earlier, the revenue deficit is projected to rise. Even though the magnitude of the changes is minuscule, their direction calls into question the Finance Minister's claim that the government is committed to fiscal discipline. It is yet another instance when the fiscal deficit can end up being no more than window dressing. While a pathological adherence to a revenue account balance is itself avoidable, a steady revenue deficit as the fiscal deficit shrinks makes a mockery of fiscal consolidation. Worse still it is open to the interpretation that the exercise is ideological in that it aims only to shrink the size of government, fiscal prudence be damned.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Rewards yet to be seen

A detour through history would help bring some perspective here. A revenue deficit of the Central government is relatively recent, having been virtually non-existent till the 1980s. After that a rampant populism has taken over all political parties, reflected in revenue deficits accounting for over two thirds of the fiscal deficit such as the case today. Revenue deficits have become structural in India by now. This has three implications: that the public debt is only bound to rise; we are permanently borrowing to consume, and leaving it to future generations to inherit the debt. While the populism referred to is not the monopoly of any one political party, it is particularly stark in the case of the present one which relentlessly flags its virtue in lowering the fiscal deficit.

We can see the hollowness of the claim that fiscal consolidation or the shrinking of the fiscal deficit is always and everywhere prudent, for the issue is what is happening to the revenue deficit. Now onto the former Finance Minister's claim that "it rewards" economies. This government has lowered the fiscal deficit alright, though not as much as the United Progressive Alliance government, but the rewards are yet to be seen. Export growth has slowed and the unemployment rate has risen. Even private investment has not soared, an outcome predicted following the claim that government borrowing "crowds out" private investment.

International borrowing

Of late an entirely new dimension has been added to fiscal management, but here again the appropriateness of conducting economic policy by reference to the magnitude of the fiscal deficit remains the issue. In the last Budget the government has signalled its intention to borrow in foreign currency from the international market. This is an innovation alright as the Government of India has so far never borrowed in the international markets, leaving it to public sector organisations and the private corporate sector to do so.

In the Budget speech of the 17th Lok Sabha, the Finance Minister justified the move in terms of the very low share of foreign debt to GDP. The proposal has received criticism, some of it focussing on the consequences of exchange rate volatility. Benefits have been flagged too, such as that Indian sovereign bonds will attract a lower risk premium because the price of the foreign-currency-denominated sovereign bond will now be discoverable. This though ignores the biggest lesson from the global financial crisis of 2007, that the market cannot be relied upon to price risk correctly. And, both arguments overlook the foreign exchange constraint.

Dollar-denominated debt has to be repaid in dollars. Right now our reserves are fairly high but this could change. Oil prices could go back to where they were, the trade war initiated by U.S. President Donald Trump holds little prospect for faster export growth, and portfolio investment may flow out. While these are only possibilities, they point to the need to ultimately base your borrowing plan on expected dollar earnings. The opportunity offered by low global interest rates right now is not matched by the likelihood of robust export growth.

In the final analysis though, it is not the risk of exchange rate depreciation or stagnant exports or even capital flight that is the issue; it is the rationale for borrowing. With revenue deficits the overwhelming part of the fiscal deficit, we would be borrowing to finance consumption. Dollar denominated sovereign debt is just a matter of shifting this borrowing overseas. That is the real issue.

Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor of Economics, Ashoka University and Senior Fellow, IIM Kozhikode

History and the 5G dilemma

As India looks to developing 5G technology, its quest in the 1980s for an American supercomputer offers lessons

ARUN MOHAN SUKUMAR

New technologies have a curious history of finding their way into the crosshairs of international politics. '5G' is no different. In many respects, the dilemma facing Prime Minister Narendra Modi – to embrace Huawei and other Chinese purveyors of 5G-enabled telecommunications infrastructure, or to salvage the political relationship with the United States – is similar to the one faced by Rajiv Gandhi in the 1980s. Then, India had sought for itself a "supercomputer" from, among others, Japan. Instead, it was dealt a bad hand by the U.S., and made to settle eventually for an American machine that belonged to an older, slower generation of computers. The lessons from that moment in history are instructive, and Indian policymakers would do well to heed them.

The late 1980s saw the waning of Cold War tensions on account of the Soviet Union's inability to stand toe-to-toe with the military might of the U.S. But U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration had already set its sights on a small nation making rapid advancements in computing: Japan. Their technological rivalry spawned a trade war between Washington DC and Tokyo, each trying to outpace the other in penetrating newer markets. It reached a crescendo in 1987 when Reagan himself blocked the acquisition of Fairchild Semiconductors by Fujitsu Corporation. Fairchild was responsible for giving "Silicon Valley" its name – the audacious Japanese attempt to buy off an American crown jewel was the straw that broke the camel's back.

The supercomputer saga

But long before this rivalry reached a head, India had become its unfortunate casualty. Geopolitics induced by technology coincided with Rajiv Gandhi's winning the 1984 general election by a landslide. His early initiatives included the New Computer Policy (NCP) of 1984 and the Software (Exports) Policy of 1986, which resulted in a steep drop in the price of computers, and heralded a remarkable shift in the government's attitude towards them. However, to keep up with rapid, generational leaps in computing, India needed the assistance of nations that had made big strides in the sector. The U.S. made it known early that it called the shots.

Months after the NCP was passed, Reagan put India in a list of destinations that needed special "review" before exports of American technology could be cleared. Rajiv Gandhi made a much publicised visit to Washington DC in the summer of 1985 to break the impasse. It resulted in the Technology Cooperation Agreement (TCA), a genuine, diplomatic success forged by the personal chemistry the young Prime Minister shared with the septuagenarian Reagan. The TCA eased regulations on technology exports, and it was during this visit that Rajiv Gandhi broached the possible purchase of a supercomputer.

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Publicly, India sought a supercomputer to forecast its monsoons better. Negotiations with the U.S. were however long and cumbersome, and an entire year passed by without any progress. Meanwhile, Rajiv Gandhi himself had staked political capital in promising to bring home a supercomputer, lending urgency to the matter. India eventually approached Japan, whose NEC Corporation was the only company outside the U.S. that could offer a supercomputer.. The *Wall Street Journal* at the time made the stunning revelation that Japan had promised India it would "sign a supercomputer agreement within 30 days if the US deal fell through".

Instrument of politics

The availability of advanced technology from a competitor undermined the U.S. objective of wielding it as a blunt instrument of politics. Reagan wanted to wean India away from its partnership with the Soviet Union on high technology, and rein in New Delhi's progress on its nascent guided missile programme. Therefore, the U.S. attached riders to the sale, placing intrusive safeguards and certification requirements that the supercomputer would be used by India only for civilian purposes. Ironically, American technology companies such as Honeywell and Unisys were supplying advanced electronics to Saddam Hussein around the same time, augmenting Iraq's missile system. When Japan stepped into the picture, the U.S. immediately began negotiations to reach a "common understanding" with Tokyo for the sale of supercomputers.

The Japanese too believed the safeguards were "too broad and too stringent" but simply did not have the diplomatic firepower to resist Reagan's overtures. With Japan making its reluctance known, India was held captive at the negotiating table by the U.S. The agreement finally inked was for the sale of a Cray XMP supercomputer a generation older to its latest variant.

The deal did little for Rajiv Gandhi domestically. After all, the Indian disaffection with IBM had begun, leading to its eventual exit in 1978, on account of its selling of obsolete machines to customers. If India has made modest forays into supercomputing today, it is thanks to the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), which stepped up its efforts to create an indigenous machine in the wake of this episode.

The Cray supercomputer sale is well-documented, but less storied is the American effort to dissuade Japan's technology giants from the Indian market. By investing heavily in his political relationship with the U.S., Rajiv Gandhi unwittingly waded into Reagan's technology trade war with Tokyo. It diminished his ability to negotiate autonomously with NEC.

Fast forward to the present

The 5G saga is no different. At the recently concluded G20 summit in Osaka, Mr. Modi suggested he was talking to his U.S. counterpart to "collaborate and develop 5G technology for mutual benefit". Few American vendors have the ability today to compete with a Huawei, Nokia or Ericsson – the statement was a concession on Mr. Modi's part, allowing the U.S. to shoot off India's shoulders against Chinese technology giants. With the Principal Scientific Adviser, K. Vijay-Raghavan, also the head of the high-level panel on 5G, openly calling for the exclusion of Chinese players from national trials, the government has unwisely put all its cards on the table.

The U.S.-China technology rivalry is eminently political, one in which India should not take sides. If anything, New Delhi should take care to see history does not repeat itself. Much like the U.S.-Japan understanding on supercomputers, Osaka also saw the beginning of a U.S. rapprochement with China on technology trade: India must ensure whatever bilateral configuration that emerges from such talks does not restrict the sale of 5G equipment to others. There are no winners for India to pick in this battle: just decisions to be made coldly from the prism of economic self-interest.

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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.

Train rescue

The heroic rescue of the passengers on board the Mahalaxmi Express which was caught in flood waters about 65 km from Mumbai is much appreciated (Page 1, "1,050 passengers rescued from stranded train near Mumbai", July 28). The Central Railway should now be proactive and cancel train services in flood-affected regions in the best interest of passenger safety. The incident should also lead to better facilities on board trains. A public announcement system in all trains to communicate information to passengers during an emergency or crisis must be in place. Railway staff should also be equipped to handle any emergency.

VARUN DAMBAL,
Bengaluru

■ Compliments to the entire team and agencies involved in the dramatic rescue. We often blame government agencies whenever there is a disaster but seldom appreciate a good job such as this. The role of the local people cannot be ignored, with young men assisting the forces. May their tribe grow.

TILAK SUBRAMANIAN V.,
Kunjibettu, Udupi, Karnataka

Open House

I was one of the 40 readers to participate in the first Kerala Open House with the Readers' Editor ("Revive passion for reading among youth, say readers", July 28). As many readers have pointed out, *The Hindu* is the best newspaper to improve a person's vocabulary and knowledge. From Saturday's meeting I understand that most readers have expressed dismay over the declining passion for reading especially among the millennials. Students of my generation do find social media to be a huge draw and hardly look at the newspaper. The daily needs to take the initiative to encourage the reading habit right from school and must shape its products towards meeting this goal. Finally, more such open house meetings must be held across India so that the editor-reader relationship grows.

GEORGIL K. JEEMON,
Kumarapuram, Ernakulam, Kerala

■ While it is gratifying to note that the 'Readers' Mail' column will be restored and improved, the space for the 'Letters to the Editor' section should be increased, taking up from what a reader at the Kochi session has suggested.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

Life of a doctor

A doctor's life is always on edge (Open Page, "All in a day's work for this doctor", July 28). Ultimately he is judged, hailed or condemned, based on the end result, ignoring all the sincere efforts and dedication invested by the doctor when handling a case. The primary reason for this is the assumption that a doctor is an omnipotent saviour.
This misconception needs to be erased from our minds. Even after the best treatment, a patient may not survive due to extraneous factors. A doctor is also a normal being just doing his job. He can only do it with all the wisdom, knowledge, sincerity and dedication at his command.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

■ The article was extremely poignant, conveying the anguish of not being able to save a patient. Doctors wage a relentless battle day in and day out to save patients under their care but at times fate decides otherwise.

C.V. ARAVIND,
Bengaluru

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In a Business page (July 28, 2019) report on ICICI Bank's performance, there was an erroneous reference to consolidated return on assets - both in the text and in the graphic. It should have been consolidated return on equity.

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It's time for India and Pakistan to walk the talk

Given the various breaches, the Simla Agreement could do with a makeover

V. SUDARSHAN

The Simla Agreement may be somewhat overrated. It could even be dead though we keep referring to it as a guiding light and take shelter behind it. Signed on July 2, 1972, by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Agreement has been observed mainly in its breach. It commits the two countries to "put an end to the conflict and confrontation that have hitherto marred their relations and work for the promotion of a friendly and harmonious relationship and the establishment of durable peace in the sub-continent". Pending "the final settlement of any of the problems between the two countries", it stipulates that "neither side shall unilaterally alter the situation and both shall prevent the organization, assistance or encouragement of any acts detrimental to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations". This is followed by a list of admirable, if ineffectual, exhortations. If these had been implemented effectively by New Delhi and Islamabad, Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar could well have been tourists in India rather than terrorists. Given the various breaches, the Simla Agreement could do with a makeover.

It took more than 10 years after Simla to group the subjects that India and Pakistan would sporadically talk about, and even then the two countries have been going around in circles. It is reasonable to assume that nowadays Pakistan talks more about India and Kashmir to the U.S. than to India. Terrorism was one of the subjects that the two nations emphasised they would bilaterally discuss, but the 2011 Mumbai blasts shattered that premise. Since then India has been talking about Pakistani terrorism not so much with Pakistan as with any country willing to listen. This is probably why U.S President Donald Trump revealed at the Oval Office on July 22 that he and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan would be "talking about India". "I think maybe if we can help intercede and do whatever we have to do," he said. "But I think it's something that can be brought back together."

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto signing the Simla Agreement in July 1972. ▪ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Clinton's role during Kargil

President Trump may have been overstating it, but when the Simla Agreement was violated in Kargil, it was an American President who helped push the Pakistani troops back into Pakistan. As the Kargil War began to get bigger, a worried President Bill Clinton, who called the region "the most dangerous place in the world", reached out to both Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, urging Mr. Sharif to pull back from the Line of Control (LoC) and Vajpayee not to widen the war front.

On July 2, 1999, the 27th anniversary of the Simla Agreement, when the Indian Army launched a three-pronged attack in Kargil, Mr. Sharif called up Mr. Clinton. He wanted the Americans to intervene. To make it happen, he was even ready to fly to Washington with his family in case he became a Prime Minister in exile. Two American diplomats in the Clinton administration, Bruce Riedel and Strobe Talbott, detail the developments in fascinating detail. They write that the Americans told Mr. Sharif not to come unless he was willing to agree to an unconditional withdrawal. Mr. Sharif told the Americans that he was coming anyway. President Clinton, who had been briefing Vajpayee every little step of the way, called him. Vajpayee was by then a sceptic of peace. He had made a high-risk bus trip to Lahore and the Pakistanis had rewarded him by violating the Simla Agreement in Kargil to seek to alter the LoC. Vajpayee did not tell Mr. Clinton that this was a bilateral affair and he should stay out of it. Instead, he warned the President that Mr. Sharif would take him on a merry ride, and he was afraid that Mr. Clinton would get co-opted. Mr. Riedel, who was present at all the meetings, writes in "American Diplomacy and the 1999 Kargil Summit at Blair House": "Sharif handed the President a document which he said was a non-paper provided to him early in the crisis by Vajpayee in which the two would agree to restore the sanctity of the LoC (a formula for Pakistani withdrawal) and resume the Lahore process. Sharif said at first India had agreed to this non-paper but then changed its mind".

Mr. Sharif wanted a withdrawal in return for a time-specific resolution of the Kashmir issue. President Clinton exploded saying he wouldn't be blackmailed. The meeting broke to take stock of the matter. During the break, President Clinton called a worried Vajpayee to brief him again. "What do you want me to say," Vajpayee asked when informed of what had gone on. President Clinton responded that he was holding firm. When they met again, Mr. Clinton told Mr. Sharif that if Pakistan didn't withdraw, he would issue a statement naming Pakistan as a sponsor of terrorism as it had already readied nuclear missiles. Mr. Sharif said he feared for his life, but he reluctantly agreed to pull back troops. President Clinton called Vajpayee to give him the news. "That guy's from Missouri big-time," he said later. "He wants to see those boys get off that mountain before he's going to believe any of this" (*Engaging India*, Strobe Talbott). The U.S. helped boot out the Pakistanis from Kargil for India.

Trump's hint

Was what President Clinton did mediation? Or was it intervention? Or meddling? Or was this all a shining example of bilateralism envisaged in the Simla Agreement? President Trump gave India a preview on February 28, before Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was freed by Pakistan, of what was coming when he said: "We have some reasonably decent news. I think hopefully that's going to be coming to an end. It's been going on for a long time, decades and decades. There's a lot of dislike, unfortunately. So we've been in the middle trying to help them both out, see if we can get some organization and some peace, and I think probably that's going to be happening." Was that mediation or the Simla Agreement at work? Nobody pointed out to President Trump that only the Ministry of External Affairs or the Pakistani Foreign Office or the Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations were allowed to make such announcements.

We have to recognise that the world has changed since the Simla Agreement was signed. After the 1971 war, India returned land taken in battle on the western border, to create lasting peace. The LoC is now more firmly established than ever before. There is no talk any more of United Nations resolutions. Most of the subjects in the 'composite dialogue format' like Siachen, Sir Creek and Wullar Barrage have been discussed threadbare. Some of them have been ready for political signatures for years. If the way forward is bilateral, then surely it is time to prove it?

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FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Dialogue dividends

The Hindu's Open House ensures a free and frank exchange of ideas between readers and senior editors

A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

The *Neiman Reports* recently explored the idea of 'dialogue journalism' in a piece titled, "Can dialogue journalism engage audiences, foster civil discourse, and increase trust in the media?" In that report, Chuck Todd, the moderator of NBC's Meet the Press, observed: "As a journalist, you can't just sit in the observation tower anymore and report that one side is saying this and the other side is saying that. Listening to community voices and encouraging them to listen to each other is not a new tactic in journalism, it's just more of a necessity than before." In polarised times, dialogue helps people listen to each other rather than emphasise their own points in echo chambers. In my experience, *The Hindu*'s Open House has become a forum for engagement. It is a form of dialogue journalism.

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK PHOTO

Discussion in the Open House

We invited 40 readers for the last Open House, which was held in Kochi on July 27, for a free and frank exchange of ideas with the senior editorial team led by the Editor. A representative from the management was also present to address non-editorial queries. We provided adequate time to the readers to raise their concerns. It was heartening to note that there were young college students, literary translators, teachers and retired bureaucrats in the audience. The reason for limiting the number to 40 was to ensure that every participant got an opportunity to express his or her opinion.

Louise Diamond of The Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy once said: "Dialogue means we sit and talk with each other, especially those with whom we may think we have the greatest differences. However, talking together all too often means debating, discussing with a view to convincing the other, arguing for our point of view, examining pros and cons. In dialogue, the intention is not to advocate but to inquire; not to argue but to explore; not to convince but to discover."

Instead of being trapped in the binary of digital media and legacy media, readers understood the value of the process of news-gathering and news processing. Two young readers, Anna Kattampally and Chithra S. Nair, both graduate students from St. Teresa's College, said younger readers now wait for proper journalistic writing to know the truth as social media forwards carry too much misinformation. They told us that there is a dramatic increase in the sharing of sensational, unverified content which is eroding trust in various institutions. They said that the fact that such messages come from known circles give them some form of credence. It is in this context that they have decided to become readers of *The Hindu*, a newspaper which makes central to its news coverage the act of verification.

A difficult balance

Many readers spoke of a balance of hyperlocal, local, state, national and international news. Diverse opinions indicated that any fixed formula would make someone unhappy, as the interests of each reader are different from another's. One idea that the Editor approved of was the creation of an edition-centric letters section to deal with local and civic issues. This can be a form of citizen journalism. He has promised to make the local letters section an interactive one: readers will raise issues and the newspaper will seek responses to these issues from the authorities concerned. One reader said that the official responses could become formulaic and wanted the newspaper to examine both the complaints and the responses, so that there is a system of accountability. This new section should be available within a fortnight.

In the era of digitisation, a question that was asked was, shouldn't news be free? When there are multiple sources of information, why should a publication have a paywall? Some argued that the paywall proposal was an attempt to turn news into a commodity that people are willing to pay for.

The answer is simple: news costs money, and credible news costs more money. It is our own democratic investment to pay a fair price for high-quality journalism. For nearly a century, the revenue model was driven by advertising, which is now getting fragmented across platforms.

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Respecting reproductive choice

Regulation of commercial surrogacy rather than a blanket ban may be the way forward

VIJAITA SINGH

It is unfortunate that the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, approved by the Cabinet, bans and criminalises commercial surrogacy and only allows altruistic surrogacy. The Bill stipulates that a surrogate mother has to be a 'close relative' of the intending couple.

Imposing morality

The legislation shows that the government is eager to impose a certain morality on others as the Bill excludes gay couples, single men and women, and unmarried couples who want a child. In doing so, the government overlooks the needs of many same sex couples and single parents.

In its earlier form, the Surrogacy Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha on December 19, 2018. It was passed after a short debate of just two hours among only nine members of Parliament. It could not be introduced in the Rajya Sabha, however. At that time, the Health Minister, J.P. Nadda, said various political parties supported the Bill which was drafted "keeping the Indian ethos in mind". He said the "intention is to save the family" and if the family is not able to bear children, to help them bear children through facilities offered by modern science. A family, according to the Minister, consists of "a registered husband and wife." The 228th Law Commission India Report on Commercial Surrogacy too strongly recommended prohibiting commercial surrogacy. However, it said that "prohibition on vague moral grounds without a proper assessment of social ends and purposes which surrogacy can serve would be irrational."

How did the the Health Ministry conclude that that all forms of commercial surrogacy are suspicious? If it relied on or conducted studies on commercial surrogacy, it would be helpful if it shared these with the public, especially since this Bill, if it becomes law, could affect the chances of many couples in India who are desperate for children and whose only ray of hope is often commercial surrogacy. Is there an inventory of clinics offering commercial surrogacy services? If yes, did the health inspectors carry out inspections? Should there be a charter of regulations that these clinics must follow? Many questions remain unanswered.

The legislation allows surrogacy only through a close relative. However, the Bill doesn't define 'close relative'. Moreover, the surrogate, the Bill says, should be married, aged 25 to 35, and should have at least one child. This further brings down the number of eligible surrogate mothers.

Votaries of the ban have argued that commercial surrogacy is used for trafficking, and foreigners abandon children born through surrogates. Such violations should be addressed with an iron fist. However, has there been a comparison between the number of cases of misuse and those cases where families have benefited from surrogacy? Other practices are misused too, but they are all not banned.

Tightening regulations

The focus should be on the well-being of the surrogate. The intending couple should ensure financial enumeration, a sound insurance cover and regular health check-ups for the surrogate. The relevant parts of the process should be legally documented. To impose a ban where better regulation may have sufficed will only take the entire process underground. Tightening regulations would respect the interests of infertile couples who might have a chance to have a child through surrogacy. That would also respect the woman's choice about how she wants to bear a child.

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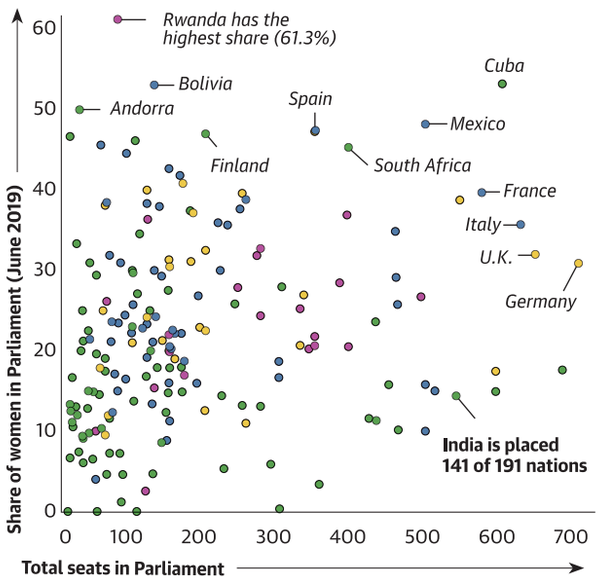
DATA POINT

Women in charge

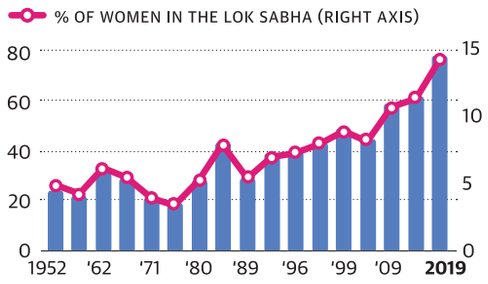
Despite the share of women legislators in the Lok Sabha peaking at 14.39% as of June 2019, India is still worse than 140 countries in the representation of women in Parliament. The global average for the share of women parliamentarians stood at 24.6%. By **Sumant Sen**

Global snapshot

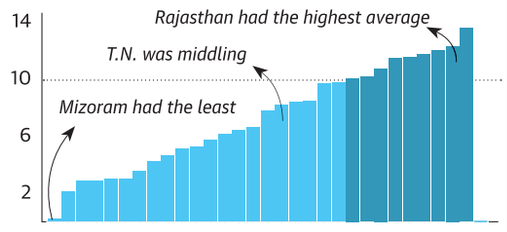
The graph plots the number of seats in Parliament against the share of women legislators in 191 countries. Each circle is a country. ● indicates countries that have a quota for women in Parliament; ● denotes countries where parties are mandated to field a certain % of women candidates; ● depicts countries where parties give quota to women but are not mandated to do so; ● indicates no quota for women



Slight uptick | The graph shows the share of women lawmakers in the Lok Sabha from the first election to the latest. The % of women parliamentarians has gone up significantly in the last three terms of the Lower House



State of play | The graph shows the average share of women MLAs in State legislatures between 2008 and 2018. Each bar is a State. Only nine States had an average share of more than 10% women in their Assemblies in this period



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Election of India Atlas, Trivedi Centre for Political Data, UN

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 29, 1969

Signs of ferment in Nepal

The suppression of three newspapers here [Kathmandu] last week, along with the arrest of student demonstrators and a prominent member of the National Assembly, focussed attention on the troubled political conditions in Nepal. The developments indicate that the Panchayat or Assembly system of limited representative Government inaugurated by King Mahendra nine years ago is running into serious new difficulties. One of the chief elements in the situation is a Communist movement looking mainly toward Peking that stands to profit if turbulence and repression continue. The latest flare-up of student restiveness results from recent student union elections. For years, Communist nominees have been winning the annual vote but this year non-Communists came out ahead. Demonstrations by rival factions centred on international issues, with the Communists attacking their opponents through anti-Indian slogans, denouncing the small Indian military liaison group in Nepal, Indian border watchers on the Tibet frontier and India's position over Susta, where location of boundary posts is in dispute.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 29, 1919.

Letter to Mr. Gandhi.

A portion of the correspondence that has lately passed between Mr. Gandhi and the Hon'ble Sir George Barnes, Commerce and Industries Member of the Government of India, in regard to the Asiatic Trading Amendment Act, passed by the South Africa Legislature, has been issued to the Press [in Bombay] by Mr. Gandhi. It consists of two letters, one written by Sir George Barnes to Mr. Gandhi on the 18th instant reviewing the position in South Africa at length, regretting that protests from the Government of India had been unavailing and assuring that the Government would consider most anxiously further action to be taken when the full text of the new statute is received, and the other being Mr. Gandhi's reply to Sir George Barnes. The following is the text of Sir George Barne's letter to Mr. Gandhi: Dear Mr. Gandhi, I sent you only a very short note a few days ago in answer to your letter because I wanted to defer a fuller answer until I was able to deal with the subject at length. I told you, in my first note, that I felt certain that you needed no assurance from me that the events in South Africa which have led up to the passing of the new statute have caused the Viceroy and myself the deepest anxiety.

FROM PAGE ONE

Speaker disqualifies 14 more rebel MLAs

Congress's legislator representing Kagwad – Shrimanth Balasaheb Patil, who in filmy style sneaked out of the resort where the Congress had kept its flock together, has also been disqualified based on another petition.

H. D. Kumaraswamy

Petition by ex-CM

On another petition filed by former Chief Minister Kumaraswamy on behalf of the JD(S), the Speaker disqualified former JD(S) president A.H. Vishwanath (Hunsur), K.C. Narayan Gowda (K.R. Pete) and K. Gopalaiah (Mahalakshmi Layout).

Like the disqualification of three legislators on Thursday night, the 14 disqualifications have been effected based on paragraph 2 (1A) of the tenth schedule of the Constitution read with article 191 (2).

The Speaker cited previous cases, including Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu's judgment in respect of Janata Dal(U) leader Sharad Yadav and the Tamil Nadu Speaker's related to the disqualification of 18 AIADMK legislators. "Monday the House is meeting to tackle two important issues – confidence motion being moved by Mr. Yediyurappa, and discussion and voting of the Appropriation Bill. Therefore pronouncement of order on resignation/disqualification had to be done today. There may not be time on Monday," said Mr. Ramesh Kumar, justifying his decision to order disqualification on Sunday though it's a public holiday.

Working on weekend

He pointed out that due to the urgency, the Speaker's Secretariat and Assembly Secretariat had to work on weekend.

He said his office had received another disqualification petition by the BSP against its lone legislator N. Mahesh.

Naga register will shield State from outsiders: Dy. CM

The RIIN is often called a variant of Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The only difference is the exclusion from the list will not make the people "illegal or stateless".

RIIN opposed

The NSCN(IM), which signed a framework agreement with the Centre for finding a solution to the decades-old Naga problem, has opposed the RIIN.

It has called the list "a bid to divide and undermine the inherent rights of the Nagas, besides diluting the peace process approaching a final settlement."

The NSCN(IM) has been fighting for Nagalim or 'Greater Nagaland' by bringing the Naga-dominated areas in Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh under Nagaland, thus uniting 1.2 million Nagas.

Separate flag

It has also demanded a separate flag and a constitution for the Nagas.

The Centre has ruled out any division of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

Airport privatisation process questioned

The Congress spokesperson also alleged that the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) refused to either work out the total projected cost of these airports or look at the prior experience of bidders.

"In effect, for the next 50 years the government will have no control over these five airports as the Adani group will take over," Mr. Khera said.

Consumer interests

"One by one, each condition placed to ensure protection of consumer interests were rejected," he added.

Development will trump bombs: Modi

People of Kashmir are keen on joining the mainstream and are eager to get good governance, says PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the forces who wanted to spread hate in Jammu and Kashmir would never succeed as "the power of development is stronger than the might of bullets and bombs".

Addressing the second episode of his monthly radio broadcast *Mann Ki Baat* in his second term, Mr. Modi said a programme in Jammu and Kashmir called "Back to village", in which government officials visited remote villages in June to understand the stumbling blocks to development and explain government schemes to the people, saw enthusiastic participation from the local population.

"It shows how keen people of Kashmir are on joining the mainstream of development... Such programmes and people's participation in them show that people of Kashmir want good governance. This also proves the dictum that the power of development is stronger than the might of bullets and bombs," he said.

> Such programmes [Back to Village] and people's participation in them show that people of Kashmir want good governance. This also proves that the power of development is stronger than the might of bullets and bombs
>
> NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

Reaching remote villages

"It is clear that those who wish to spread hatred development, pose hurdles, will never succeed in their sinister plans," Mr. Modi said and pointed out that senior officials reached the doorsteps of villagers across 4,500 panchayats.

Mr Modi said the officials also reached villages on the border that live under the shadow of cross-border firing and sensitive villages in the districts of Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam and Anantnag – districts that had seen heightened militancy in recent times – without any fear.

With over 3 lakh pilgrims completing the Amarnath yatra since July 1, the Prime Minister noted that the number was already more than the number of people who had visited the Amarnath caves during the 60 days period in 2015. Staying with tourism and pilgrimage, he said more than eight lakh devotees had visited the Kedarnath shrine, after the 2013 deluge that had devastated the region and had put a pause on the Chardham yatra in Uttarakhand.

Chandrayaan II lessons

Mr. Modi also lauded the scientists of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and talked about lessons learnt from the launch of Chandrayaan II, India's mission to put a lander-rover on the moon.

Focussing on the launch, he shared the lessons he learnt from the mission.

"If you ask me what the two greatest lessons I have received from Chandrayaan II, I shall say they are faith and fearlessness. We should trust our talent and capacities; we should have faith in them," he said.

The PM praised the scientists for rectifying the technical glitches in a record time and successfully developing the A SAT [Anti-Satellite] that can destroy an enemy satellite within three minutes.

In his 25-minute address, the PM asked people to find out new ways to celebrate Independence Day on August 15 to ensure greater participation and informed the people of the Centre's effort to help the flood-affected States and how it was working with State governments at a "lightning pace" to provide people relief.

Modi likely to attend J&K core group meeting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend a Jammu and Kashmir BJP core group meeting here on Tuesday, with top party leaders, including its chief Amit Shah, set to discuss the political atmosphere and the party's preparedness for the Assembly elections.

Sources said Union Minister Jitendra Singh, BJP general secretary Ram Madhav, the party's State unit president Ravinder Raina and other senior leaders from the State will attend the meeting besides the party's national working president J.P. Nadda.

Earlier, Mr. Madhav, the party's pointsperson for Kashmir, urged the Election Commission to hold the election this year.

Shah lauds Adityanath on law and order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday heaped praise on Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Justifying the decision to pick him for the top job in the State, Mr. Shah said what Mr. Adityanath lacked in administrative experience, he made up with his dedication and work ethic.

The Minister said Mr. Adityanath's performance had proved that the decision despite him never holding the post of a Minister or even running a municipality, was *uchit* (justified).

Mr. Shah was speaking at a ground-breaking ceremony for 250 investment projects worth ₹65,000 crore with Mr. Adityanath also present.

Sea change

Mr. Shah said U.P. had witnessed a number of changes under Mr. Adityanath, the prime among them being the "good" law and order situation and the flurry of investments.

Acknowledging that the "biggest obstacle" for those wanting to invest in the State was its law and order situation, Mr. Shah said in just two years, the State had witnessed a *zameen asmaan ka farq* (sea change) on that front. Mr. Adityanath said the investment of ₹65,000 crore would generate three lakh jobs in the State.

Security tightened in Kashmir

Police officers put on alert; Mehbooba, Omar raise concerns over special status

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Enhancement of the security grid and fresh orders to local officers continued in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. .

While top government officials termed the measures "a routine contingency augmentation to counter any rise in militant attacks", regional parties, including the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), termed the measures a hint at "tinkering with its [the State's] special status".

Senior police sources said after the troop induction in Kashmir Valley, it would start in Jammu's Chenab Valley, which included the communally sensitive Kishtwar district.

Mehbooba Mufti during the 20th Raising day of the People's Democratic Party in Srinagar on Sunday. • NISSAR AHMAD

In volatile south Kashmir, senior police officers dealing with the law and order situation have been ordered "to stay alert and protect their own installations in case of eventuality", police sources said.

However, after a Railway Protection Force (RPF) officer issued orders asking subordinates to stock dry ration and drinking water apprehending deteriorating law and order situation in the Valley, officials clarified that he had misjudged the situation. The Railway officer, posted in Budgam, has since been asked for an explanation and told to "desist from such act in future also".

NC president and Srinagar MP Farooq Abdullah said his party would not allow any changes in the demography in J&K. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said, "Any attempt at tinkering with Article 35A is akin to setting light explosives."

NIA searches houses of four J&K traders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday conducted searches at the residences of four cross-Line of Control (LoC) traders in north Kashmir's Baramulla town in connection with an illegal funding case.

The NIA team raided the residences of Tariq Ahmed Mir of Kanlibagh, Tanvir Ahmad Mir alias Kaka Mir of Chinar Bagh, Bilal Ahmad Bhat of Kanispora and Asif Akbar Lone of Ifaat Colony Kanlibagh.

Sources said the agency questioned the family and seized some documents.

No hurry in passing Bills, says BJP

Bhupender Yadav says Opposition irked by enhanced productivity of Parliament

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Responding to criticism from the Opposition that the Narendra Modi government was passing laws without adequate scrutiny, Bharatiya Janata Party general secretary Bhupender Yadav on Sunday said the Opposition seemed to have a problem with the "enhanced" productivity of Parliament.

In a series of tweets, Mr. Yadav said the Modi government had sent more Bills in the Rajya Sabha to Parliamentary Select Committees than the United Progressive Alliance government in a span of five years.

Bhupender Yadav

"Recently, Opposition leaders in the Rajya Sabha alleged that the government passed legislation in a hurry and without scrutiny by the Parliamentary Standing Committees or Select Committees, which is fundamentally wrong on facts," he said.

He said it was surprising that the Opposition was "objecting to the fact that the Parliament has been utilising more of its time to bring laws".

"It is a matter of record that the UPA government had referred only five Bills in the Rajya Sabha to the Parliamentary Select Committee from 2009 to 2014, while the NDA government has sent 17 Bills to the Parliamentary Select Committees in the Rajya Sabha for scrutiny from 2014 to 2019," he said.

He said the Opposition could agree or disagree with any legislation, but "creating unnecessary disruptions is not healthy for the functioning of democracy". "It is important for the Opposition to understand the constructive role it can play to strengthen democracy. It is encouraging to see that during the ongoing session more parliamentary business has been accomplished as compared to any previous session," he said.

Ex-Army man beaten to death in U.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMETHI

A 64-year-old retired Army captain was beaten to death by unidentified assailants in Amethi district of Uttar Pradesh, the police said on Sunday.

The incident took place at Godiyan ka Purva village on Saturday night.

Capt. Amanuallah's wife told the police that some people were trying to steal from a shop adjoining their house and when her husband objected, they entered the house and beat him up.

Indira Gandhi's fearless rival in Medak

Jaipal Reddy proved himself to be a politician ready to fight for the right causes

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Intellectual, witty, wordsmith, outstanding parliamentarian and gentleman politician. This is how colleagues remembered S. Jaipal Reddy, who had been elected to the Lok Sabha five times, the Rajya Sabha twice and the Assembly of undivided Andhra Pradesh four times.

In his tribute, President Ram Nath Kovind described him as a "thinking man's politician". Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called him "a friend who was a treasure of wisdom and knowledge".

S. JAIPAL REDDY: 1942-2019

Spokesperson

Knowledge, coupled with humour, made Mr. Reddy a natural choice to be the spokesperson of the party he represented or the government he was part of – someone who could quote George Bernard Shaw if he wanted to avoid a direct answer or give the "perfect background briefing" for journalists.

It was this ability that made him the spokesperson for the National Front and the United Front governments and the voice of the Janata Dal, especially when it was faced with a leadership crisis because of factional feuds.

In the late 1990s, he was made the Information and Broadcasting Minister in the United Front government when it was led by the late I.K. Gujral.

He started out as a student leader of Osmania University and became a Congress MLA in the 1970s. Later, when former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed the Emergency in 1975, he quit the Congress in protest and joined the Janata Party and contested against her in Medak in 1980.

He lost the election but he had proved himself to be a politician who was ready to fight for the right causes.

In 1984, when the Congress had swept the Lok Sabha election, he was a key voice of the Opposition in the lower House of Parliament, as the general secretary of the Janata Party (that later split and became the Janata Dal).

Best Parliamentarian

His oratorical skills in Parliament earned him the Best Parliamentarian Award in 1998. A year later, he rejoined the Congress following the failure of various coalitions that had come together on the glue of anti-Congressism. "When he became spokesman of the Congress, I congratulated him and he told me he was spokesman of two political formations that ceased to exist: Janata Dal and National Front. I told him that I hope the third time he will be lucky," Jairam Ramesh of the Congress told *The Hindu*.

"Behind every word that he spoke or wrote, there was deep scholarship and a passion that was remarkable," said former Union Minister P. Chidambaram.

During the 10-year rule of the United Progressive Alliance, Mr. Reddy headed various Ministries – from Information and Broadcasting to Urban Development and Science and Technology – but it was his removal from the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry that triggered a political storm. It was alleged that he was moved out after he imposed a hefty fine on an oil firm that defaulted on its commitments on gas production from the Krishna-Godavari basin.

'Vishaka rules must apply to judiciary'

CJI cannot be exempt: Justice Shah

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Justice A.P. Shah, says there is a need to discuss how the Vishaka guidelines, which deal with sexual harassment in the workplace, should be made applicable to the judiciary.

Justice Shah's comments came while delivering the 27th Rosalind Wilson Memorial Lecture on Sunday on the subject "Judging the judges: need for transparency and accountability".

He said the "immediate trigger" for his choice of subject for the speech was the sexual harassment allegations raised by a Supreme Court employee against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

Justice Shah said he did not want to pass judgment on the truth or falsity of the sexual harassment allegations, but he added there were "certain stark facts that stand out which demand consideration".

On the in-house mechanism dealing with complaints against judges, Justice Shah said it had no statutory basis or constitutional blessing. He suggested that a permanent disciplinary committee with a secretariat be set up at the central level to deal with complaints against judges, and the government should have no part in this.

Justice A.P. Shah

He said, "... the Chief Justice cannot be made an exception to the procedure, as unfortunately is the case today. Any accountability mechanism must apply to all judges, regardless of status or rank. The law and the procedure must also engage with how the Vishakha guidelines can be made applicable to the judiciary."

Cong. forged signatures in M.P., says Opposition

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Leader of the Opposition in the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Gopal Bhargava, on Sunday alleged the Congress had forged signatures of some of its missing MLAs during the voting on a Bill in the Assembly on July 24, in which two BJP MLAs had voted in its favour. The BJP is going to take up the issue with the Governor.

"My source has informed me that 8 to 10 Congress MLAs were absent during the voting, yet they managed to get 122 votes to pass the Bill," Mr. Bhargava told *The Hindu*. "In the Assembly itself I was suspicious as they were demanding a division of votes for a non-financial Bill, which we supported, just to prove their false majority. I requested the Speaker to count the number of MLAs, but he adjourned the Assembly."

Gopal Bhargava

Shobha Oza, State Congress media chief said the BJP was acting out of desperation, adding that they should accept their defeat.

APPEAL

3 years old Harshini needs your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. She suffers from Relapsed Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and requires **Rs. 6,00,000/-** towards Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. Donations sent by Ch / D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai **will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch / D.D. / NEFT Transfer (Syndicate Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: SYNB0006018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Please give us your E-mail ID.

All Correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**
Website: **www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org**

WWS

IN BRIEF

RAW officer appointed BSF Director General

NEW DELHI

IPS officer V.K. Johri, who is presently the Special Secretary in the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) has been appointed as the next Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Johri has also been appointed as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Union Home Ministry with "immediate effect." PTI

Trial against Kathua rape case minor from Aug. 5

SRINAGAR

The trial against a juvenile among those accused in the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua will begin on August 5 as the Jammu and Kashmir High Court refused to entertain a plea for an early hearing of a petition challenging his status as a minor, officials said. The Juvenile Justice Board initiated the trial on July 15, but the Crime Branch said it was not ready to proceed with the case as the status of the accused as a minor was yet to be decided. PTI

Former Meghalaya CM Donkupar Roy dead

GURUGRAM

Meghalaya Assembly Speaker and former Chief Minister Donkupar Roy passed away in a private hospital in Gurugram, Haryana on Sunday. He was 65. Mr. Roy, a seven-time MLA from Shella Assembly constituency in the East Khasi Hills district, was admitted to the hospital on July 18 due to an abdominal complication. A Meghalaya government spokesperson said he breathed his last around 2:50 p.m. "His demise is a great loss for the State. He was a leader we looked up to. We will miss his guidance," current Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said.

Conflicting views pervade BRICS Ministers' meeting

Fight against terrorism, cooperation in areas of economy and people-to-people exchanges emerged as prominent themes in the one-day meet

SHOBHAN SAXENA
RIO DE JANEIRO

For a meeting set to articulate the voice of emerging countries, the BRICS Foreign Ministers' gathering here on Friday could not have started on a more discordant note.

Opening the meeting, Foreign Minister of Brazil Ernesto Araujo called upon fellow BRICS members – Russia, India, China and South Africa – to "act on Venezuela" in support of Juan Guaido, who proclaimed himself interim president of the South American country on January 23. Brazil holds the rotating presidency of BRICS grouping for 2019.

"There is a cry of freedom coming from Venezuela. Brazil has heard this cry... Every member of international community needs to hear this cry and act," said Mr. Araujo spelling out his country's vision for the BRICS Summit in November.

Conflicting views

However, following Mr. Araujo on the speaking list, Russian Foreign Minister and policy veteran Sergey Lavrov, who, also, spoke on Venezuela, took a diametrically opposite position.

"We need to use international law as the basis for reaching a solution by themselves without outside interference," said Mr. Lavrov, restating the Russian position.

He then called for a similar approach to the crisis in the Persian Gulf. The importance of his reference to Iran was not lost on anyone, as

(From left) Sergei Lavrov, Wang Yi, Ernesto Araujo, Naledi Pandor and V.K. Singh at the BRICS meeting. ▪REUTERS

two Iranian ships have been stuck in a port here for days, with Brazilian oil companies refusing to provide fuel because of U.S. sanctions.

Brazil's new government, led by far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, has closely allied itself with U.S. President Donald Trump's government.

In such a climate, the meeting opened with a bit of uncertainty. "The BRICS Sherpas and teams of diplomats worked for days to make sure a positive agenda is set. We did not want anything negative about any particular country in it. We only want to articulate the position of the developing world," said an Indian official who was a member of the official delegation.

The final statement released to the media reflected a commonality of purpose among the BRICS countries. "The Ministers agreed to further deepen BRICS three-pillar-driven cooperation in the areas of economy, peace and security and people-to-people exchanges," it said.

Fight against terrorism

The details of the statement reflect that the group of five emerging countries might now be looking for a bigger and different role in global affairs. A large part of the joint statement is devoted to "fight against terrorism", which emerged as a major theme of the one-day meeting. In his address, General V.K. Singh (retd.), Union Minister of State for Transport, who stood in for External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said, "All our countries have been victims of terrorism and we need to support each other to end these groups and their supporters. The BRICS has to fight to end the financing of terrorist networks in all our territories."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi too during his speech called upon the BRICS countries to cooperate in combating terrorism.

The BRICS Working Group on Counter Terrorism – already in place – will hold a seminar on terrorism in Brazil from July 29 to August 2.

According to Indian officials, the inclusion of FATF in the statement is a positive move as India has been pushing for Pakistan to be put on this list for financing terrorism in the region.

On the issue of terrorism in Afghanistan, India clearly got a shot in the arm as the BRICS statement reiterated support for "international and national efforts to achieve an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process".

With the Trump government working on a deal with the Taliban, India has been almost left out of the ongoing Afghan peace process. But with China and Russia two other major stakeholders in Afghanistan reaffirming their support to an "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned" process, India can hope to still play a role in a country it has invested heavily in.

Industry cautious on RCEP deal

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal meets representatives from various sectors

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the 15-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Free Trade Agreement ministerial talks in Beijing on August 2 and 3, Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal met with representatives from various Export Promotion Councils in the engineering, auto, chemical, pharmaceutical, dairy, copper, textiles and gems sectors among others in separate meetings in Mumbai and Delhi.

However, far from building consensus on the issue, industry sources at the meetings said they remain worried about the "detrimental" consequences of the RCEP agreement.

"From our past experience we have seen that whenever India has rushed into an FTA negotiation,

> Indian negotiators like any good negotiators can get the best deal in their own country's interests. But the second part is that industry has to use the access that they gain from the agreement to extend their reach
>
> HARINDER SIDHU
> AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

trade deficits have always widened after signing free-trade-agreements. The industry is apprehensive that the RCEP negotiations are also being hurried into without caution which may be suicidal for India," a member of the delegation explained.

Responding to the criticism of RCEP, Australian High Commissioner to India Harinder Sidhu said it was the industry's responsibility to use the FTAs well. Australia is leading diplomats from various countries to convince India to commit to the deal by the end of the year.

"Indian negotiators like any good negotiators can get the best deal in their own country's interests. But the second part is that industry has to use the access that they gain from the agreement to extend their reach," Ms. Sidhu said, adding that at the last round of RCEP trade negotiations in Melbourne, the Australian government was "reasonably optimistic that a conclusion on RCEP is achievable by the end of the year".

Joining later

Managing industry concerns is one challenge for the Centre ahead of the RCEP summit in Bangkok in November, which Prime Minister Modi will attend.

The other challenge would be if RCEP countries decide to go ahead without countries like India, and leave the door open for India to join later, something Ms. Sidhu said would be a "deeply disappointing" outcome.

Since 2011, India and Australia have also been negotiating a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), which reached an impasse in 2015 after nine rounds of negotiation.

(With inputs from TCA Sharad Raghavan)

3 civilians injured as Pak. violates ceasefire along LoC in Poonch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

Three civilians, including a woman and her baby, were injured on Sunday as Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to intense mortar shelling and firing of small arms on forward posts and villages along the LoC in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Several residential houses were also damaged in the cross-border firing, they said. A police official said three civilians – Mohammad Arif (40), Fatima Jan (35) and her about two-week-old son – were injured when they were hit by splinters from mortar shells in Shahpur sector. The injured were rushed to hospital amid intense shelling, he said adding that the shelling had started around 5 pm along with the Saujiyan sector, while the firing started in the

Mankote area of the Mendhar sector around 8 pm.

Heavy firing was going on in all the three sectors and there are reports of some damage to civilian houses as well, the official said.

Earlier, a Defence spokesman said the Army is retaliating befittingly to silence the Pakistani guns. "At about 1700 hours, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing of small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Shahpur and Saujiyan sectors in Poonch district," Jammu-based PRO of Army Lt Col Devender Anand said.

INTERVIEW | D. RAJA

'RSS ideology is divisive, fascist'

New CPI general secretary sees a threat to Constitution and democratic polity

B. KOLAPPAN
CHENNAI

Born in a Scheduled Caste family at Chipachoor village in Vellore district, **D. Raja**, *the new general secretary of the Communist Party of India, had to battle poverty and hunger. He attended college in Gudiyatham, a small town in the grip of political movements – Communist, Dravidian and Ambedkarite. His anger against poverty and injustice attracted him to the communist movement. He rose from the ranks, first as a student leader working with the All India Students Federation and later becoming general secretary of the All India Youth Federation and full-time worker of the party in 1975. "My parents were landless farmers. I studied in a Harijan welfare school and ate mid-day meal introduced by [Chief Minister] Kamaraj. I still remember the day when I had the opportunity to see him. I had no shirt to wear. I just touched him," recalled Mr. Raja.Excerpts:*

You have become the general secretary of the CPI at a time when the BJP is at the helm of affairs. What are your challenges?

▪ It is a challenging time not only for the Left, but for the people and the country as a whole because the right-wing forces have captured political power. The BJP is the political arm of the RSS whose ideology is divisive, communal, sectarian and fascist.

They try to impose their agenda aggressively. It poses a threat to the Constitution and the democratic polity of the country.

The government is completely committed to protecting the interests of the corporate and business houses. Its agenda is leading to mob lynching and attacks on Dalits, Adivasis and minorities.

If somebody questions the government or criticises its policies they are being dubbed as anti-nationals and urban Naxalites.

Another important challenge is the unity of secular and democratic forces. It could not happen in the 2019 general election except in Tamil Nadu. It became a setback not only to the Congress, but other parties like the BSP, RJP, SP and to the Left.

How to unite the secular democratic forces is another big challenge. Left parties are considered to be the voice of the voiceless and the moral component of the Indian polity.

People know that if the Left gets weakened it creates a moral vacuum in Indian politics. The Left continues to be the hope of the people.

> People know that if the Left gets weakened it creates a moral vacuum in Indian politics. The Left continues to be the hope of the people

There is a view that the BJP capitalised on the "minority appeasement" by the Left and other parties...

▪ The BJP has succeeded in creating a false narrative and spreading fake arguments. The party, in a way, succeeded in what can be called as hacking the thinking and the minds of the people [away] from genuine issues.

The BJP used the mass media and social media, money power. Corporate funding and electoral bonds were utilised fully by the BJP. On the one hand, the BJP accuses other parties of appeasing minorities and on the other, it projects the victimhood of the majority in a hyperbolic level.

Even they used national security in a narrow, sectarian and partisan manner and created a fear psychosis at one level and intimidation at the other level.

People are now realising the way the RTI Act Amendment Bill was passed and the way they are bulldozing everything to getting all Bills passed without any proper scrutiny.

It shows how Parliament and other institutions are being undermined.

What led to the fall of the Left even in its traditional turfs?

▪ Despite all its efforts in Kerala, the BJP was not able to win a seat. West Bengal has become a matter of concern.

The Trinamool Congress wrested power from the Left but in the fight against the Left, it provided conditions for the BJP to emerge. Now the Trinamool is also facing trouble since the BJP is trying to emerge as a contender for power. This is a serious situation and the Left is also thinking over its strategy and taking up people's causes and will be in the streets.

In the land of Tagore, Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and Vivekananda, the slogan Jai Sri Ram is being used to divide people, and a Nobel laureate like Amartya Sen has come out openly against this.

While Communists always place thrust on class war, caste remains a factor to reckon with...

▪ I have made it clear many times that the class war of the communists could not be confined only to economic issues. In the Indian context, class struggle is for social justice and against caste discrimination.

Even Dr. Ambedkar identified the bourgeois and Brahminism as the two enemies.

One has to address the social reality, one has to understand the dialectical relationship between the superstructure and the base. Unless we fight for social justice and fight against caste discrimination, we cannot accomplish the revolution. We cannot carry forward the revolutionary process only by addressing economic demands.

A.P.STATE AGRO INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
55-17-2 to 4, 5th Floor, Stalin Corporate, Industrial Estate, Autonagar, VIJAYAWADA-520007, Ph.No.0866-2556803, FAX:0866-2556804
Agros/VHT-TPT/PPP/19-20 Date:26-07-2019
SHORT NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
Sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) Schedules are invited from reputed Firms for Operation & Management **"Integrated Pack House & Vapour Heat Treatment System"** facility as is where is basis on Public-Private Partnership revenue sharing basis/on lease basis at Tirupathi, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, India. Expression of Interest (EOI) Schedule may be obtained from the **Website: www.apagros.org**
Sd/- **Vice Chairman and Managing Director**

National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI)
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India)
Sector 81, Knowledge City, Mohali - 140 306 Punjab (INDIA)
Tel. : 91-172-5221300 Fax : 91-172-5221100 E-mail : purchase@nabi.res.in
e-Notice Inviting Tenders
e-Tenders in Two parts are invited on the behalf of Executive Director, NABI for the award of Work of **(i) Annual Operation and Maintenance Contract of HVAC system of NABI-CIAB Campus (ii) Installation, Testing & Commissioning of VRV AC system at LAB Bldg., NABI.**
The complete details of these tenders will be available on the NABI Website- www.nabi.res.in & CPPP Website - https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Any changes/amendments if made in the tender, will be available on NABI website and CPPP website. Bidders may kindly refer the above websites before submitting the bids.
Manager-Admin

INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY
TENDER NOTICE No.MS/231/Fire Extinguisher/OT/2019-21
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/ S-II, Shell Division, Integral Coach Factory, Chennai - 600 038 invites e-tender for the following the reputed contractors:

	Name of the Work	Maintenance for various Types of Fire Extinguishers & Fire Alarm System in ICF.
1.	Scope of Work	1554 Fire Extinguishers + 4 Fire Alarm Systems.
2.	Approx. Tender Value	₹ 30,26,317/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred and Seventeen Only)
3.	Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 60,500/- (Rupees Sixty Thousand and Five Hundred Only)
4.	Cost of Tender Document	₹ 3,000/- (Rupees Three Thousand Only) (Non-refundable)
5.	Contract Period	Two Years
6.	Tender Inviting Authority	Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer / S-II, Shell Division, ICF, Chennai - 600 038.
7.	Last Date and Time for Submission of E-Tender	21-08-2019 at 15.00 Hours.

Website for submission of offer: www.ireps.gov.in. The Tenderers are also advised to regularly monitor the website for any Amendments / Corrigendum issued.
GREEN ICF ! CLEAN ICF !

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
CHHABRA THERMAL POWER STATION, CHHABRA
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 257/CHP/RVU1920WLOB00680
Online tenders are invited for **Annual contract for the work of complete operation, maintenance and housekeeping of coal handling plant.** Tender details are available on websites **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl** & **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**
RVUN/PR-3255
Raj.Samwad/C/1667/2019-2020 **Chief Engineer (CTPP-O&M)**

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
"A MINI RATNA COMPANY"
E- TENDER NOTICE
NIT NO: SECL/BSP/CMC/e-Tender/ 339,Date 22.07.2019,Tender ID: **2019_ SECL_145272_1**, Location of work: Amlai OCM, Sohagpur Area Tahsil: Burhar, Dist- Shahdol,M.P.484120,Estimated Cost: 31,10,20,572.50/-(Excluding GST), Description of Work: (1)Hiring of tippers for transportation of srface minor cut coal (-) 100mm size coal from coal face of contractual patch to: (A) Burhar siding via W/B No.1 Min lead 4.75 km, Max lead 5.00Km, Average lead : 4.875Km, Quantity 4.5475 Lakh te, Minimum TPD 415 Te,(B) Burhar siding via W/B No.1 Min lead 5.00 km, Max lead 5.63Km, Average lead : 5.31Km, Quantity 11.5025 Lakh te, Minimum TPD 1051 Te,(C) Sangma siding via W/B No.1 Min lead 8.10 km, Max lead 8.78Km, Average lead : 8.44Km, Quantity 10.95 Lakh te, Minimum TPD 1000 Te,(D) Coal stock yard heap no. 12 via W/B No.1 Min lead 2.30 km, Max lead 3.00Km, Average lead : 2.65Km, Quantity 7.1625 Lakh te, Minimum TPD 654 Te,(E) Coal stock yard heap no. 12 via W/B No.1 Min lead 3.00 km, Max lead 3.10Km, Average lead : 3.09Km, Quantity 1.8375 Lakh te, Minimum TPD 168 Te, (2) Hiring of tippers for transportation of srface minor cut coal (-) 100mm size coal from coal face of departmental patch to: (A) Coal stock yard heap no. 11 A & 11B via W/B No.2 Min lead 1.90 km, Max lead 2.0Km, Average lead : 1.95 Km, Quantity 0.820 Lakh te, Minimum TPD 75 Te,(B) Coal stock yard heap no. 11 A & 11B via W/B No.2 Min lead 2.0 km, Max lead 3.0Km, Average lead : 2.50 Km, Quantity 8.180 Lakh te, Minimum TPD 747 Te, (C) Burhar siding via W/B No.2 Min lead 6.35 km, Max lead 7.00Km, Average lead : 6.675 Km, Quantity 7.5 Lakh te, Minimum TPD 685 Te,(D) Burhar siding via W/B No.2 Min lead 7.00 km, Max lead 7.65Km, Average lead : 7.325 Km, Quantity 7.50 Lakh te, Minimum TPD 685 Te, Total Quantity : 60 lakh Te with minimum TPD: 5480, Period: 1095 days, Amlai OCM, Sohagpur Area. Date & Time for Submission of Bid : 30.07.2019 at 10:00 AM to 14.08.2019 at 05:00 PM,Date & Time for Opening of Bid: 16.08.2019 at 11:00 AM. **General Manager/HOD (CMC) SECL**
Note: For details and submission of bid please visit website www. eprocure.gov .in,and e-procurement portal of CIL https://coalindiatenders.nic.in & www. secl-cil.in.In Case of any Misprinting/Error, details as per website document will be considered as final.
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Only through E-Tendering Mode
VOCPT E-Tendering Website:
www.tenderwizard.com/VOCPT

NIT No & Dated	11CE/RCM&BMR/2019-20/ D.1755 Dated : 26.07.2019
Name of work	Construction of shore protection bund in front of Administrative office Building at V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust
Estimated Amount	**Rs.2.02Cr.**
Downloading of Tender documents from VOCPT online e-tendering website.	29.07.2019 to 20.08.2019
Last Date and Time for submission of Tenders online	20.08.2019 up to 15.00Hrs
Online Technical bid opening date and time	20.08.2019 at 15.30Hrs

For Further details, please visit Port`s website www. **vocport.gov.in**

IN BRIEF

Israel, U.S. successfully test missile interceptor

JERUSALEM

Israel and the U.S. have successfully carried out tests of a ballistic missile interceptor that PM Netanyahu said on Sunday provides protection against potential threats from Iran. The tests of the Arrow-3 system were carried out in the U.S. state of Alaska. AFP

Floods, landslips claim 113 lives in Nepal

KATHMANDU

Floods and landslips triggered by incessant monsoon rains across Nepal have claimed at least 113 lives, while 38 people are still missing, officials said on Sunday. Parts of central and southern Nepal, including some areas of the Kathmandu valley, have been inundated due to incessant rains since last two weeks. PTI

13 killed in Myanmar jade mine landslip

YANGON

At least 13 jade mine workers and security guards in northern Myanmar were killed in a landslip on Sunday, authorities said, as rescuers frantically searched for more victims. The fire services department said in a Facebook post the accident happened in the early morning in Hpakant township. AFP

Iran strongly condemns Bahrain executions

TEHRAN

Iran has strongly condemned the execution in Bahrain of two Shiite men convicted of terrorism, saying the Gulf state's crackdown on dissent was bound to fail. The two were executed by firing squad on Saturday, said officials in the kingdom. AFP

Ghani's running mate injured as Kabul blast kills two, wounds 25

Amrullah Saleh is the vice-presidential candidate in the upcoming Afghanistan poll

REUTERS
KABUL

A powerful explosion hit central Kabul on Sunday, wounding Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's running mate on the first day of official campaigning for a presidential election and killing at least two others, officials said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which came as officials look ahead to resumption of peace talks between the Taliban and the U.S.

At least 25 civilians were injured in the blast near the private Ghalib University, Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said.

Immediately after the blast, gunmen stormed a building belonging to vice presidential candidate Amrullah Saleh's Afghan Green Trend Party. Mr. Saleh was wounded on his right arm by shrapnel before being evacuated from the office.

Afghan soldiers killed one gunman but two others were still battling with Afghan forces in a four-storey building near the blast site, Mr. Rahimi said, adding 40 civilians had been rescued.

Mr. Saleh, a former Afghan spy chief turned politician, is an uncompromising opponent of the Taliban and other hardline Islamist groups.

Mr. Ghani, Mr. Saleh and over a dozen politicians, including Hanif Atmar, another former intelligence chief and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a former warlord in the anti-Soviet Mujahideen, launched their two-month campaign on Sunday.

Mr. Ghani said in a tweet: "My brother, true son of the Afghan soil and first VP candidate of my electoral team, Amrullah Saleh has survived a complex attack by enemies of the state. We are relieved and thank the almighty that the attack has failed."

On alert: Afghan security personnel securing the site of the attack in Kabul on Sunday. ▪ AP

'Afghan government should be flexible on talks with Taliban'

Its position is often an obstacle: veteran peace negotiator

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The government of President Ashraf Ghani should be flexible on talks with the Taliban, a prominent Afghan figure has said.

Ghulam Farouq Azam, a former Mujahideen leader who held dialogue with the UN to end Soviet intervention in the 1980s, said Kabul should trust local networks and the traditional consultation process.

"The Kabul government's position is often an obstacle (in negotiation with insurgents). We have a rich tradition of Jirga, negotiations. They need to do their homework," Mr. Azam told *The Hindu* on the phone. He urged President Ghani to allow necessary space to the difficult dialogue to unfold.

His comments came on Sunday when Kabul witnessed the launch of Mr. Ghani's election campaign.

Addressing a large rally of his supporters at the Hall of the Loya Jirga in Kabul Polytechnic, Mr. Ghani said: "Peace is coming and negotiations will take place."

The U.S. Special Representative, Zalmay Khalilzad, has held multiple rounds of talks with Taliban representatives. Mr. Azam said the main strength of the Taliban is the "internal disarray" of the government of President Ghani. Mr. Azam had participated in the Soviet-era peace plan for Afghanistan as the deputy leader of Mahaze Milli Islami Afghanistan, one of the seven party Mujahideen alliance that conducted discussion with UN appointed negotiator Diego Cordovez.

'Intra-Afghan talks only after troop pullout'

REUTERS
KABUL

The Taliban said on Sunday it will not hold direct talks with the Afghan government and rejected a statement from State Minister for Peace Affairs Abdul Salam Rahimi about plans to hold such a meeting.

Suhail Shaheen, a spokesman for the Taliban's political office in Qatar, said such talks would only come after a deal had been struck with the U.S. on troops withdrawal. "Intra-Afghan talks will start only after a foreign force withdrawal is announced."

Trump defends attack on black lawmaker as criticisms mount

We all reject racist attacks against him, says Pelosi

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump defended on Sunday his latest attack on a prominent African-American lawmaker in comments that drew more accusations of racism.

In a series of tweets on Saturday, Mr. Trump took aim at Democratic Representative Elijah Cummings – a high-profile critic of Mr. Trump's administration whose district covers much of the majority black city of Baltimore, Maryland.

"Cumming (sic) District is a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess," the President wrote, calling it "the worst run and most dangerous anywhere in the United States."

"No human being would want to live there," he said, in an attack ostensibly provoked by Cummings' criticism of the harsh conditions facing would-be asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border.

Mr. Trump's comments triggered a torrent of criticism and he defended them on Sunday in another burst of tweets.

Democrat Congressman Elijah Cummings

"There is nothing wrong with bringing out the very obvious fact that Congressman Elijah Cummings has done a very poor job for his district and the City of Baltimore," Mr. Trump said, without adding anything to back up his argument. "Just take a look, the facts speak far louder than words! The Democrats always play the Race Card, when in fact they have done so little for our Nation's great African American people," Mr. Trump wrote.

"Now, lowest unemployment in U.S. history, and only getting better. Elijah Cummings has failed badly!"

Saturday's diatribe ignited a storm of criticism less than two weeks after the House of Representatives condemned Mr. Trump for "racist" comments targeting four first-term Democratic congresswomen who are from ethnic minorities.

'Unfit to hold office'

The top Democrat in Congress, Nancy Pelosi, on Saturday accused Mr. Trump of a "racist" attack on a "champion... of civil rights and economic justice, a beloved leader in Baltimore, and deeply valued colleague."

"We all reject racist attacks against him," wrote Ms. Pelosi – who was born in Baltimore and whose father served as Mayor of the city.

Former Vice-President Joe Biden – the Democratic frontrunner to challenge Mr. Trump in 2020 – called out the President directly on Twitter. "It is despicable for you to attack him and the people of Baltimore this way," Mr. Biden wrote. "Once again you have proved yourself unfit to hold the office. A President is supposed to lift this nation up. Not tear it down."

In another tweet on Sunday, Mr. Trump said Pelosi is doing a bad job representing her district in California. "Speaking of failing badly, has anyone seen what is happening to Nancy Pelosi's district in San Francisco. It is not even recognizable lately. Something must be done before it is too late," he wrote.

1,400 arrested at Moscow poll protest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

The Russian police arrested almost 1,400 people as they gathered in Moscow on the weekend to demand free and fair polls, OVD-Info, an organisation that monitors protests, said.

It was the biggest crackdown on a rally in the country in years. Some 3,500 people took part in the unauthorised protest on Saturday, according to official estimates, after authorities barred prominent Opposition candidates from taking part in city elections.

The rally comes amid public frustration over declining living standards that has hit President Vladimir Putin's approval ratings. A week before, 22,000 took to the streets in a protest, calling on authorities to reverse their decision ahead of the September city council vote.

After that demonstration Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny was jailed for 30 days.

Mr. Navalny on Sunday was taken to hospital from jail after suffering what his press secretary said was a "severe allergic reaction", despite having never suffered from allergies.

In the crosshairs: Policemen firing tear gas shells at protesters in Sai Wan, Hong Kong, on Sunday. ▪ AP

Hong Kong protesters rally to Beijing office

'We call this the age of revolution'

REUTERS
HONG KONG

The Hong Kong police clashed with thousands of protesters on Sunday, as they sought to defend China's main representative office from crowds seething over what many see as an increasing cycle of violence against them.

Protests over the past two months, spearheaded by anti-government activists, against a proposed bill that would allow people to be extradited from the city to stand trial in courts in mainland China have grown increasingly violent.

A march on Saturday against a violent assault the previous weekend by suspected triad-gang members ended in violent turmoil as riot police waded in to disperse crowds.

On Sunday, a peaceful park gathering in the city's central business district rapidly morphed into a march, as tens of thousands of black-clad protesters set off in several directions, clogging up major thoroughfares.

As the crowds surged, hundreds of riot police fired rounds of tear gas and rubber bullets at the protesters, sending clouds of acrid smoke through the streets.

"We call this Hong Kong's age of revolution," said K. Lee, a masked protester. "This has been sparked by China's refusal to respect Hong Kong's freedoms."

Armed miners invade protected land in Brazil

ERNESTO LONDOÑO
RIO DE JANEIRO

Several dozen armed miners dressed in military fatigues invaded an indigenous village in remote northern Brazil this past week and fatally stabbed at least one of the community's leaders, officials said on Saturday.

The killing comes as miners and loggers are making bold incursions into protected areas with the encouragement of Brazil's far-right President, Jair Bolsonaro.

Mr. Bolsonaro has said that indigenous communities are in control of vast territories that should be opened up to industries to make them profitable. Land invasions in indigenous territories are on the rise across Brazil, where indigenous leaders say they regularly come under threat by miners, loggers and farmers. Yet assassinations of indigenous leaders are rare.

Leaders of the Wajãpi indigenous community made urgent pleas to the federal government on Saturday, warning that the conflict between the miners and members of their community who live in remote villages in the northern state of Amapá risked turning into a bloodbath. "We are in danger. You need to send the army to stop them," Jawaruwa Waiãpi, a leader of the community, said in a voice message sent to one of the state's Senators, referring to the miners.

Senator Rodolfe Rodrigues, who belongs to an Opposition party, said Mr. Bolsonaro's views on indigenous territories and the rights of native communities had put the descendants of Brazil's original inhabitants in danger. NY TIMES

Tehran says European fleet in Gulf would be 'provocative'

President Rouhani says it would make matters worse

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran on Sunday slammed as "provocative" a British proposal for a European-led naval mission to escort tankers in the Gulf, amid tensions over the seizure of ships.

"We heard that they intend to send a European fleet to the Persian Gulf which naturally carries a hostile message, is provocative and will increase tensions," said government spokesman Ali Rabiei.

Britain said last Monday it was planning a European-led force to escort tankers through the world's busiest oil shipping lane, the Strait of Hormuz, in response to Iran's seizure of the U.K.-flagged *Stena Impero* on July 19. The capture came after British authorities detained an Iranian tanker – the *Grace 1* – off Gibraltar, on allegations it was breaching EU sanctions on Syria.

The spokesman said on Sunday Iran believed that the security of the Gulf had to be maintained by countries in the region.

"We are the biggest agent of maritime security in the Gulf," Mr. Rabiei said.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said a force like that proposed by the U.K. would only make matters worse. "The presence of foreign forces will not help the region's security and will be the main source of tensions," Mr. Rouhani said after talks in Tehran with Oman's Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf bin Alawi.

The British-flagged vessel *Stena Impero* is seen at the Bandar Abbas port. ▪ REUTERS

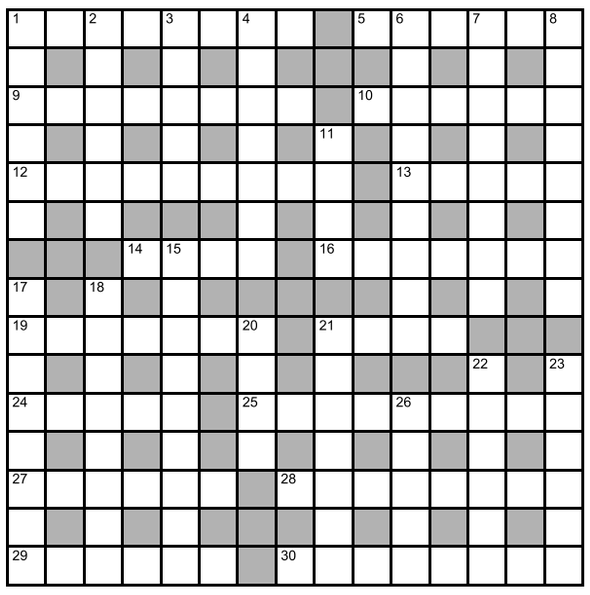
'Meeting with parties to n-deal constructive'

VIENNA

An emergency meeting with parties to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal was constructive but there are unresolved issues and Tehran will continue to reduce its nuclear commitments if Europeans fail to salvage the pact, Iranian nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday. REUTERS

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12690

(set by KrisKross)



ACROSS

1 Setter's job? Essentially work to cheat (8)
5 Car heading off to religious area – an ideal place (6)
9 Servant follows son to welcome daughter (8)
10 Wish for ripe bananas (6)
12 Very rare Lego set is too big (9)
13 Pass in Australia is so long (5)
14 Hide your initial anger (4)
16 Sierra Leone's boating crew demonstrates skill (7)
19 Deceitful guard returns one's valise after removing contents (7)
21 Name of German perfume (4)
24 Cause of irritation in mouth or nose (5)
25 Couple designing fine art near church (9)
27 Play small song, says Spooner (6)
28 "India matters" – boring book, quite irritating (8)
29 Pet butterfly, say (6)
30 Synonym for "rooms" could be found in this (8)

DOWN

1 After getting elected, spoke about keeping order within the House (6)
2 Young animal's leg twisted in ditch (6)
3 Fortune-teller is back near Luxembourg (5)
4 The German in French airport is well-behaved (7)
6 Will new team at last win in cricket match? (9)
7 Unions not possibly patronising (8)
8 Competent American court imprisons oriental queen (8)
11 Egyptian city's rising God (4)
15 In England, the standard wedding card (5,4)
17 Pals kept running, getting words of encouragement (3,5)
18 He could do a smashing job (8)
20 English team, with captain in the middle, walk out (4)
21 Very large aircraft finally loaded – but it can't take off (7)
22 Lots of blood when stabbed by a lance's tip (6)
23 Shylock perhaps regularly dealt with small gems (6)
26 Watery discharge in lodge, say (5)

SUDOKU

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		2	9	1	5	3		
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12689

	B	I	A	S	E	D			S	E	W	I	N	G
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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Self effulgent Atma

In Vedanta, the term jnana means Knowledge but is also synonymously used as Consciousness and it is always associated as the source of illumination or awareness in beings. One is able to recognise the external world and its myriad forms and aspects only owing to the light of Consciousness. Adi Sankara explains this fundamental truth in the Dakshinamurthy Stotra through the analogy of a pot with many holes in which a lamp is placed allowing the rays of light to pass through, pointed out Nannilam Sri Rajagopala Ganapadigal in a discourse. The presence of the self effulgent atma enables comprehension in beings, though undoubtedly it is owing to the indriyas, the sense organs, the eye, ear, skin, tongue, and nose that one is able to see, hear, touch, taste and smell. But unless each of these sense impressions that gets imprinted on the mind screen is illumined by the atma chaitanya these cannot be translated as experience. Just as any object in darkness can be perceived only in the presence of light, awareness of the world of creation is present in beings owing to the atma chaitanya.

On a macro level, this is explained in the Upanishads such as the Katopanishad and the Mundaka where it is made very clear that the Supreme Brahman alone is the only source of illumination and awareness. No light can shine on its own. Even the obvious sources of light such as the sun, moon, stars, fire, etc, derive their power to illumine owing to the Supreme Brahman. Fire or jyoti owes its peculiar qualities to God. Also when one says 'I know the pot,' the 'I,' or the 'Aham sabda,' is the ever existing and self effulgent atma chaitanya and is one and the same with the jnana. There are no three entities, namely the 'I', the pot and the act of seeing or knowing that the object perceived is a pot.

ASK US

AARATI KRISHNAN

Retiring early

Q. I am 41 years old and married with an 8-year old child. I am planning to retire in the coming months. I have no liabilities and have taken medical insurance with critical illness riders. I plan to sell property, create a corpus and invest the corpus in debt-based mutual funds with SWP for regular income. My corpus is 10 times my yearly expenses. Am I on the right track?

AKHILESH GOKARAJU, HYDERABAD

A. There are three financial factors you need to consider before fixing your retirement date. The first is longevity. Longevity decides the number of years of retired life that you will need to fund with the investments you made during your working years. The earlier you retire, the longer this period and bigger the corpus you need. If you retire at 60, the time you have to save for retirement (40 years or so) will hopefully be slightly longer than the time you'll live off it (say 30 years, with a longevity of 90). But if you retire at 41, you'll effectively have to fund 49 years of retired life with a corpus that you built in a mere 20 years of working life. That's a very tall order. If you have dependents, your task becomes more difficult.

Two, beating inflation with your investment income is the key challenge in retirement. Retiring early compounds that problem. At a modest 6% inflation rate, your expenses double every 12 years. If you retire at 41 and are spending ₹60,000 a month today, you'll probably require ₹1.8 lakh to fund the same lifestyle by the time you're 60, and ₹10.4 lakh (a month) by the time you turn 90. Those numbers may seem incredible but that's why inflation is a silent killer.

Three, retirement may not be the only goal you need to strive for and you may need to take care of your wife's living expenses if she outlives you, the education expenses of your child, an emergency fund covering two years expenses for yourself and wife and any medical contingencies too. All this will require further savings.

Given the above, an investment of 10 times your annual expenses will be very inadequate to see you through retirement. In fact, even the thumb rule of 25 times expenses is targeted at people retiring at 60 and is based on the American context where inflation levels are quite low and real returns are higher.

To make up for Indian inflation and returns, you may need to have about 30 times your annual expenses at 60 saved up in order to retire comfortably. Remember the expenses that we're talking of here are your inflation-adjusted expenses at 60, and not your current expenses.

It isn't clear from your query if the sale of property will fetch an additional amount beyond the 10 times expenses that you mentioned. We suggest you consult a financial planner. For your child's education, Sukanya Samriddhi is a good debt option but will not be enough to match inflating education expenses. You need to supplement it with an investment in a multicap equity fund through the SIP route.

Earning ₹1 crore

Q. I am 32. I want to set a target of ₹1 crore in 10 years. I have already started SIPs in SBI Smallcap Fund, SBI Midcap Fund, SBI Magnum Taxgain and SBI Banking and Financial Services Fund. Now I want to invest in the Nifty Bank index. Please guide me.

M. ROCKY, IMPHAL

A. To get to a ₹1 crore target in 10 years, at a 12% annual return, you need to invest roughly ₹43,470 a month. While we don't recommend specific funds, we would suggest SIPs in one multicap fund, one Nifty Next50 Fund and one mid/smallcap fund, each from different AMCs to meet your goals.

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

Filing your I-T returns has never been easier

A range of options is now available for the taxpayer to file returns, including a do-it-yourself one

PARVATHA VARDHINI C

Always been filing your tax returns through your neighbourhood chartered accountant?

The extension of the return filing deadline to August 31 this year gives you time to explore other ways to do it. There are a few choices ranging from a do-it-yourself (DIY) option to approaching a tax return preparer or an online intermediary, depending on how knowledgeable you are in taxation and financial matters and what kind of services you look for.

DIY approach

If you are Internet savvy and also know a bit about taxation, then a month's time is good enough to explore the tax department's e-filing website www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in and file returns on your own. You just need to register on this portal, obtain a user ID (which is your PAN) and a password to log in and then upload your return. And, the department doesn't charge you a penny for the process.

If you have your income details ready, filing the return is not challenging. The website is quite convenient as it provides access to all the other information you will need, in one place.

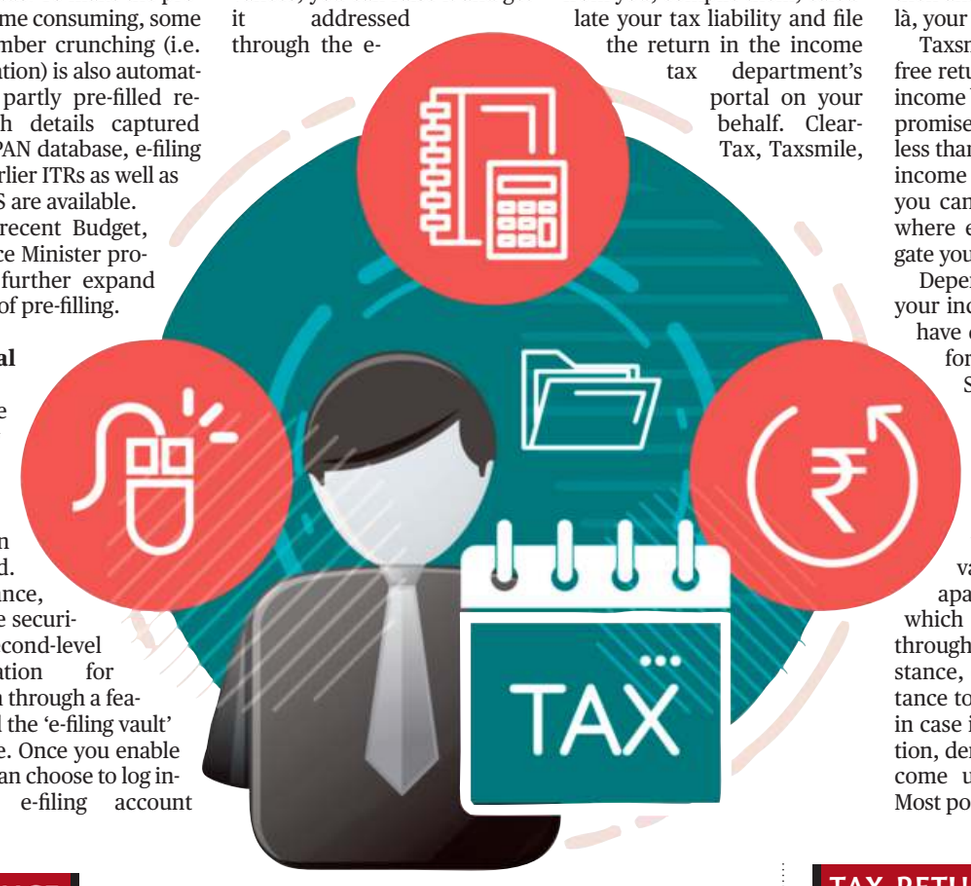
A link to access your Form 26AS, which has details of the tax deducted at source (TDS) and tax collected at source (TCS) from your income, links to e-pay self-assessment tax as well as to e-verify the return are available. You can also view your earlier returns, their processing status, outstanding tax demand if any, refund status and ITR V (acknowledgment) receipt status. To make the process less time consuming, some of the number crunching (i.e. tax calculation) is also automated. Also, partly pre-filled returns with details captured from the PAN database, e-filing profile, earlier ITRs as well as Form 26AS are available.

In the recent Budget, the Finance Minister promised to further expand the scope of pre-filling.

Additional features

Over the last few years, additional features have been introduced. For instance, to increase security, a second-level authentication for your log-in through a feature called the 'e-filing vault' is available. Once you enable this, you can choose to log into your e-filing account through options such as net banking and Aadhaar-based OTP, instead of just the user ID and password. Service requests such as requesting reissue of refund in case there are any problems in the process, etc. have been added recently.

In case you have any grievances, you can raise it and get it addressed through the e-Nivaran facility in your window.



Going with intermediaries

If tax is not your cup of tea and you'd rather have someone else file your return, you can use the services of several intermediary websites. These portals collect all required information from you, compile them, calculate your tax liability and file the return in the income tax department's portal on your behalf. ClearTax, Taxsmile, TaxSpanner, and myITreturn are examples of such portals.

The good news is that, most of these intermediaries offer free e-filing for simple returns. So, if you have only salary income, you just have to upload your Form 16 on the website of the chosen intermediary and then answer a few queries. Voilà, your return will be filed.

Taxsmile, for instance, offers free return filing for those with income below ₹5 lakh. ClearTax promises to file such returns in less than 7 minutes. If you have income from multiple heads, you can go for assisted filing, where experts help you navigate your way through.

Depending on the sources of your income, various websites have different fee structures for assisted filing. TaxSpanner, for example has assisted filing options from ₹599 to ₹5,500, based on the nature of service provided. Also, many websites offer several value-added services apart from filing return, which you can benefit from throughout the year. For instance, expert follow-up assistance to customers is available in case issues such as rectification, demand notice, and so on come up after return filing. Most portals offer a chat facility with chartered accountants to clarify your queries. Tax planning services as well as online documentary vault for safe-keeping of your tax/income-related documents are available. Since these tax portals invest adequately in security, it's safe to use them.

What is in I-T?

- Returns can be filed on tax department's website
- With 'e-filing vault,' you can log into your e-filing account through net banking, Aadhaar-based OTP
- Various websites offer assisted filing for a fee

Using a TRP

You can try government appointed tax return preparers (TRPs) as well. Trpscheme.com will help you locate the TRP closest to you in your State, city and pin code. You can also fill up an online form to request a TRP to visit your place at a scheduled time to help you file your return. For new assessees, the remuneration payable to the TRP is 3% of the tax paid on the returns prepared and filed in the first year (subject to a maximum of ₹1,000), 2% in the second year and 1% in the third year. For old assessees, it is ₹250.

COVER NOTE: HOME INSURANCE

Protect the roof over your head

Homing in on a simple policy can save you from financial disaster

K. NITYA KALYANI

The safety of our home and its contents are paramount financially and psychologically.

A simple insurance policy can protect you from financial disaster if a fire or flood should damage or destroy your home, or a burglary put paid to your peace of mind.

Brand-named variously as Householders' Comprehensive policy by the public sector general insurers or Home Secure, My Home cover and Griha Suvidha by various general insurers, it is usually a package policy that goes beyond insuring your home and its contents thus offering ease of coverage and better premium rates.

The main cover in such a policy is fire and allied perils insurance for your house and its contents. Only the owner of a property can buy fire insurance for it. So, if you are renting, you can cover your belongings in the house against fire, and if you have rented out your house, it's your responsibility to cover the structure in your own interest. A fire policy is deceptively simple. In reality, it covers much more than fire, including lightning, explosion/implosion, aircraft damage, riot, strike and malicious damage, impact damage, storm, cyclone, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado, flood and inundation, subsidence among others. These are qualified by exceptions that are clearly spelt out.

In safe hands: A comprehensive policy has several other covers, including burglary and theft. ▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

What's inside?

- The main cover in such a policy is against fire and allied perils
- Premium is highly reasonable
- Sum insured should be the replacement value

Reasonable premium

For this comprehensive cover, your premium is highly reasonable, at just ₹2,000 for covering a 1,500- square-foot house. In this example, I have assumed a cost of construction of ₹2,500 per square foot for a concrete structure.

The important thing is that your sum insured (SI) should be, not the value of the building as incurred by you, but the replacement value. This is to enable you to rebuild with the claim money. The cost of land, of course, will not figure as part of the SI.

Let us see some of the exceptions. The exceptions to the fire cover are damage or destruction caused to the property by spontaneous combustion or burning of property insured by order of any public authority.

Riot, strike and malicious damage loss will exclude that caused by burglary, housebreaking, theft and larceny (and this can be covered under a different section of the comprehensive policy).

Impact damage is covered only if it is by a vehicle or animal not belonging to or owned by the insured or any occupier or their employees, and by direct contact.

The cover against subsidence etc. will exclude coastal or river erosion, defective design, workmanship or use of defective materials, demolition, construction, structural alterations or repair of any property or ground works or excavations.

Cover for leakage from automatic sprinklers will exclude repairs to the buildings or of the sprinkler installation.

There is usually an excess on each claim under the policy, usually 1-2% of the SI.

The comprehensive policy has several other covers, including burglary and theft, jewellery and precious items, pedal cycles, breakdown of domestic appliances, damage to plate glass, loss of baggage and personal accident insurance among others.

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

TAX RETURNS DEADLINE

Meeting tax deadlines helps

ANAND KALYANARAMAN

The taxman has extended the due date for filing income tax returns for FY 2018-19 (assessment year 2019-20) from July 31 to August 31. Now don't wait till August 31. File your tax return as soon as possible. Last minute dashes often result in mistakes. In any case, don't miss the August 31 deadline. Not filing the tax return by the due date has adverse consequences.

Penalty

If you don't file your return by the due date, the taxman will impose a penalty of ₹5,000 for filing the return beyond the due date (after August 31) and ₹10,000 for filing it after December 31. But the penalty for late filing will be restricted to ₹1,000 if the taxable income is ₹5 lakh or less.

Extra interest

If you have not paid your entire tax dues, you will have to pay not just the outstanding amount but also interest on this while filing the delayed return. The interest rate is 1% for each month of delay (part of a month is considered a full month for calculation).

So, if you still have to pay ₹50,000 as taxes for the year ended March 2019, and you file your return in December 2019 (instead of by August 31), you will have to pay ₹50,000 plus ₹2,000 as interest -- at 1% for four months (September to December).

Carry-forward restriction

If the return is delayed beyond the due date, you will lose the benefit of carry-forward and set-off losses from business or capital gains. But in case of loss from house property, the benefit is available, even if the return is delayed.

Refund trouble

In case you are entitled to a refund, a delayed return will not just delay the refund, but will also fetch you interest for a shorter period. In case of a belated return, interest on your refund is calculated at 0.5% for each month from the month in which the return is filed. But if a return is filed by the due date, the interest is calculated from the beginning of the assessment year (April).

Other hassles

Often, when you apply for a loan or a visa to travel to some countries, tax returns are asked for. Without this document, you will be at a disadvantage.

Finally, even if you miss the extended deadline, do file your return until the end of the assessment year – the upper time limit to file your tax return (March 2020 for the year ended FY 2018-19). If you are supposed to file returns but do not, you could be prosecuted.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH

"Our financial adviser would say, 'Buy potatoes but hold the decision on tomatoes'."

EDUCATION LOAN FOR STUDIES ABROAD

Name of lender	Interest rate	Loan amount (₹)	Processing fee (₹)	Margin requirement	Maximum tenure	Moratorium period
Canara Bank	9.9%-10.6%	No limit	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
State Bank of India	9.65%-10.65%	Upto 1.5 crore	Upto 10,000	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + upto 1 year
Punjab National Bank	10.25%-11%	No limit	1% of loan amount (refundable after first disbursement)	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
HDFC Credila	12.55% + Spread	1 lakh onwards	1-2% of loan amount	Upto 100% funding	12 years*	Course period + upto 1 year
Syndicate Bank	9.2%-11.45%	Upto 2 crore	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Avanse	12.65% + Spread	1 lakh onwards	1-2% of loan amount	Upto 100% funding	10 years*	6 months after course completion or 3 months after getting job, whichever is earlier
Axis Bank	13.7%-15.2%	50,000-75 lakhs	Loan upto 20 lakhs: 15,000 (refundable) Loan above 20 lakhs: 0.75% of differential amount	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : 15%	15 years	Course Period + 1 year or 6 months after getting job, whichever is earlier
Bank of Baroda	9.35%-10.6%	Upto 80 lakhs	Upto 1% of loan amount (refundable on first disbursement)	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 10%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Union Bank of India	10.05%-11.7%	Upto 30 lakhs	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Federal Bank	10.85%-15.25%	Upto 20 lakhs	0.25% of loan amount (Upto 2,500)	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh :15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Bank of Maharashtra	9.6%-10.6%	Upto 20 lakhs	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : 15%	15 years	Course Period + 1 year or 6 months after getting job, whichever is earlier
South Indian Bank	11%-15.8%	Upto 1.5 crore	1% of loan amount	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 25%	15 years	Course Period + upto 1 year
Corporation Bank	10.35%-11.2%	Upto 20 lakhs	₹2,000 (refundable on availing loan)	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
UCO Bank	9.8%-11.05%	Upto 30 lakhs	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year

** Tenure includes course duration*

Source: Paisabazaar.com

MASABA GUPTA'S 1 MILLION STORY

With a big chunk of change coming in as investment for her brand, the young designer is ready to expand, innovate and become India's Tory Burch

GAYATRI RANGACHARI SHAH

Does Masaba Gupta ever sleep? In the past month, the 30-year-old designer reported a $1 million investment in her company, launched a line of lipsticks and nail polish with beauty retailer Nykaa Cosmetics, while Netflix announced a new series starring her and her mother, actor Neena Gupta. This was hot on the heels of collaborations for a capsule collection for the final season of *Game of Thrones*, a line of saris with Banaras brand Ekaya, and Africa-inspired tribal jewellery with Jaipur-headquartered jeweller, Amrapali – all of which debuted between February and May this year. Oh, and she also designs four collections a year.

"I won't lie, I feel like we did too much in the first half of 2019," Masaba admits with a laugh. "Some of it wasn't fun because I was stretched in all directions." She may be overworked, but it doesn't show: a combination of youth and daily exercise has her looking fresh. She wears no make-up, except for a light pink lip called 'Buzz Kill' from her new Masaba By Nykaa make-up line. She is oblivious to heads turning as she walks into lunch at the Asian restaurant at the Four Seasons hotel. Although a purveyor of print, she's wearing a below-the-knee black Moschino stretchy dress, with dangly white flower earrings from Zara. "I can think in print, but I can't imagine it on me," she says candidly. "I make and wear black and white for myself because it centres me."

Masstige on her mind

For someone who started her label at the age of 19, creating a splash with her eye-catching prints and bursts of colour, this year is a turning point personally and professionally. Her brand marks a decade in the fashion business, and what better way to gain some cred than receiving a chunk of change from Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal, Patni Group's Apoorva Patni, Apurva Salarpuria (whose other investments include Epigamia yoghurt and Bira beer) and Abhishek Agarwal of Purple Style Labs? "I wanted to be picky about who invested because unfortunately people here don't think of fashion as a serious business," Masaba says. "These investors got it. They understand scale." She notes that for a brand that has spent no money on marketing in the past 10 years, she's had considerable growth. "It's all Instagram and organic. I don't even have a million followers yet."

Patni says, "We invested in Masaba because of Masaba herself: an excellent fashion entrepreneur and big digital influencer. She's playing in a very interesting bridge to the luxury segment which we believe possesses the potential for huge global scalability." The cash influx will go towards building an e-com team, strengthening the back-end supply chain, and expanding retail outlets, from 11 stores in 8 cities to 50 stores across India.

Masaba's vision? "To be the ultimate masstige brand in India. I don't just want to stop at clothes, I want it to be a beauty destination, with jewellery, accessories. I want to be the Tory Burch of India, never moving from my aesthetic, but offering a story, putting a print on whatever I can."

Cashing in on cool

It's hard to remember now, but in 2009, when she started out, the idea of putting cameras, cows and Tamil script on saris and Indian wear seemed madly modern. Young women loved it, and embraced the sari as a contemporary item of clothing.

"Masaba is a whirlpool within the fashion industry," says Nimish Shah, designer and friend. "Hers is a modern kitsch India which people want to wear with pride." *Vogue* India fashion director, Anaita Shroff Adajania, agrees. "She is so much more than the designer who started off popularising Indian iconography in her pop-art style. The brand speaks to real women. It's refreshing to see her celebration of curves, for example."

Anil Chopra, the former head of Lakmé, has seen her work since her student days at SNDT University. "She has a very clear thought process and when she puts out a collection, it embodies her design philosophy. She has a signature that is unique to her. You can spot someone wearing a Masaba instantly."

It helped that the label was – and continues to be – affordable. Entry price points start at ₹6,500 for a tunic or swimsuit, with an average price point of ₹15,000. Occasion wear only came about in 2015 and at its most expensive, retails at ₹70,000.

There's a unanimous belief in the designer's "cool," "experimental" bent. Tarang Arora of Amrapali, who did a collaboration with Masaba for his line Tribe, says, "Who better than Masaba to plan something funky, with a handcrafted ethnic look, that's accessible?"

On the outside

The child of Neena Gupta and former West Indies cricket captain Sir Vivian Richards, Masaba didn't have it easy while growing up in Mumbai. Because of the way she looked, she encountered all types of slights. Attending Jamnabai Narsee school in Juhu, she says the size of her backside was pointed out to her; people made fun of her hair texture. Her Indian grandfather would try to scrub her tan away. "I feel like I viewed my entire life from the outside – like watching this child who had an afro in a largely Gujarati school trying to cope. I couldn't understand her struggle because I never felt different. I ate the same food, I spoke the same language. I had the most loving home."

Sports was an outlet for the rage she experienced. From the age of eight to 14, she played intense tennis, for up to six hours a day. She played state level for Maharashtra, but she saw her shortcomings. "I had all this strength and anger that I didn't know how to channel, and I couldn't keep the damn ball in the court," she says. "It was tough. You don't overcome these things. They become a part of who you are. But as you grow, you find different ways of coping. Today I have learned how to channel my rage through fashion." She's also a huge music and dance buff, having learned Kathak and modern Jazz, as well as Hindustani and Western classical music.

Celebrating colour

An excellent time manager – she jokes that being single helps – she starts her day at 7 a.m., with an hour of exercise, alternating between yoga and strength training. In the office in Andheri by 10 a.m., the next eight hours are spent overseeing marketing, design, social media, hiring, production, and fabric sourcing. Design takes up most of her time, but she says marketing is her forte. Masaba has an active social life – a cursory look at her Instagram feed reveals photos with Sonam and Rhea Kapoor, Shah, and Pernia Qureshi. She is very close to both her parents, even though her father is sometimes hard to get a hold of, since he doesn't own a mobile phone.

For a girl who grew up being bullied for the way she looked, launching a beauty line with Nykaa Cosmetics has been therapeutic. "Today I'm the captain of my own ship," she says with a grin. Two years in development, Masaba has been overseeing the colour palettes and packaging. "Masaba's design sensibility has always been ahead of the curve," says Reena Chhabra, CEO of Nykaa Cosmetics. "She has an ability to delve into a millennial consciousness, as well as create a completely new design story with vibrant colours and themes that connect with everyone." Currently offering 12 nail varnishes and lip colours, with quirky names like 'Nimbu Paani', 'Pataka', and 'Rawr', a full line of make-up and skin care will be introduced going forward.

Through this project and others, Masaba thinks India's ideal of beauty will evolve. She hopes her Netflix show – about which she can't say much right now – will help. "Dark skinned girls write to me every day, from small towns and big cities, rich and poor, and they tell me how they feel," she says. "In India we have hundreds of skin tones and don't we need to show that? I know kids who still haven't come out their shell because they were made fun of for how they looked. I got lucky because I found fashion, and I found it early."

Quick six with Masaba

Currently streaming:
On Netflix, I'm watching *Leila* and *What if*

Currently reading:
Gail Honeyman's *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*

Favourite food:
Chinese. And anything fried!

Fashion icons:
Home and clothing designer Haseena Jethmalani, my mother Neena Gupta, and actor Tracee Ellis Ross

Favourite go-to outfit:
A white shirt with pearls

Currently inspired by:
"My anxiety. I'm irritable but it's very inspiring. I'm making a cool, wild new collection based on that and my new beginnings."

Print perfect (From top) Masaba with her mother Neena Gupta, and designs from her new festive line launch

DOWN MEMORY LANE

An Egyptian priestess in India

Nazdika was brought to India by Nawab Ismail Khan of Datoli as a wet nurse. Her story, before and after...

R V SMITH

Nazdika was born around the year 1840. Her great grandfather had been a secret priest of Isis, the Egyptian goddess. Her family had ostensibly converted to Islam but the old religion was still deeply ingrained in them. At the age of 16, she left home to stay near the pyramids' temple area of Abouthis, where she was initiated into the rites of the divine Sethi.

There were many mysterious sights that sometimes fascinated and sometimes terrified Nazdika: strange sounds, nocturnal birds with wide black wings that cast sinister shadows, and shadows that were explained as past High Priests coming from the underworld. Undaunted, Nazdika learnt the initial rites until she was kidnapped by a man besotted with her and taken away to Port said. Here, she was forced to dance at the erotic temple dedicated to Cyprius.

Great escape

The kidnapper was a member of the secret Egyptian Brotherhood waiting for the restoration of the discarded faith of the country. Nazdiak bore a son but he died in infancy. Soon after her abductor met a violent end and she was able to escape to Cairo.

It was there that Nawab Ismail Khan of Datoli found her and brought her with him as the wet nurse of his son Faiyaz Khan, whose mother Bi Sahib could not lactate. He also brought an African woman, Mashruka and her son Almas from the slave market at Makkah, where he had gone on Haj, though his regret was that he could not bring the father also as he had already been sold off to someone else.

The Delhi connect

The Nawab stayed both at Delhi and Agra, where his kothi was famous as "Faiyaz Manzil", named after his son. Faiyaz studied along with Sarojini Naidu in England and later became Nawab and member of the Central Legislative Assembly as a Muslim League leader.

Nazdika was alive then and known as Sabamma (mother of the family). She sat on a takhat (a roughly made divan) cross-legged, an ebony-complexioned slim woman with long black hair and sharp features, motionless like the Sphinx, a miniature image of which was placed by her side. A bundle of ancient papyrus texts served as her pillow though she did not sleep much. She would offer namaz alright but after midnight when the moon was up she would recite the prayers she had learnt on the banks of Father Sihor (the Nile).

Sheesh Khan, Nawab Ismail Khan's nephew, got up one full-moon night to hear strange music from the skies and Nazdika intoning a prayer and bowing down with folded hands. He did not know it that time but later learnt that it was the sistrum (a musical instrument) symbol of Isis that emanated that weird sound. One day he asked her what was the ghostly music was. She told him what it was and asked him not to speak about it to anyone as it could bring a curse on a non-believer like him.

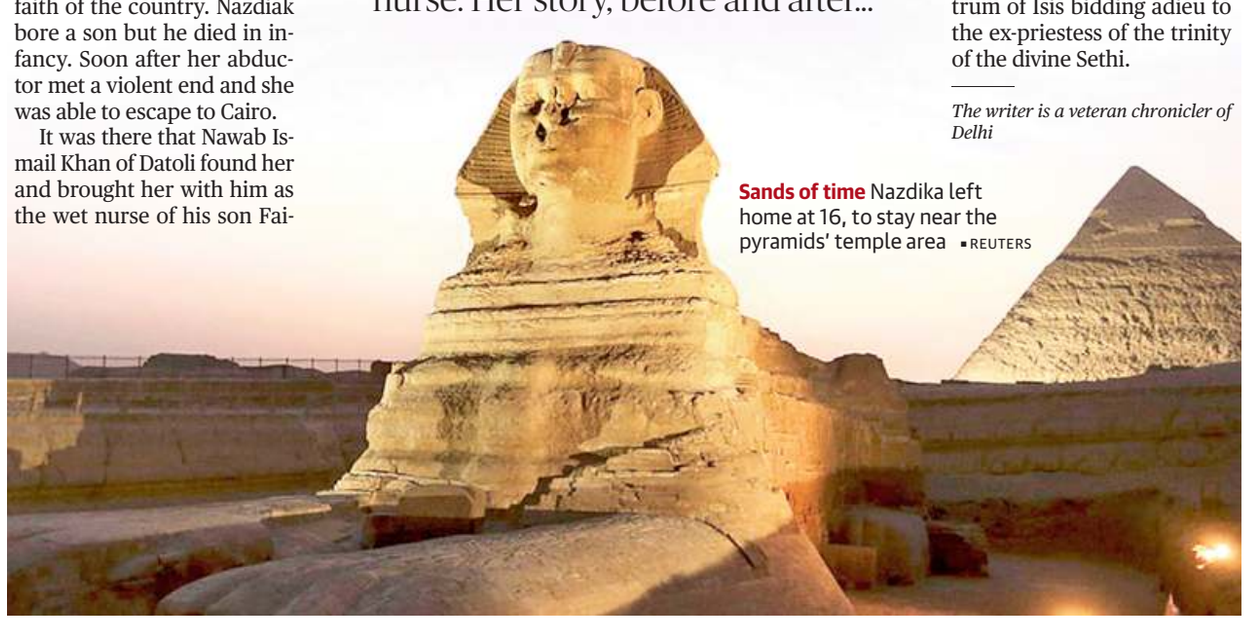
Nazdika was fond of dates, honey, pickled locusts, melons, and mangoes from Jangbaspur, near Bulandshar, where Qadri Begum, wife of Faiyaz Khan, had her ancestral estate. Nazdika kept water from the Nile in a bottle which was replenished whenever someone went on a Haj.

When she saw the Yamuna she remarked that it was not as big and wide as Father Sihor, nor were there as many boats on it. She ate fresh water fish from the Yamuna but longed for the ones back home which she sometimes got from returning Hajis.

When she died at the age of 98, she was buried at the Karbala, near the Syedna at Agra, in a mud grave sans a tombstone not far from Ismail Khan's grave. Bi Sahib's grave isn't here; she passed away in Mecca, where she'd gone to secure the family property from encroachers.

Fazlu Mian, her grandson, who died at Rawalpindi in 1995, used to say that on the night of Sabamma's death he had heard the same ghostly music as was heard by Sheesh Khan, though he did not know that it was the sistrum of Isis bidding adieu to the ex-priestess of the trinity of the divine Sethi.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi



Sands of time Nazdika left home at 16, to stay near the pyramids' temple area ▪ REUTERS

Introducing Miss Sargam

Classical vocalist Shubha Mudgal turns author with a collection of short stories set in the music industry

NEHA BHATT

As she makes her debut as a fiction writer, star classical vocalist Shubha Mudgal is nervous – more nervous than she was for her very first concert. "I have grown more used to the stage than to writing," she laughs, in her first interview about the book, titled *Looking for Miss Sargam: Stories of Music and Misadventure*. Mudgal need not be worried. Humorous and heartbreaking, the seven stories crafted from anecdotes she had "hanging around" in her head sparkle with an assured, sophisticated literary quality. The stories feel topical yet timeless, with several issues that have troubled Mudgal woven into the fabric of fiction. The experience of putting it all down, she says, was both fun and cathartic.

Mudgal – who shuttles between Mumbai and Delhi – spends most of her day surrounded by music, often reading and writing late into the night. A collection of short stories, however, was not on her to-do list. A chance encounter writing *Aman Bol* for theatre director Sunil Shanbag's production, *Stories in a Song*, is where it began for her. "Since 2009, it has been performed over 100 times and stood the test of time. I thought I could follow it up with more nuanced stories." She then showed her work to literary agent Kanishka Gupta, whose positive reaction was encouragement enough to continue.

Inside an insider's head

A master of several forms of classical music, with Thumri and Khayal among her favourites, Mudgal has been performing since the 1980s. She retains an effortless youthful quality, an affinity for experimentation and collaborations that go beyond genres. Her most recent collaboration is the Indo-Australian album, *Bridge of Dreams*, composed and performed with husband and *tabla* player Aneesh Pradhan, saxophonist Sandy Evans, harmonium player Sudhir Nayak and *tabla* player Bobby Singh. In her repertoire are the unforgettable pop numbers 'Mann Ke Manjeere' and 'Ab Ke Sawan'.

Adding to this are her tongue-in-cheek columns through which she has turned the spotlight on issues such as ill-treatment of classical musicians and their instruments, blatant copyright infringement and a dismal government budget for culture.

These themes, and more, find a suitable home in *Looking for Miss Sargam*, which took about three years to complete. "As an insider, choosing to write on this subject is an advantage, but on the other hand, you find yourself too close to the stories," she says. The result is a world which feels lived-in and authentic, accompanied by her wry, satirical commentary on how the media, music labels and so-called nationalists operate. Her characters do not necessarily find themselves in happy situations, but "I have tried to make light of the situation and laugh at the not-so-silver lining", she says.

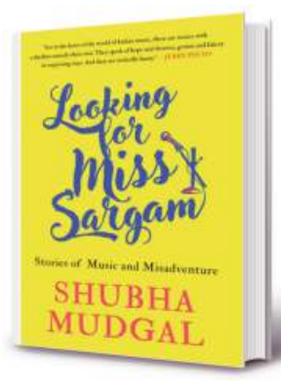
Eye for detail

The stories are quick to draw you into the lives of musicians from Indian cities big and small. In the first story, *Aman Bol*, star singers from Pakistan and India are brought together for a peace-broking concert, till petty backstage drama threatens to upstage the music. In *Foreign Returned*, a Pune-based classical singer's long-awaited maiden trip abroad doesn't turn out quite as expected. And in *Taan Kaptaan*, a second generation musician from Meerut is embroiled in a reality show scam. Over the course of the other stories, she explores the politics of winning a Padma Shri and the rocky road to musical stardom.

It is in the little moments, and turns of phrase, that Mudgal's writing shines. With empathy and an eye for revelatory detail, she draws out hierarchies and power dynamics in the music industry, how artistes interact with each other, their hidden desires, regrets and struggles.

Curiously, her debut book gets its title from a mysterious Miss Sargam who flits in and out of the tales, but is teasingly absent from the main narrative. "It was my publisher, Ravi Singh, who suggested we base the title on this character who is a quintessential artiste reinventing herself. Maybe she will get another story, another time," chuckles the author. Though behind the curtains, Miss Sargam is a bright spark who sets her own standards and inhabits many stories and spaces, much like Mudgal herself.

Looking for Miss Sargam (Speaking Tiger); ₹450



Shubha's reading list

Mudgal's second book, currently in the works, will be non-fiction. Once a voracious reader, she confesses to now having shifted to reading material focussing on music. "Currently I am reading Purushottam Agarwal's *Padmavat*, and Numair Atif Choudhury's *Babu Bangladesh* is next on the list," she says.

Writing about music (Above) the book and (right) Mudgal ▪ RAGHAV PASRICHA

Sameera Reddy's MOM DIARIES

Second-time mom to a daughter, the former actor talks of the realities of pregnancy and motherhood

SUNALINI MATHEW

When Sameera Reddy began posting pictures of her bump on Instagram in February this year (her account is @reddysameera), she did so, "Knowing I would be myself and I didn't need to please people," she says, acknowledging that she has, in the past, felt anxiety with people projecting the perfect life.

Her most recent posts, hashtagged #imperfectlyperfect talk about body image and self-love, and show untouched-up pictures of herself as an overweight, 'tootall' 13-year-old (picture on the right), and her post-partum bump. She gave birth to a daughter two weeks ago and is still struggling with the physical pain of a C-section and breast feeding, and says as much online, with none of the Hallmark-ey sentimentality we see so much on, especially when it comes to motherhood.

"In the beginning, you think you've done it once, you can do it again quite easily, but you need help all over again. You're much cooler with the second one though. Everyone had to sterilise their fingers and toes with Hans (her elder son). Right now, I have him coming in with his toys and his food. He's a part of the process – he's my little helper. He wants to get the diaper and the wipes," she says.

She wanted to have another baby though, despite her difficulty with her first pregnancy. She had prolactinoma (high levels of prolactin) and placenta previa (a low-lying placenta covering the cervix), keeping her bed-ridden. "I was hormonally challenged. Everyone saw me fall apart. I was scared, I didn't know what was happening, and I put on 32 kg," she says. After her son's birth, there was the post-partum depression to deal with.

The second time, she resolved it would be different. One part of it was to feel positive about the process; the other was to reach out to women with a keeping-it-real message: "I've been very proactive about women feeling good about themselves." It's important, she says, to surround yourself with people who support you – in her case her husband Akshai and son ("They keep me together").

Her underwater shoot, when her pregnancy was fairly advanced, received good feedback from women. "One woman in her 50s told me she wished she'd done this in her pregnancy," though there were the odd Indian-women-don't-do-this kind of comments.

The difficult part has been with breastfeeding. "Someone should write a manual," she jokes. "I kept telling my husband I'm sure I'll be fine, but last week I fell apart. Sometimes to start the milk supply is hard, and people around you can either demoralise you or have your back," she says.

This time, her husband supported her, because "once you start a top feed, it's hard to get them (babies) off." The breast pump has worked for her: "Even if you're getting very little, the action seems to work," so she'll pump three times a day, between feeds.

Her trainer's wife had a box of *gond*-and-*methi laddoos* with her the moment she delivered. She's also eating *methi* with *bajra roti*.

The best part of the journey, for Sameera though, is seeing a relationship build between her son and yet-to-be-named daughter, now called Girlie, by Hans.

"He wanted a cricket set and has asked his grandmother for a bat for her too, imagining she's soon going to be playing with him very soon." The four-year-old asked where his sister had come from, and Sameera showed him her scar. "Now he thinks she's a superhero who's come out of a scar."

Keeping it real Sameera Reddy has been vocal on Instagram about body image, sharing a picture of herself with her daughter (above) and of her own 13-year-old self (left)

▪ SUMER VERMA AND INSTAGRAM

FENUGREEK AND LACTATION

In India, women are given fenugreek, as it's said to help in milk production. This is not supported by research. "This isn't a clinical claim," says Manjari Chandra, a Delhi-based dietician. "But there is some sense to eating foods that have prebiotic effects, especially soluble fibre. Lactation is a metabolic activity," she says. For oxytocin and progesterone to be at the right level, you want insulin, the master hormone, to perform well. For this, *methi* is one way to manage sugars and metabolic activity better, lending overall balance.

Q&A

I have an uneven skin tone and my face also looks more mature than my age. What should I do?

■ An uneven skin tone with the skin appearing more thickened and aged, is most often the result of inadequate protection of the skin from the sun. Medically called photo-ageing, this can usually be improved by setting up a good skincare regimen with medical-grade sunscreens and a vitamin A-containing night cream.

However, patchiness of the skin could also be the result of excessive handling of the skin by way of multiple facials, using inappropriate skincare products and/or cosmetics, excessive and unnecessary use of scrubs on the face, and certain chemicals in hair colouring agents.

It is best to sit with your dermatologist once, for chalking out a skincare regimen, that is best suited for your skin type, and your environment.

Photo-ageing is better prevented, than treated.

I get hives on my face, off and on. I have noticed that I either get an asthma attack or the hives or itchy eyes. What should I do for the hives, and is there a way to prevent them?

▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

■ Hives, itching and watering of the eyes, wheezing – are all part of what is called a hypersensitivity reaction. This definitely needs a detailed medical evaluation, as a severe attack can potentially be life-threatening. While sometimes triggers such as certain foods, can easily be identified and avoided, it is strongly recommended that you be under the care of a medical professional for this issue.

Dr Renita Rajan is the Chief Consultant Dermatologist at RENDER Skin & Hair, a cosmetic dermatology clinic in Chennai

Nothing in this column is intended to be, and is not, a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Please seek independent advice from a licensed practitioner if you have any questions regarding a medical condition. Email us your questions at mp_health@thehindu.co.in

POOCH CAFE

PEANUTS

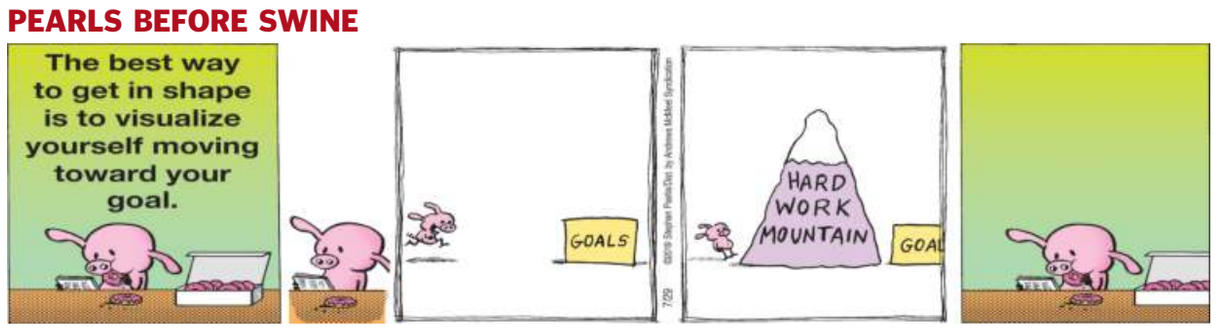
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

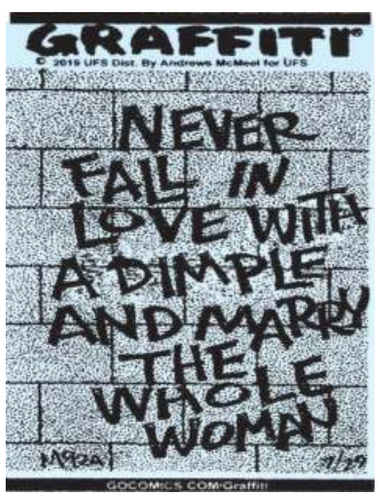
CALVIN AND HOBBES

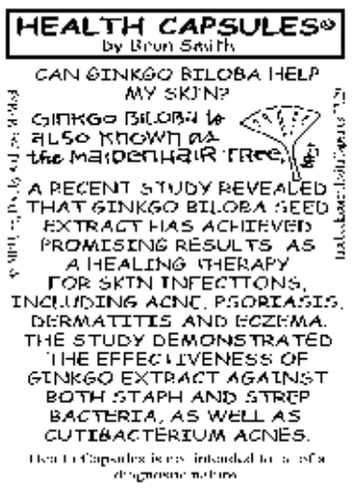
TIGER

WUMO

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE







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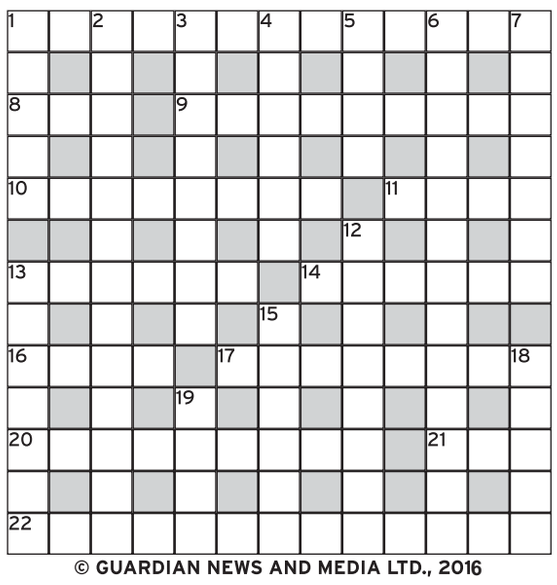

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Across
1 The Rastafarian Messiah (5,8)
8 Crazy (3)
9 Scotch pancake (4,5)
10 Exhume (8)
11 Sister and wife of Zeus (4)
13 Golfer who can't drive straight? (6)
14 Author of Little Women, d. 1888 (6)
16 Hard work (4)
17 Large German dirigible (8)
20 Leader (9)
21 Metal, Sn (3)
22 Person with whom one shares common attitudes (7,6)

Down
1 Moist (5)
2 Illness (13)
3 Put at risk (8)
4 Recalled (6)
5 Peas (anag) – part of a church (4)
6 Eventually (6,2,5)
7 Handsome (7)
12 Flimsy sandal (4-4)
13 Use any office workstation, not having a permanent one (3-4)
15 Running late (6)
18 Composition for nine instruments (5)
19 Morose (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 30, 2019.

Solution No. 13133

Egan Bernal keeps his tryst with destiny

Team Ineos' rider becomes the first Colombian to claim the prestigious title

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
VAL THORENS (FRANCE)

Egan Bernal became the first Colombian to win the Tour de France when he retained the overall leader's yellow jersey after Sunday's 21st and final stage.

The 22-year-old Bernal, the youngest rider to win the race in 110 years, gives Team Ineos – formerly Team Sky – its seventh title in the last eight editions.

The final stage was won by Australian Caleb Ewan ahead of the Netherlands' Dylan Groenewegen and Italian Niccolo Bonifazio.

Earlier, the 2018 winner Geraint Thomas admitted that he never thought teammate Bernal would succeed him as the champion but backed the 22-year-old Colombian to keep winning.

The Welshman came into the race as hot favourite to retain his title, but after a series of falls was big enough to allow his young co-captain the space to push for victory during a trio of Alpine stages that put Bernal in the yellow jersey.

"If my experience is anything to go by then he's got an amazing year ahead of him and it's been an honour to be part of this," said the former Olympic track champion.

"To be honest, I didn't think Egan was going to win this year, but the talent has been evident for all to see.

"He's got many years of success ahead of him, a humble guy with a great future."

Thomas admitted he had intended to defend his title and come away with back-to-back wins, insisting at the start in Brussels he was no one-hit Tour de France wonder.

"This year and last year are like black and white, everything that could go wrong went wrong," he said.

"Last year I had no falls, no punctures, no problems – a bit like Egan this year.

"I would have loved to have won but there you go, the fact a teammate won makes it easier," added the 33-year-old.

Pedalling to glory: Egan Bernal, the youngest winner in 110 years of cycling's greatest race, sweeps around the Arc de Triomphe during the 21st and final stage on Sunday. ▪AP

Ethics and values

Bernal did not appear to attempt to usurp Thomas, and the senior co-captain praised his ethics and values as he became the first Colombian to win the Tour and youngest in 110 years.

"Crossing the line with Egan today was an incredible feeling," Thomas said of the moment the pair crested the 33km summit of Val Torrens knowing they were in a 1-2 position.

"We always work as a team and that is why we have been so successful. I told Egan not to worry about the crying because all real men cry."

"He's an incredible talent and can dominate the race for years to come."

Thomas also had words of encouragement for Julian Alaphilippe, who thrilled France with 14 days in the yellow jersey before his meltdown on the Col de l'Isore on Friday under Bernal's relentless pressure.

"I know it's easy to say but he has to put that behind him now and look forwards and carry on working, he'll get over it," said Thomas, who during the Tour had posted a photo of himself with Alaphilippe on Twitter with the legend "me and the darling of France".

Praise for Thomas

Meanwhile Team Ineos boss Dave Brailsford said Thomas "defied the odds" by occupying second place in the Tour. "He's had a fantastic tour," Brailsford told BBC Radio on Sunday. "The first time someone wins the Tour de France they hardly ever come back and perform well the year afterwards.

"Geraint's defied all the odds there and could have won the race. He's fair, he's balanced, he wanted to win, but then as soon as the opportunity came for the team to win he was 100 percent behind it and he's just a pleasure to work with. He's a class act."

Brailsford said the 2019 Tour had been the "most exciting, open, topsy-turvy kind of race that we've ever been involved in".

Indian boxers strike it rich

Mary Kom leads a sweep of four gold medals by the women

PRESIDENT'S CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Six-time World champion Mary Kom (51kg) and 2018 World Championships bronze winner Simranjit Kaur (60kg) grabbed gold as the Indian boxers finished their campaign at the 23rd President's Cup in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, with nine medals on Sunday.

While the women had a flawless record in the finals, winning all the four gold medals on offer, the men had a mixed fortune, bagging two silver along with three gold. The superb all-round performance also helped the contingent win the 'Best Team' award.

Thanking one and all

M.C. Mary Kom, who claimed the gold destroying Australian April Franks 5-0 in a lop-sided final, tweeted "Gold medal for me and for my country at #President-Cup Indonesia. Winning means you're willing to go longer,work harder & give more effort than anyone else. I sincerely thanks to all my Coaches and support staffs of @BFI_official @KirenRijiju @Media_SAI."

Simranjit Kaur was equally impressive in her final against Indonesia's Asian Games bronze medallist Hasanah Huswatun, winning 5-0.

In 54kg, Assam's young and bright talent Jamuna Boro did not put a foot wrong in a 5-0 demolition of Italy's veteran boxer Giulia Lamagna, while youngster Monika, fighting in 48kg, ended the challenge of Endang of Indonesia by a similar scoreline.

Among the men, Ankush Dahiya (64kg), Neeraj Swami (49kg) and Ananta Pralhad Chopade (52kg) were crowned champions in their respective weight categories.

Emphatic wins

Chopade did not show any nerves in a strong 5-0 win over Afghanistan's Rahmani Ramish for his first significant international medal. Dahiya outpunched his opponent, Macau's Leung Kin Fong, 5-0 to lay his hands on the top prize.

Neeraj had it tougher and dropped a point for a 4-1 gritty win over Filipino pugilist Macado Jr. Ramel.

However, it was a heartbreak for former World Championships bronze medallist Gaurav Bidhuri who gave his all but was edged 3-2 by Indonesian Mandagie Jill in the 56kg bantamweight bout. Dinesh Dagar found Indonesia's Samada Saputra too strong and was dealt a 5-0 defeat in the final.

The results (finals):

Women: 48kg: Monika bt Endang (Ina) 5-0; **51kg:** M.C. Mary Kom bt April Franks (Aus) 5-0; **54kg:** Jamuna Boro bt Giulia Lamagna (Ita) 5-0; **60kg:** Simranjit Kaur bt Hasanah Huswatun (Ina) 5-0.

Men: 49kg: Neeraj Swami bt Macado Jr. Ramel (Phi) 4-1; **52kg:** Ananta Pralhad Chopade bt Rahmani Ramish (Afg) 5-0; **56kg:** Mandagie Jill (Ina) bt Gaurav Bidhuri 3-2; **64kg:** Ankush Dahiya bt Leung Kin Fong (Mac) 5-0; **69kg:** Samada Saputra (Ina) bt Dinesh Dagar 5-0.

Fab four: Jamuna Boro, M.C. Mary Kom, Monika and Simranjit Kaur with their reward. ▪PTI

ICC panel to discuss issues from WC final

Controversial boundary count-back rule to decide winner will be under scrutiny

REVIEW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The ICC's Anil Kumble-led Cricket Committee will discuss issues concerning the epic World Cup final, including the controversial boundary count-back rule, in its next meeting, said the apex body's general manager of cricket Geoff Allardice.

Cricketers shared New Zealand's pain on losing the World Cup title to hosts England on boundary count-back rule following.

Clinching factor

In a pulsating encounter, England was adjudged the winner of the World Cup on the basis of its superior boundary count after the the match ended in a tie after regulation play and subsequent Super Over. "The cricket committee will consider any issues arising from the World Cup final when it next meets (in the first quarter of 2020)," Allardice was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

Anil Kumble... at the helm. ▪FILE PHOTO: K. PICHUMANI

"A Super Over has been used to determine a winner in a tied match in ICC events since 2009 (replacing the bowl-out), and the tiebreaker after a tied Super Over needed to be derived from something that happened in that particular match. So it has always related to the number of boundaries scored in the match."

He said the boundary count-back rule was followed as it is in practice in T20 leagues across the world. "Almost all the T20 leagues around the world also use boundaries as the tiebreaker in their Super Overs. We wanted to use the same Super Over regulations that are used across all professional cricket and that's why it was the way it was. Whether it should be different is something that our cricket committee will consider," Allardice said.

The ICC's chief executives committee (CEC) did not deliberate at its annual conference on whether sharing the World Cup could be an option in future. "No, that wasn't discussed. The consistent view has been that the World Cup final needs a winner, and a Super Over was in the playing conditions to decide a tied final in each of the last three World Cups," he said.

Virat Kohli has said that he has been looking forward to the World Test Championship, which begins with the Ashes on August 1, and Allardice said it is encouraging. "Yes, it is very encouraging to hear those comments. I know players love playing Test cricket. For the first time there is a real context to the matches they play that extends beyond a particular series."

Overthrow issue: ICC backs Dharmasena

'Umpires followed the right process when making the decision'

IANS
DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has backed umpire Kumar Dharmasena after he was targeted for his controversial overthrow call in the World Cup final 2019 recently.

In the final of the showpiece event, England needed nine runs from three deliveries to win before Dharmasena awarded the hosts six runs when a throw from New Zealand's Martin Guptill ricocheted off Ben Stokes' bat and went to the boundary. The batsmen didn't cross for their second run when the throw was sent on its way, so should have only been five runs.

The Sri Lankan umpire accepted his mistake, but didn't regret the decision. His error could have handed the Kiwis a victory, but with the match and the resulting Super Over eventually tied, England was declared winner on boundary countback.

Contentious call: Though Sri Lankan umpire Dharmasena accepted his mistake, he didn't regret the decision he made in the World Cup final. ▪FILE PHOTO

ICC General Manager of Cricket, Geoff Allardice, noted that the umpires had to make a judgement call as to whether the batsmen had crossed when the throw was released.

Talking to ESPNCricinfo, he said: "After everything that went on during that delivery, they got together over their communication system and made their decision. They certainly followed the right process when making the decision."

"They were aware of the law when they made the judgement about whether the batsmen had crossed or not at the time. The playing conditions don't allow them to refer to such a decision to a third umpire. The match referee cannot intervene when the umpires on the field have to make a judgement call like that," he added.

Chennai Lions' roar silences Puneri Paltan

Overseas recruits Petrissa, Tiago join hands with Sharath to guide the team to a 10-5 win

UTT

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Overseas recruits needed a helping hand from Sharath Kamal to shape Chennai Lions' much-needed 10-5 victory over Puneri Paltan in the Ultimate Table Tennis league here on Sunday.

Happy birthday, Tiago!

On a day when foreigners proved stronger to their Indian counterparts all four singles, Germany's Petrissa Solja, ranked 26 and 'birthday boy' Portugal's Apolonia Tiago, ranked 52nd, played their part to perfection for Chennai. Petrissa tamed Ayhika Mukherjee 3-0 and Tiago bounced back to stop Harmeet Desai 2-1.

Petrissa took time to figure out the returns coming off Ayhika's new rubber on the forehand side and then stayed in control. Desai started out aggressively to take the first game. Once Apolonia managed to snatch the 'golden point' in the second, the Indian no longer proved a threat.

With the Commonwealth singles champions contributing just one point to Paltan, the dice was heavily loaded in favour of Lions.

Sharath joined Petrissa, the reigning mixed doubles bronze medallist in the 2019 World Championship, and blanked Desai and Sabine Winter to establish Chennai's winning 8-1 lead.

In the remaining two singles, as though going by the trend of the dray, it was Paltan's turn to pull things back a little through its foreign hands. Placed 28th, Chuang Chin Yuan is the highest ranked player in the competition. He raised Paltan's tally by beating Sharath 2-1.

In the second game, Yuan bounced back from 2-6 and 9-10 to win the 'golden point'. In the third, Sharath jumped to a 5-0 lead to take it 11-3.

In the final singles, Madhurika Patkar, ranked 50 places below Sabine at 112, was at her aggressive best.

Cracking the code: Petrissa Solja took control once she figured out the returns coming off Ayhika Mukherjee's new rubber on the forehand side. ▪COURTESY: UTT

She pulled off the second game at 11-5 and continued with her spirited ways until the German completed a 2-1 triumph by claiming the 'golden point'.

The results:

Chennai Lions bt Puneri Paltan 10-5 (Petrissa Solja bt Ayhika Mukherjee 11-10, 11-6, 11-8; Tiago Apolonia bt Harmeet Desai 8-11, 11-10, 11-7; Sharath Kamal & Petrissa bt Desai & Sabine Winter 11-7, 11-7, 11-6; Sharath lost to Chuang Chin-Yuan 5-11, 10-11, 11-3; Madhurika Patkar lost to Sabine 8-11, 11-5, 10-11).

Monday's fixture: Dabang Delhi v U Mumba (7 p.m.).

Naveen dazzles for Dabang

His solid performance helps the team down Steelers

PKL

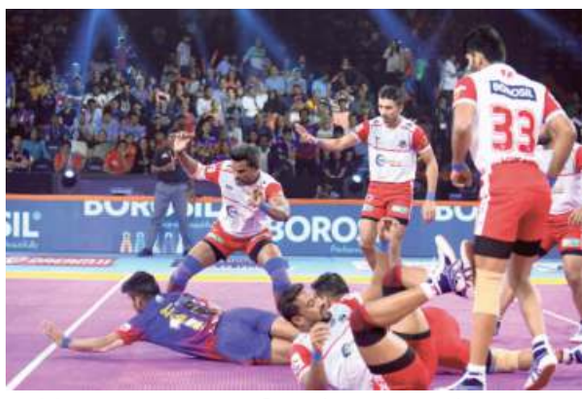
NANDAKUMAR MARAR
MUMBAI

Naveen Kumar piloted Dabang Delhi KC to an easier-than-expected 41-21 win over Haryana Steelers, the third consecutive win for the former in the seventh ProKabaddi League in three appearances over two legs. He crossed the 200-point mark, in the course of an individual high of 10th Super 10 in the competition.

Chandran Ranjit displayed agility and reflexes with a leap over a catcher and a side roll to escape from another in the closing stages.

He top-scored for the winner (11 points from 17 raids and two bonus points), followed by teammate Naveen Kumar (10 from 15 raids and one bonus).

Saied Gaffari chipped in with four tackle points. For Haryana Steelers, another Naveen came to the fore (nine points) in a game out of their grasp from the start.



Back home! Naveen Kumar floored Haryana Steelers' defenders time and again. ▪COURTESY: PKL

Fans in both camps roared in appreciation as raiders took advantage of catchers ready to take risks early on. Eight of the first nine consecutive raids were successful, before Haryana captain Dharmaraj Cheralathan got a firm hold on Meraj Sheykh and teammates joined in to trap the Iranian.

Haryana fell behind early in the second half, suffering an all-out for the first time in the face of calculated raiding by Delhi.

The results:

Dabang Delhi 41 (Chandran Ranjit 11, Naveen Kumar 10) bt Haryana Steelers 21 (Naveen 9, Vinay 5).

Bengaluru Bulls 30 (Pawan Sehrawat 11, Mahender Singh 3) bt U Mumba 26 (Arjun Deshwal 6, Abhishek Singh 5).

Monday's matches: Tamil Thalaivas vs Patna Pirates; Bengal Warriors vs Puneri Paltan.

Verstappen sweeps to victory in dramatic German GP

Fantastic Vettel goes from last to second; Kvyat finishes on the podium a day after becoming a father; Hamilton fails to score

REUTERS
HOCKENHEIM

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won a wet and crazily chaotic German Grand Prix littered with crashes and safety car periods on Sunday with Mercedes' Formula One leader Lewis Hamilton failing to score.

In an extraordinary race of constantly changing fortunes, multiple pit-stops and endless drama, Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel started from last place and finished second in front of his home crowd.

Russian Daniil Kvyat, who became a father on Saturday, was an astonishing third to hand Red Bull's sister team Toro Rosso their second ever podium.

'Max'imum cheer! The Red Bull team is over the moon as Verstappen takes the chequered flag. ▪REUTERS

Amazing race

"It was an amazing race to win in the end, it was really tricky out there to make the right calls, and we really had to be focused," said Verstappen, who took the chequered flag 7.333 seconds ahead of Vettel.

The race was shortened by three laps after the safety car had led the field away before a standing start.

Hamilton's closest rival and teammate Valtteri Bottas, who had also led briefly, crashed out with six laps remaining to leave the gap between the two unchanged at 39 points after 11 of 21 races.

Mercedes, empty-handed in its 200th start, had won nine of the previous 10 races.

Verstappen, the only man to beat them, made five pit-stops on way to his second win of the season and also spun 360 degrees in the middle of the race.

There were four safety car periods.

"It was a long race, at some stages it felt like it would never end and it was very tough with the conditions and I'm just happy. It was a lot of fun," said Vettel.

THE RESULTS

1. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 1h 44:31.275s, 2. Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) +7.333, 3. Daniil Kvyat (Toro Rosso) 8.305, 4. Lance Stroll (Racing Point) 8.966, 5. Carlos Sainz Jr (McLaren) 9.583, 6. Alexander Albon (Toro Rosso) 10.052, 7. Kimi Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo) 12.214, 8. Antonio Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo) 13.849, 9. Romain Grosjean (Haas) 16.838, 10. Kevin Magnussen (Haas) 18.765, 11. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) 19.667, 12. Robert Kubica (Williams) 24.987, 13. George Russell (Williams) 26.404.

Did Not Finish: Pierre Gasly (Red Bull), Sergio Perez (Racing Point), Daniel Ricciardo (Renault), Lando Norris (McLaren), Charles Leclerc (Ferrari), Nico Hulkenberg (Renault), Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes).

Standings: Drivers: 1. Hamilton 223 points, 2. Bottas 184, 3. Verstappen 162, 4. Vettel 141, 5. Leclerc 120, 6. Gasly 55, 7. Sainz Jr 48, 8. Raikkonen 31, 9. Kvyat 27, 10. Norris 22, 11. Ricciardo 22, 12. Stroll 18, 13. Hulkenberg 17, 14. Magnussen 15, 15. Albon 15, 16. Perez 13, 17. Giovinazzi 5, 18. Grosjean 4.

Constructors: 1. Mercedes 407 points, 2. Ferrari 261, 3. Red Bull 217, 4. McLaren-Renault 70, 5. Toro Rosso-Honda 42, 6. Renault 39, 7. Alfa Romeo Racing-Ferrari 36, 8. Racing Point-Mercedes 31, 9. Haas-Ferrari 19.

Arpinder impresses

SPORTS BUREAU
ST. ETIENNE (FRANCE)

Ten days after producing a season-best 16.63m at the Sotteville meet, Arpinder Singh had an another impressive performance at the French Elite Championships here on Sunday.

The Asian Games triple jump champion had a best of 16.52m as he took the sixth spot in the event which had some very strong jumpers.

Burkina Faso's Fabrice Hugues Zango, the World No. 3, took the gold with 17.50m while Frenchman Benjamin Campaore was next with 16.94.

Tri-series: India's match washed out

CHELTENHAM: India under-19 shared points with Bangladesh under-19 after their tri-series match was abandoned without a ball being bowled here on Saturday.

The Indian colts have five points from four games (two wins, one loss, one No Result).

US women set new mark in medley relay

Britain stuns USA in men's event; Manuel completes the freestyle sprint double

WORLD SWIMMING

REUTERS
GWANGJU

Duncan Scott swam the second-fastest relay split of all time in the anchor leg of the men's 4x100m medley on Sunday, overhauling his U.S. and Russian rivals to secure gold for Britain and deny Caeleb Dressel a seventh World title here.

Britain's come-from-behind victory came in the penultimate event of a pulsating last night in the pool. It came just before the U.S. women set a World record to win the medley relay, with Regan Smith breaking the backstroke record in the lead-off leg.

We did it! Regan Smith, Lilly King and Kelsi Dahlia of the United States are ecstatic after winning the 4x100m medley with a world record time. ▪MADDIE MEYER/GETTY IMAGES

Surprise gold

South African Zane Waddell (24.43) grabbed a surprise gold in a blanket finish to the men's 50m backstroke, ahead of Russians Evgeny Rylov and Kliment Kolesnikov, the World record holder. Only 0.08 seconds separated the top three.

In the women's 50m breaststroke America's Lilly King got to the wall first in 29.84, while the third of the water-churning one-lap dashes saw Simone Manuel complete the 50/100m freestyle double, the American getting her fingertips to the wall ahead of Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom and Australian Cate Campbell.

Wellbrock's feat

Florian Wellbrock also got his name in the record books after the German added the 1,500m freestyle crown to his 10km open water gold in Gwangju, becoming the first athlete to win titles in two different sports at a single World championships.

Dubious distinction

While governing body FINA said it was delighted the way Gwangju had staged the event, the one sad note for South Korea was that it became the fourth host after Colombia (1975), Ecuador (1982) and Spain (1986) not to win a swimming medal.

Meanwhile, South Korean police said they had banned Hungarian swimmer Tamas Kenderesi from leaving the country as they investigate allegations of sexual harassment against the Rio Olympic bronze medallist.

The results: Men: 50m backstroke: 1. Zane Waddell (RSA) 24.43s, 2. Evgeny Rylov (Rus) 24.49, 3. Kliment Kolesnikov (Rus) 24.51. **1500m freestyle:** 1. Florian Wellbrock (Ger) 14:36.54, 2. Mykhailo Romanchuk (Ukr) 14:37.63, 3. Gregorio Paltrinieri (Ita) 14:38.75. **400m individual medley:** 1. Daiya Seto (Jpn) 4:08.95, 2. Jay Litherland (USA) 4:09.22, 3. Lewis Clareburt (Aus) 4:12.07. **4x100m medley relay:** 1. Great Britain 3:28.10, 2. USA 3:28.45, 3. Russia 3:28.81.

Women: 50m breaststroke: 1. Lilly King (USA) 29.84, Benedetta Pilato (Ita) 30.00, 3. Yuliya Efimova (RUS) 30.15. **50m freestyle:** 1. Simone Manuel (USA) 24.05, 2. Sarah Sjostrom (Swe) 24.07, 3. Cate Campbell (Aus) 24.11. **400m individual medley:** 1. Katinka Hosszu (Hun) 4:30.39, 2. Ye Shiwen (Chn) 4:32.07, 3. Yui Ohashi (Jpn) 4:32.33. **4x100m medley relay:** 1. USA 3:50.40 (WR, Old: USA, 3:51.55, Budapest, 2017), 2. Australia 3:53.42, 3. Canada 3:53.58.

Jack vows to clear name

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MELBOURNE

Australian relay World-record holder Shayna Jack on Sunday revealed the drug she tested positive for was a banned substance that aids muscle mass, while maintaining her innocence and vowing to clear her name.

The 20-year-old, in an emotional Instagram post on Sunday evening, said she tested positive to Ligandrol, also known as selective androgen receptor modulator, intimating that it can be found in contaminated supplements.

"I was in complete shock, asking myself how and why is this happening to me. My brain repeated over and over: 'I have always checked my substances', 'I didn't do this', 'why is this happening to me?', 'I've done nothing wrong'," she said. "I didn't intentionally take it, I didn't even know it was in my system."

Raghul, Vishnu in the thick of it

On a day of thrills and spills, the two finish with a win each

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

Raghul Rangasamy and Vishnu Prasad from Chennai are best buddies off the track but, on it, they fight it out. Their battle added spice to the opening round of the 22nd JK Tyre-FMSCI National racing championship at the Kari Motor Speedway in Chettipalayam here on Sunday.

After some thrilling action, the duo, representing MSport, won a race each in the popular Formula LGB4 class. It was Raghul who stole the thunder in the opening race while Vishnu finished on top in the second, making it a memorable outing for MSport.

Wheel to wheel! Vishnu and Raghul, friends off the track, don't cede an inch on it. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Drama, more drama

There was post-race drama too as Vishnu was dislodged from the top before being reinstated after a series of protests.

The JK Tyre Novice Cup also witnessed some heated off-the-track action. Bengaluru's Chirag Ghorpade (Momentum Motorsports), who scored a double the other day, took the chequered flag yet again only to find that he had made a jump start. He was penalised 10 seconds and slid down to the eighth position. Mohamed Ryan (MSport, Chennai), who finished second, was declared the winner.

A new category for women was introduced to recognise the best racer in the LGB4 bunch. Vadodara's Mira Erda (MSport) grabbed the honours, finishing ahead of all the others in each of the races.

The results (provisional):

Formula LGB4: Race 2: 1. Raghul Rangasamy (MSport) 18:28.329; 2. Vishnu Prasad (MSport) 18:31.673; 3. A. Sandeep Kumar (Dark Don) 18:32.848.

Race 3: 1. Vishnu Prasad 20:02.742; 2. Raghul Rangasamy 20:02.810; 3. Ashwin Datta (Dark Don Racing) 20:05.316.

JK Tyre Novice Cup: Race 3: 1. Mohamed Ryan (MSport) 23:44.056; 2. Aaroh Ravindra (Momentum Motorsports) 23:47.212; 3. Mihir Avalakki (Birel Art) 23:47.330.

JK Tyre Suzuki Gixxer Cup: 1. Syed Muzammil Ali 14:19.609; 2. Tanay Gaikwad 14:25.458; 3. Sidharth Sajan 14:27.480.

JK Tyre Redbull Road to Rookies: 1. Ikshan Shanbag; 2. Prashanth R 3. Aryan Gurav 14:35.073.

JK Tyre women's category (Formula LGB4): 1. Mira Erda (MSport); 2. Mega K.S (Ahura Racing); 3. Diana Pundole (Ahura Racing).

Golden day for Praggu, Vaishali

Former claims title, the latter her maiden GM-norm

CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

It was a memorable day for siblings R. Praggnanandhaa and R. Vaishali in the Xtracon Open chess championship in Copenhagen on Sunday. Praggnanandhaa, with 8.5 points from 10 rounds, clinched the open title while Vaishali got her first GM-norm and second IM-norm. Vaishali, with 7.5 points, finished 15th.

This is the 13-year-old Praggu's first major crown after becoming a Grandmaster in June last year.

Special win

Praggu, seeded 20th, said there was no pressure on him. "Defeating Italy's Vocaturo Daniele, a higher-rated player, in the seventh round was special. Now I am very confident," he said.

Praggu will reach Chennai on July 30 before leaving for Abu Dhabi for the Masters tournament from August 2.

The 18-year-old Vaishali was ecstatic. "We had some good moments in the tournament earlier. We bagged the World youth title in Greece in 2015 (I won the u-14 category and he won u-10). This (Xtracon Open) is a big victory for him as it is a strong tournament," she said.

Sweet siblings: R. Praggnanandhaa with R. Vaishali. ▪FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

A great result: Ramesh

Coach R.B. Ramesh said it was a "just reward" for all the hard work Praggu has put in. "This is a great result for him. Since he became GM last year, he was kind of stuck at a certain level. His performances were not bad but not great either. But this is a great reward," he said.

Ramesh said Praggu worked on new openings and that helped him. "He has been working on new openings in recent times. Before that, we were focusing more on the middle and end games. Now after becoming GM, with the pressure off, we worked a lot on openings."

Avishka powers Sri Lanka to series win

Mushfiqur's unbeaten 98 goes in vain for Bangladesh in second ODI

CRICKET

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Avishka Fernando hit a quickfire half-century as Sri Lanka eased to a seven-wicket win over Bangladesh in the second ODI to seal the three-match series in Colombo on Sunday.

Opener Fernando made 82 off 75 balls, helping Sri Lanka reach 242 for three in 44.4 overs after Bangladesh was restricted to 238 for eight, despite wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim making an unbeaten 98.

Fernando and skipper Dimuth Karunaratne set the tone for Sri Lanka's run chase with a 71-run stand before Bangladesh had its first success through off-spinner Mehidy Hasan.

Mehidy bowled Karunaratne for 15 but Fernando and Kusal Perera continued the hosts' onslaught.

Mustafizur Rahman dismissed Fernando and Perera, who made 30 off 34 balls, in quick succession to revive Bangladesh's hopes but Kusal Mendis and Angelo Mathews denied the visitors further success. Mathews struck occasional leg-spinner Sabbir Rahman for a four to complete Sri Lanka's win.

Bangladesh had Mushfiqur to thank for providing it something to fight with after the top-order crumbled for the second time in the series.

The aerial route: Avishka Fernando's aggressive knock contained nine fours and two sixes. ▪AFP

Mushfiqur slammed six fours and a six in a 110-ball innings to bail out Bangladesh which lost its first six wickets for 117 runs.

The third and final game will be held here on Wednesday.

Vettori is spin consultant

The Bangladesh Cricket Board on Saturday appointed former New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori as spin consultant and South Africa paceman Charl Langeveldt as pace bowling coach.

SCOREBOARD

Bangladesh: Tamim Iqbal b Udana 19, Soumya Sarkar lbw b Pradeep 11, Mohd. Mithun c Mendis b Dananjaya 12, Mushfiqur Rahim (not out) 98, Mahmudullah b Dananjaya 6, Sabbir Rahman run out 11, Mosaddek Hossain c Kusal Perera b Udana 13, Mehidy Hasan c Karunaratne b Pradeep 43, Taijul Islam run out 3, Mustafizur Rahman (not out) 2; Extras (b-3 lb-4, w-12, nb-1): 20; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 238.

Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-31, 3-52, 4-68, 5-88, 6-117, 7-201, 8-231.

Sri Lanka bowling: Dhananjaya de Silva 10-0-39-0, Pradeep 10-0-53-2, Udana 10-0-58-2, Kumara 10-0-42-0, Dananjaya 10-0-39-2.

Sri Lanka: Avishka Fernando c Tamim b Mustafizur 82, Dimuth Karunaratne b Mehidy 15, Kusal Perera c Sarkar b Mustafizur 30, Kusal Mendis (not out) 41, Angelo Mathews (not out) 52; Extras (b-4, lb-5, w-12, nb-1): 22; Total (for three wkts. in 44.4 overs): 242.

Fall of wickets: 1-71, 2-129, 3-146.

Bangladesh bowling: Mehidy 10-0-51-1, Shafiul 5-0-29-0, Taijul 10-2-35-0, Mustafizur 8-0-50-2, Mosaddek 7-0-32-0, Sabbir 2.4-0-20-0, Sarkar 2-0-16-0.

Toss: Bangladesh.

MoM: Avishka.

Sri Lanka won by seven wickets with 32 balls remaining.

Blind cricket: India clinches T20I series

ANI
KINGSTON

The Indian blind cricket team defeated Jamaica by 10 wickets in the second T20I match to win the two-match series here on Saturday.

Deepak strikes

Jamaica, opting to bat, was reduced to nine for three as Deepak Malik took three wickets in the second over.

However, Gregory Stewart and Graham put on 113 for the fourth wicket as the hosts finished at 147 for six.

In reply, India got off to a fine start and continued the momentum throughout.

Ramesh hits century

India opener Sunil Ramesh hammered an unbeaten 101 off just 40 deliveries.

He took the team home in the company of Ajay, who made an unbeaten 30.

With this, India white-washed Jamaica in both the three-match ODI and two-match T20I series.

The scores: Jamaica 147 for six in 20 overs (Gregory Stewart 51 n.o., Graham 32) lost to India 149 for no loss in 8.5 overs (Sunil Ramesh 101 n.o., Ajay 30 n.o.).

TV PICKS

UTT: Star Sports 1 & Select 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
GT20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 10 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Yuvraj's cameo sets up Nationals' win

TORONTO

Yuvraj Singh scored a quickfire 21-ball 35 as Toronto Nationals chased down a 192-run target, with two wickets to spare, against Edmonton Royals in Global T20 Canada here on Saturday. India's 2011 World Cup hero, who hit three boundaries and as many sixes, looked fluent throughout his innings. Yuvraj had scored only 14 from 27 balls in the first match which his team lost to Vancouver Knights. PTI

Basilashvili retains Hamburg title

HAMBURG

Georgian Nikoloz Basilashvili retained his title at the Hamburg Open on Sunday when he beat unseeded Russian Andrey Rublev 7-5, 4-6, 6-3. Basilashvili, who was seeded fourth at the clay-court event, is ranked 16th in the world but will lose points because last year he took the title after coming through qualifying. AFP

No regrets, says Iniesta on leaving Barcelona

LEEDS

Vissel Kobe's Andres Iniesta said he has "no regrets" over making a move from Barcelona to the J1 League side. "No, no regrets. It's a very strong word to label it as that. I've always said it. If I had felt the desire or the strength to continue playing in Barcelona I would've loved to come here a year later playing for Barca against Vissel, but my moment ended," Goal.com quoted Iniesta. ANI

'Getting in and out of the side not good'

Shreyas says it doesn't create pattern and you start disbelieving yourself

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Every player wants a sense of security and Shreyas Iyer is no different as he believes that "getting in and out of the team doesn't create a good pattern" and dents a player's self belief in the long run.

Indian Premier League's youngest captain, the 24-year-old Iyer, who guided Delhi Capitals to its first playoffs in seven years, is getting ready for the upcoming limited-over series in the Caribbean, having earned a recall after a disappointing World Cup snub.

Second coming

This is his second coming and he wants a few more chances that will help him cement his place in the side. "If you are really a good talent, then you need a certain amount of chances to prove yourself and get acclimatised to the conditions," Shreyas told PTI in an exclusive interview.

"If you keep coming in and going out (of the team), it doesn't really set a good pattern for one's self and you start disbelieving yourself. If you are a great talent, then you need some time," feels the talented Mumbaikar, who has played six ODIs and an equal number of T20Is.

Only mantra

Having stacked up consistent performances at the domestic and 'A' level, Shreyas said that at times one tends to lose patience but the only mantra is to perform.

Not in your hands

"Yes, you tend to lose patience but selection is not in your hands.

"All you can do is perform, perform and perform and that's what I enjoy doing," he said when asked about times when someone is repeatedly ignored.

"You have to keep performing and keep showing people that you are capable of playing at the higher league. Once you get that sniff, you never look back," Shreyas, who enjoys 50-plus average (52.18) over 54 First Class games and a healthy 42.93 in List-A matches, said.

He is confident that he will certainly play a World Cup in future even as the 2019 exclusion rankles him.

"Yes, there was a lot of buzz about me before the World Cup selection because I was consistent and aware about the hardwork and smart work that I had put in. It will definitely reap benefits and help me in future when I play for India," he said.

Shreyas fully understands that it was a specific team combination that was the reason he was being overlooked and hence he always remained in high spirits.

"It was difficult to not get selected. It was my dream to play the World Cup for my country. "I know there are a few opportunities that I got but unfortunately the team combination was such that it didn't demand me to be there," said Shreyas.

A just wish: Shreyas Iyer wants a few more chances to help him cement his place in the Indian team. ▪ FILE PHOTO: PRASHANT NAKWE

Think Carey is going to be next 'keeper: Wade

Excited over being included in squad

ANI
DUBAI

Australia's Matthew Wade thinks Alex Carey is going to be the team's next wicket-keeper and he is not pushing for the spot anymore.

"I don't feel like I'm pushing for that [wicket-keeper] spot too much anymore. I think [Alex Carey] is going to be the next wicket-keeper for Australia. I think everyone knows that, it's just a matter of time for that to happen," ICC quoted Wade as saying.

Wade has found a spot in the 17-member squad named for the upcoming Ashes. However, it will be skipper Tim Paine behind the wicket.

Wade expressed his excitement over being included in the squad and said he will do the wicket-keeping if something happens to Paine as Carey is not playing in the Ashes.

"It's just a luxury that I've played 20 Tests and a lot of one-dayers as a 'keeper that if something happens to Tim (Paine) on the morning of a Test, then I can stand in and keep. I've got no issues there. I've been away for a long time and I am excited to be back," he said.

> **I see myself as a batter on this tour and if there is an opportunity to bat at five or six, wherever it is, I am comfortable to step into it**

Wade, who hasn't played international cricket since October 2017, stated that he sees himself as a batsman in the upcoming Ashes tour.

"I see myself as a batter on this tour and if there is an opportunity to bat at five or six, wherever it is, I am comfortable to step into it. Fingers crossed I get an opportunity," he said.

Clear thinking: Matthew Wade says he sees himself as a batsman in the Ashes tour. ▪ RYAN PIERSE/ GETTY IMAGES

Chandigarh finally gets BCCI affiliation

Decision welcomed by the city's cricket fraternity with an eye on the future

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Forty-seven years after seeking recognition from the Board, Chandigarh finally gained a slot to compete in domestic cricket.

The recognition granted to the Union Territory Cricket Association (UTCA) was welcomed by the city's cricket fraternity with an eye on the future.

For veteran cricket official Sushil Kapoor, the news meant "respect" for the game's fans and promoters in and around Chandigarh.

"I had attended the Board's AGM at Calcutta in 1972 and sought permission for players from Chandigarh to play for Haryana since the city was not getting any recognition. Even thought there were objections from Punjab, the BCCI allowed Chandigarh-based players to represent the newly-found Haryana team," said Kapoor, who is currently the official spokesperson for Punjab Cricket Association.

> **I am glad the local talent will serve Chandigarh now**
>
> SUSHIL KAPOOR
> Veteran cricket official

In the forefront

Kapoor was in the forefront in keeping the demand for Chandigarh's separate entity in domestic cricket but the efforts were stalled. In 1982, the UTCA became a registered body but support from the Board eluded the cricket lovers.

"The city had a good infrastructure (stadium at Sector 16) and we had some talented players who were forced to either play for Haryana or Punjab. I am glad the local talent will serve Chandigarh now," Kapoor added.

Among the players from Chandigarh who played for India were Kapil Dev, Yograj Singh, Yuvraj Singh, Ashok Malhotra, Chetan Sharma, V.R.V. Singh, Dinesh Mongia and Siddharth Kaul. "I am happy for the young cricketers of Chandigarh," remarked Kapil.

Reward for hardwork

For Vivek Atray, a cricket-loving bureaucrat and senior vice-president of the UTCA, it was a reward for hard work put in by many. "A very welcome development for cricket in this region," noted Atray, who has been organising the JP Atray cricket tournament for the last 25 years.

"Chandigarh should have got affiliation long ago. It is a matter of satisfaction that UTCA had finally received affiliation with BCCI and the boys and girls of Chandigarh will be able to play national-level tournaments in all age groups," said a delighted Atray.

"With the merger of CCA Punjab into UTCA things became much easier and the process of affiliation was finalised by the BCCI. Henceforth, many more (local) cricketers will get the chance to play at higher levels and perhaps the highest level."

JP Atray memorial cricket

SPORTS BUREAU
CHANDIGARH

The 25th edition of the JP Atray memorial cricket tournament will be held at four venues here from September 1 to 10.

Top-rung cricketers like Kapil Dev, Chetan Sharma, Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, M.S. Dhoni, Cheteshwar Pujara, Shikhar Dhawan have turned out for various State and corporate teams in the past editions of the tournament which is affiliated to the Punjab Cricket Association.

Sixteen teams will participate this year. The winner will get a cash prize of ₹2 lakh and the runner-up ₹1 lakh.

Fardeen beats Faisal to title

GURUGRAM: Fardeen Qamar beat his brother Faisal Qamar 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 in the final of the AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the Pradhan Tennis Academy in Sector-103 on Sunday.

The results:
Final: Fardeen Qamar bt Faisal Qamar 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; **Semi-finals:** Faisal bt Ashutosh Tiwari 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

Sarita shocks Pooja, books berth for World C'ships

WRESTLING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Sarita Mor stunned World championships bronze medallist Pooja Dhanda in the 57kg selection trial to book a slot in the National team for the World wrestling championships, the first event offering quota places for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, to be held in Kazakhstan in September.

In the women's trials for six Olympic weight classes held at Lucknow on Sunday, Sarita, an Asian championships silver medallist in 2017, defeated Pooja, who had a close shave against Anshu Malik in the semifinals, 2-1 in the final.

Sarita had earlier shocked Pooja 6-5 in a keenly fought bout of the Pro Wrestling League in January last.

Seema beat the seasoned Nirmala 7-0 to claim the 50kg slot, while Divya Kakran, the current Asian bronze medallist, got the better of former Asian champion Navjot Kaur 6-3 to secure the 68kg spot.

Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik and Asian Games and Commonwealth Games gold medal winner Vinesh Phogat outsmarted Reshma Mane and Pinki 13-2 and 9-0 in the 62kg and 53kg respectively. Kiran took the 76kg berth, overcoming Gursharanpreet Kaur 6-4.

The trials for four non-Olympic categories – 55kg, 59kg, 65kg and 72kg – will be held in the second week of August.

Inter edges PSG on penalties

FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MACAU

Portuguese midfielder Joao Mario scored the final spot-kick as Inter Milan beat Neymar-less Paris Saint-Germain on penalties here.

With its want-away Brazilian superstar left out of the trip to the former Portuguese colony, PSG was seconds from victory on Saturday before Samuele Longo's injury-time equaliser made it 1-1.

Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic saved from Adil Aouchiche and then Arthur Zagre before Mario stepped up to slot the winner for Inter, who edged the penalties 6-5.

The win for Antonio Conte's side comes just days after it lost to Italian rivals Juventus on penalties in a friendly in China.

Neymar, linked with a move back to his former club Barcelona, remained in China's Shenzhen, PSG's previous stop on its Asian tour, while his team-mates flew to gambling enclave Macau.

During a scrappy game in sweltering Macau, Inter was quicker out of the blocks, forcing three fine stops from PSG's Alphonse Areola in the first 10 minutes. New signing Stefano Sensi and Ivan Perisic were instrumental in the early Inter attack, producing quick probing passes and causing problems behind the PSG defence.

The crucial kick: Joao Mario scored the final spot-kick as Inter Milan beat Neymar-less Paris Saint-Germain. ▪ AFP

In Neymar's absence, it was French World Cup-winner Kylian Mbappe who drew cheers from the crowd with his driving runs, although he was often let down by his final touch.

Penalties went to sudden death after PSG's Adil Aouchiche's effort was stopped by Handanovic, but Antonio Candreva's cheeky attempt to chip Areola backfired and glanced off the crossbar.

It was up to Handanovic to make another fine stop from Arthur, before Mario calmly buried the crucial kick.

RACING

Desert God claims Bangalore St. Leger

BENGALURU: S. Padmanabhan-trained Desert God (Sandesh up) won the Tetrasoft Inc. Bangalore St. Leger, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (July 28).

The winner is owned by Radiant Blood Stock Pvt Ltd rep by. Mrs. Sharmila Padmanabhan and Mr. S. Padmanabhan & Col. Swapan Bhadra.

1 **MANITOU PLATE** (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **TENNO SHO** (Trevor) 1, Cavaliere (Antony) 2, Legendary Princess (Sandesh) 3 and Silver Eclipse (Md. Asif Khan) 4. 3-1/2, 8-1/2 and 8-3/4. 1m, 25.81s. ₹13 (w), 10, 13 and 10 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 36, FP: 52, Q: 60, Trinella: 48 and 11, Exacta: 619 and 738. Favourite: Tenno Sho. Owner: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

2 **LIVELY EMPREY PLATE** (1,200m), rated 00 to 20: **ARROGANCE** (Yash) 1, Darahasini (John) 2, Show Girl (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Majestic Rajkumari (Md. Asif Khan) 4. Not run: Astron. 2-1/2, 1 and 1-1/4. 1m, 13.91s. ₹49 (w), 17, 12 and 105 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 285, FP: 120, Q: 46, Trinella: 3,360 and 2,057, Exacta: 19,673 and 5,059. Favourite: Darahasini. Owner: Mr. Daulat Chhabria. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

3 **MARILLINGAIAH MEMORIAL TROPHY** (1,200m), rated 45 to 65: **LIFE AWAITS** (Rayan) 1, Treasure Delight (Suraj) 2, Fair Warning (Antony) 3 and Super Success (T.S. Jodha) 4. 1/2, Shd and 1-3/4. 1m, 12.67s. ₹284 (w), 59, 11 and 19 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 43, FP: 806, Q: 269, Trinella: 6,855 and 3,672, Exacta: 39,418 and 12,670. Favourite: Treasure Delight. Owners: Mr. Sriram Komandur & Mr. Rakshith Shetty. Trainer: Sriram Komandur.

4 **TETRASOFT INC. BANGALORE ST. LEGER** (2,800m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): **DESERT GOD** (Sandesh) 1, Roberta (Trevor) 2, Point To Prove (Zervan) 3 and My Opinion (A. Imran) 4. 3/4, 4 and 1. 3m, 00.27s. ₹15 (w), 12 and 19 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 37, FP: 51, Q: 28, Trinella: 282 and 180, Exacta: 932 and 352. Favourite: Desert God. Owners: Radiant Blood Stock Pvt Ltd rep by. Mrs. Sharmila Padmanabhan and Mr. S. Padmanabhan & Col. Swapan Bhadra. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

5 **SMART CHIEFTAN CUP (DIV. I)**, (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: **ANGELS KISS** (Antony) 1, Wings Of Desire (Zervan) 2, Kvasir (Srinath) 3 and Varcasva (Trevor) 4. Not run: Secretsuperstar. 1-3/4, Nk and 3-1/2. 1m, 13.38s. ₹67 (w), 17, 14 and 11 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 57, FP: 340, Q: 123, Trinella: 370 and 148, Exacta: 858 and 664. Favourite: Kvasir. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

6 **ALLIED FORCES PLATE** (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over: **PRINCESS HOLLY** (K. Raghu) 1, Hafnium (Arshad) 2, She's Superb (S. Shareef) 3 and Simone (Rayan) 4. Not run: Nawabzaadi. 3/4, 4-1/4 and Hd. 1m, 07.55s. ₹40 (w), 17, 37 and 19 (p), SHP: 105, THP: 47, FP: 1,774, Q: 882, Trinella: 5,995 and 1,976, Exacta: 1,26,937 (carried over). Favourite: Fantastic App. Owner: Mr. Gnanadeva Rao. Trainer: Narayana Gowda.

7 **SMART CHIEFTAN CUP (DIV. II)**, (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: **DEPTH CHARGE** (Kiran Rai) 1, Helenka (Zervan) 2, Panama (Arshad) 3 and Decisive (A. Imran) 4. 3/4, 1-1/2 and 2. 1m, 13.92s. ₹55 (w), 20, 12 and 15 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 50, FP: 178, Q: 104, Trinella: 614 and 274, Exacta: 4,058 and 2,264. Favourite: Helenka. Owners: Mr. Y.B. Singh & Mr. Kunal Gupta. Trainer: B. Prithviraj.

Jackpot: ₹7,44,296 (one tkt.); Runner-up: 21,266 (15 tkts.); Treble (i): 3,466 (six tkts.); (ii): 16,003 (three tkts.).

Be Sure favoured for feature

HYDERABAD: Be Sure, who has been well tuned, may score in the Sri Ramakrishnam Raju Memorial Cup (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Monday (July 29).

1 **REGENCY PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,600m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1-30 p.m.: 1. On My Way (4) Aneel 61, 2. City Of Sails (3) Rohit Kumar 60.5, 3. Et Voici (2) Ajeeth Kumar 59.5, 4. Golden Hope (1) A.A. Vikrant 58, 5. Lancashire (6) P. Sai Kumar 56.5, 6. Vijay's Empress (5) R. Ajinkya 56, 7. Joy Of Giving (7) Gaurav Singh 53 and 8. Top Sprint (8) Umesh 53.
1. ON MY WAY,
2. ET VOICI,
3. TOP SPRINT

2 **SET ALIGHT PLATE** (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 2-00: 1. Ace Misile (16) Gaurav Singh 56, 2. Glendale (14) B.R. Kumar 56, 3. Mind Reader (4) Nakhat Singh 56, 4. The Great Gatsby (11) Deep Shanker 56, 5. Turf Choice (7) Kunal Bunde 56, 6. A Hundred Echoes (5) R. Ajinkya 54.5, 7. Alliston (9) Ajit Singh 54.5, 8. Ashwa Calvari (1) B. Nikhil 54.5, 9. Caledonia (15) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 10. Coconut Coast (8) S.G. Prasad 54.5, 11. Exclusive Art (3) A. Sandesh 54.5, 12. Kintsugi (10) Ashhad Asbar 54.5, 13. Miss Marvellous (12) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 14. Queen Runner (6) Suraj Narredu 54.5, 15. Star Of Tiara (13) Umesh 54.5 and 16. Urvasi (2) Rohit Kumar 54.5.
1. EXCLUSIVE ART,
2. QUEEN RUNNER,
3. CALEDONIA

3 **SHIVAKUMAR LAL MEMORIAL CUP** (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2-30: 1. Mark My Word (1) Nakhat Singh 60, 2. Cape Kidnappers (2) P. Sai Kumar 57.5, 3. Midnight Dream (6) Umesh 56.5, 4. Ta Ta (3) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 5. Exclusive Blue (4) A. Sandesh 54 and 6. Humaaghar (5) Afroz Khan 54.
1. EXCLUSIVE BLUE,
2. CAPE KIDNAPPERS

4 **FLOWERSOFTHEFOREST PLATE** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3-05: 1. Fabulous Gift (9) C.P. Bopanna 60, 2. Kionia (8) Afroz Khan 60, 3. Let It Be Me (3) Kunal Bunde 60, 4. Southern Lady (12) Suraj Narredu 60, 5. Tremendous Desire (4) Santosh Raj 60,6. Speed Warrior (5) B.R. Kumar 59.5, 7. Angel Tesoro (10) P. Sai Kumar 59, 8. Zip Zip Zip (11) Koushik 59, 9. Acadian Angel (7) A.A. Vikrant 58.5, 9. Kushi Kushi Kushi (6) Aneel 58.5, 11. Spiritual (2) A. Sandesh 58.5, and 12. Surseine (1) N. Rawal 58.5.
1. SOUTHERN LADY,
2. ANGEL TESORO,
3. SPIRITUAL

5 **VIJAYS CONQUER PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 3-35: 1. Air Salute (3) Jitendra Singh 60, 2. Blazing Speed (9) P. Sai Kumar 59, 3. Mossad (11) Ajeeth Kumar 59, 4. Hopscotch (6) N. Rawal 57.5, 5. Story Teller (5) Nakhat Singh 57.5, 6. Escalating Striker (4) Umesh 57, 7. Silver Dollar (7) A.A. Vikrant 57, 8. Negress Princess (1) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 9. Tyrion (8) Harinder Singh 55.5, 10. Sindhu (2) G. Naresh 54.5 and 11. Victoria (10) Afroz Khan 52.5.
1. ESCALATING STRIKER,
2. VICTORIA,
3. STORY TELLER

6 **SRI S. RAMAKRISHNAM RAJU MEMORIAL CUP** (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 4-05: 1. Starlight (7) Kuldeep Singh 60, 2. Be Sure (1) Nakhat Singh 59.5, 3. Newport (4) Surya Prakash 56.5, 4. Champion Bull (2) A. Sandesh 55.5, 5. Magical Skill (6) C.P. Bopanna 55.5, 6. Meritocracy (5) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 7. Pentagon (8) G. Naresh 55.5 and 8. Scooby Dooby Doo (3) Ajit Singh 55.5.
1. BE SURE,
2. CHAMPION BULL,
3. STARLIGHT

7 **REGENCY PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,600m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4-35: 1. Avantika (6) B.R. Kumar 61.5, 2. Valee Tiger (3) G. Naresh 61, 3. Charlie Brown (7) Koushik 59.5, 4. Top Man (9) A.A. Vikrant 59, 5. Semira (2) Afroz Khan 57, 6. Human Touch (5) P. Sai Kumar 56, 7. Withrosemakeup (4) Gaurav Singh 55.5, 8. New Comer (8) Jitendra Singh 53 and 9. Actually (1) Surya Prakash 52.5.
1. ACTUALLY,
2. NEW COMER,
3. CHARLIE BROWN

8 **VIJAYS CONQUER PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 5-05: 1. Asgard (9) N. Rawal 60, 2. Jazz It Up (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 3. Rhine (7) Aneel 59.5, 4. Run Runner Run (6) Afroz Khan 59, 5. Country's Gift (8) Santosh Raj 58, 6. Rose Patel (5) G. Naresh 58, 7. Top Singer (1) A.A. Vikrant 58, 8. Vallee Ikon (2) B.R. Kumar 57, 9. Dumbledore (4) Surya Prakash 55 and 10. Diesis Dream (10) Umesh 53.
1. COUNTRY'S GIFT,
2. DIESIS DREAM,
3. RHINE

Day's best: **EXCLUSIVE ART**
Double: **EXCLUSIVE BLUE – SOUTHERN LADY**
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. Tla: all races.

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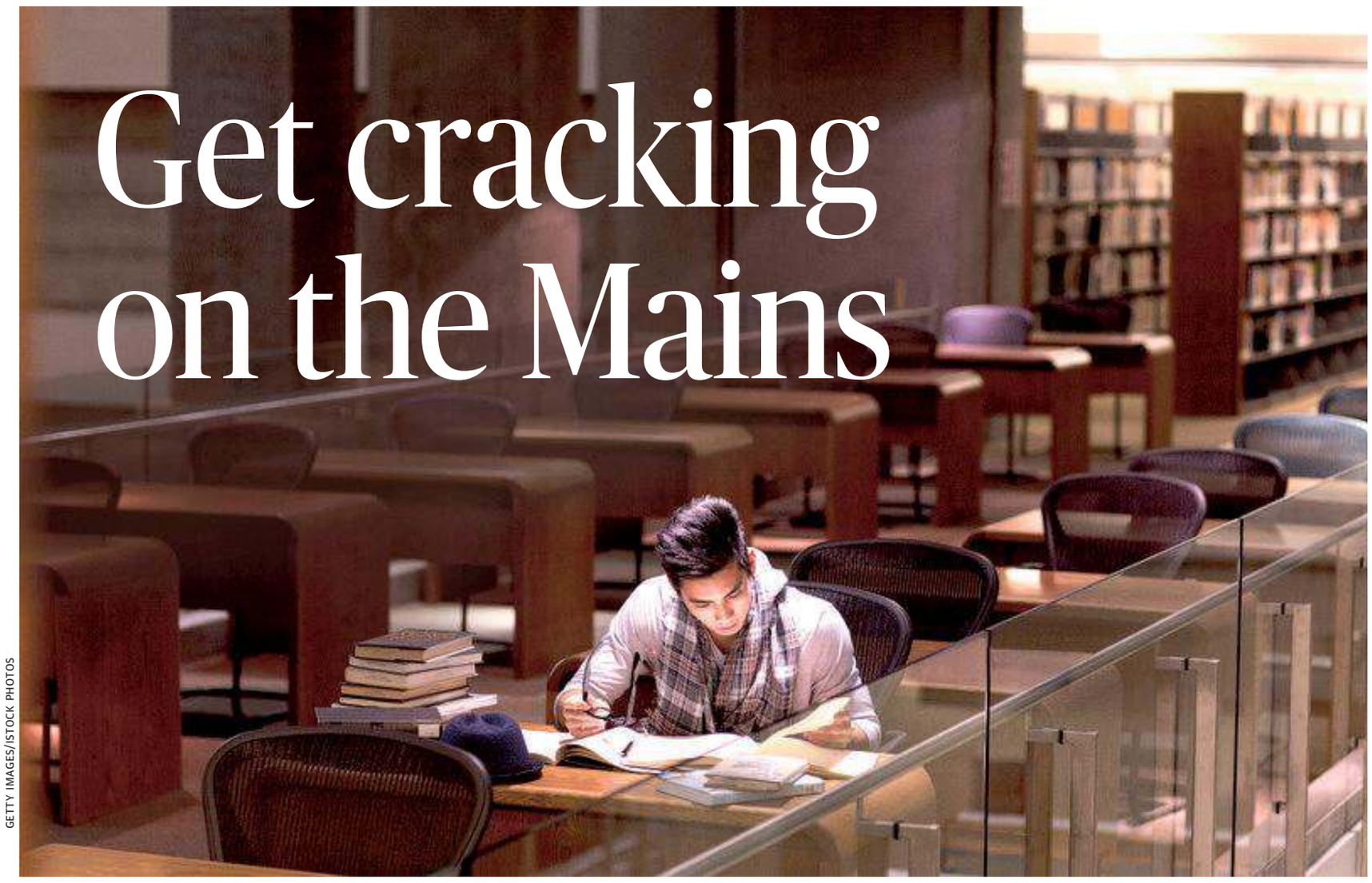
Get cracking on the Mains

The key to acing the UPSC is consistency, hard work, and perseverance

A.K MISHRA



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTOS

A competitive exam like the UPSC Civil Services Exam demands a smart strategy and perseverance, in order to get an edge over competitors. Those who have successfully cleared the Prelims, must be gearing up for Mains now. Here are some tips to ace it:

Familiarise yourself with the syllabus:

Read the syllabus of each subject thoroughly to study only what is relevant, assuming that you did integrated preparation while preparing for the Prelims, and have a fair basic knowledge of General Studies subjects.

Read NCERTs before opting for standard books:

Always form a stronger base with NCERTs first, as most of the General Studies syllabus is covered from the NCERT books of classes VI to XII, while the optional subject syllabus is covered through the standard books of class XII till the graduate level. Once you form a stronger base, then shift your focus to standard books. Make sure you study only relevant ones.

Stay tuned with current affairs:

Read newspapers. *The Hindu* and *The Indian Express* are the most recommended. Next, sources such as Rajya Sabha TV, Lok Sabha TV, AIR News, editorials, current affairs compilation, budget, and economic survey, are some of the important sources to stay abreast with current affairs, which is an extremely important part of the preparation process, as more than half of the syllabus in Civil Services Mains is all about current affairs.

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Emphasis on each subject:

Every subject is equally important and hence, you must prepare a time table and divide equal time for each subject, including those that are optional.

Practise answer writing:

It is one of the most important parts of the preparation process, and it is advisable to start the answer writing practice every day after forming a base knowledge of subjects. UPSC has a set time frame for each exam, and it is important that you practise writing well-framed answers, covering all dimensions within the stipulated time.

Regular revision and short notes:

Make sure you dedicate at least one day in a week for revising what has been studied the entire week. Revision is important as the syllabus is vast. It is always advisable to make short, precise and handy notes of the important topics for a quick revision in the last moment. Make separate notes for every subject including current affairs. The notes should be designed in such a manner that it can remind you of the entire topic studied during the revision. So, highlight all the important points.

Solve previous years' papers:

Once you get a good hang of the syllabus and gain a sound subject knowledge through NCERTs and standard books, the next step is to solve the last five years' question papers. It will not only help you with answer writing practice, but will also give you a fair idea of the exam pattern and help analyse the trend of question papers.

Enrol in Mains test series:

One of the most important steps, after forming a base knowledge of Mains subjects, is enrolling for Mains Test Series and assessing your preparation level. Not only do these series help practise answer writing and understand the exam pattern, but also gives you a fair idea of the probable question, while giving you an opportunity to be assessed by field experts.

Indulge in discussion:

UPSC not only looks for candidates with strong knowledge of the theoretical subjects in Mains, but also for those who have a problem-solving approach and an administrator-like perspective, along with decision-making abilities.

All these skills can only be developed by engaging in important discussions about the problems prevalent in society, or on topics of national and international importance; and then coming up with possible solutions. This must also be reflected in your answers in the exam.

The writer is Director and Founder, Chanakya IAS Academy

The definition of freedom is much more than just being free from restraint. It is a fundamental right to express oneself. On the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day,

we ask our readers this: If you had the freedom to introduce a subject in college that would help teach a life skill or soft skill, what would it be and why?

Send in your responses by August 02, to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com, in not more than 100 words. The best entries will be featured in EDUCATION PLUS

Make sure to send in a high resolution photo (1MB or higher), along with your name, course, year, college and place.

SCHOLARSHIPS

IDFC FIRST Bank MBA Scholarship

IDFC FIRST Bank is providing scholarships to MBA students who need financial support in managing their tuition fees.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian students who are enrolled in the first-year of their full-time MBA programmes, at selected 150 educational institutions, may apply. Students must have an annual family income not more than ₹6 lakhs, to be eligible to apply.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected scholars will be provided with ₹1 lakh per annum, for two years of their full-time MBA studies.

APPLICATION: Apply online at Buddy4Study

DEADLINE: July 31

http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/IFBMS1

Tel Aviv University Under-Graduate Programme, Israel

Tel Aviv University, Israel, is offering this opportunity for its undergraduation programmes in B.Sc. Electrical and Electronics Engineering and B.A. Liberal Arts to students who have cleared class XII.

ELIGIBILITY: Candidates appearing/passed class XII with minimum 75% marks, having All India JEE Mains rank between 1- 40,000, top SAT/ACT performers are eligible to apply.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: $10,000 worth discount towards tuition fee to exceptional merit-holders.

APPLICATION: Online

DEADLINE: August 31

http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/TAU5

31st All India Essay Contest On Nuclear Science and Technology

Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India, is inviting enthusiastic science students to submit their entries for this essay competition and win stand a chance to get cash awards and national recognition. The essay aims at highlighting scientific developments and achievements in nuclear technology, through students' talents.

ELIGIBILITY: Any student who is pursuing a full-time undergraduate programme in any discipline, at any recognised institution in India, may apply.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Winning entries get cash awards from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 each. Consolation prizes of ₹7,000 will also be awarded to worthy entries. Students will also get AC train fare and accommodation benefits for attending the Oral Representation/Felicitation at BARC, Mumbai.

APPLICATION: Apply offline only

DEADLINE: August 02

http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/AIE1

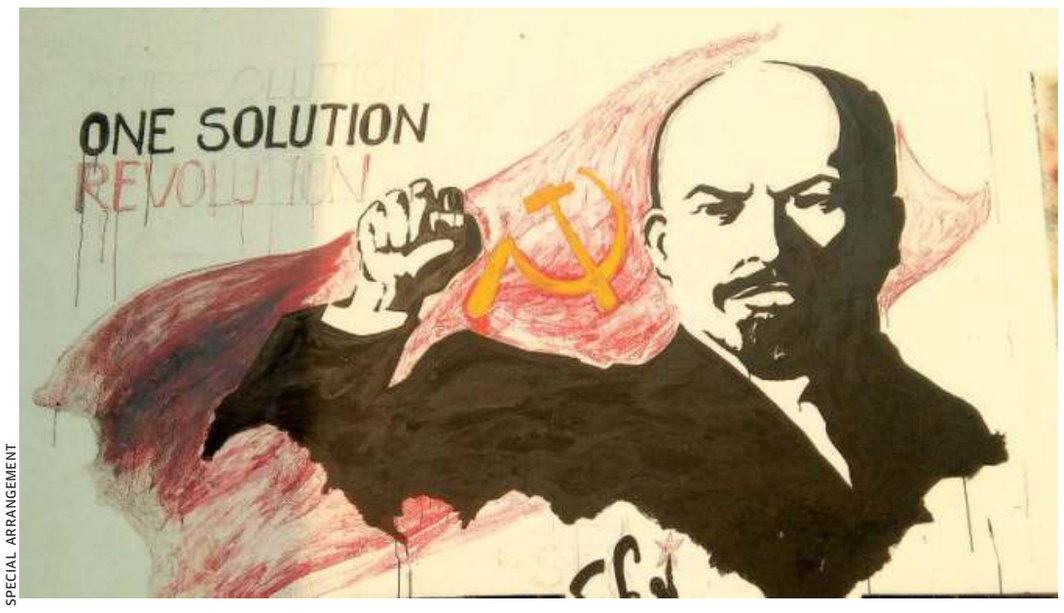
Courtesy: www.buddy4study.com

EXPRESSIONS

The walls have much to say

The graffiti culture in college campuses brings up various social issues and aesthetics in the most colourful manner

KRITHIKA RATHORE



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A few years back, the city of Dhaka witnessed the sudden emergence of a man called Subodh – the name given to a graffiti of a man holding a sun in a cage. "He" then took over the walls of the city with the message "Hobeki?" ("Will it happen?"). What the anonymous artist demanded was not explicit, and soon the graffiti became an expression of cultural frustration – a feeling shared by those across the border as well. And that is how "Subodh" first started showing up in Kolkata, making him an icon of protest.

Graffiti became an artistic medium of expression in the early 60s and 70s in the U.S. Artists took up abandoned walls to show their indifference towards the authorities. The liberal aura of Kolkata has provided the perfect canvas for messages of protest.

Graffiti has become an inseparable part of student politics in Presidency University in Kolkata. However, the college authorities consider this nothing less than vandalism.

A movement

Sharing his thoughts on why graffiti is an important tool for students, Bhaskar Sarkar, an All India Students' Association (AISA) member from Presidency University says, "In Presidency, graffiti is not for art's sake. It is more of a medium of opinion sharing, and is used as a form of resistance". Many other students like him have always considered graffiti to be a revolutionary art form.

The same spirit reverberated through the famous *Pinjra tod* movement in Delhi University. The graffiti on the walls of the hostel drew attention towards the restrictions faced by its residents. This helped the movement grow big.

There is another side to graffiti which is more about individual expression than mass communication. Artists in this category usually demonstrate the aesthetics of their art.

Artists in this category usually demonstrate the aesthetics of their art.

Several colleges across the globe have courses dedicated to street art and illustrations. Shristi, a Bengaluru-based institute of art and design, is one of them. The students have an array of courses to choose from, which makes them more adaptable to it. "These murals make you stop and think about them. It beautifies everything around the artwork," says Rithika Menon, an illustration major from Shristi. Murals and paintings by students from Shristi stretch from the vividly coloured campus walls to the streets.

The institute has also collaborated with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRC) under its "Art In Transit" initiative. It is a public art initiative which aims at facilitating meaningful discourse of art and design at public places. As a part of the project, students revamped the walls of some of the metro stations.

Graffiti is often looked down upon for its apparent disruption of the uniformity of our surroundings. Mostly, the graffiti that is inclined towards public agitation is seen through this lens. Since there are no express provisions on the condemnation of graffiti in India, it is important to acknowledge the fine line between art and defacement.

The walls have much to say, if only we could listen as much as we look at them.

GLOBAL ED

Welcome African students

Approximately 25,000 African students are currently studying in 500 public and private universities across India, and these numbers should grow in future with increased cooperation between India and Africa, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) recently said. In a press release produced to prepare for the India-Africa Higher Education and Skill Development Summit next month in India, co-hosted by the Indian government and industry, the CII said India has a "reputable, older and more developed higher education sector than Africa", which is likely to be a magnet to students, adding that "the country remains among the top five destinations for African students".

Preserving research

The House of Representatives in Indonesia, recently passed into law, the national system of science and technology bill, which imposes criminal charges against foreign researchers found guilty of violating visa regulations. Lawmaker and National Mandate Party politician Andi Yuliani Paris said, "Researchers do not have to worry as long as they possess ethical clearance from the Research, Technology and Higher Education Ministry."

Climate change, a priority

The second Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Accord report, *Progress towards the Global Goals in the University and College Sector*, was launched recently, at the United Nations High-level Political Forum in New York, by the Global Alliance – a partnership of the world's universities, colleges and sustainability networks. The report recommends that university leaders commit to net zero carbon emissions and sign the global climate emergency letter.

TÊTE-À-TÊTE

'Be ready for competition'

Former UPSC chairman, D.P. Agrawal, on what it takes to tackle the civil services, the role of technology in education, his college years, and more...

HARIKUMAR JS

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

D.P. Agrawal, former chairman of Union Public Services Commission, is known for some key changes he effected in the functioning of the premier recruiting agency in the country. The far-reaching steps he initiated include introduction of aptitude tests in the recruitment procedure and e-governance initiatives that has simplified the application process. *Education Plus* caught up with Agrawal in Thiruvananthapuram recently, where he spoke during an interactive session with civil services aspirants organised by an IAS Academy.

Chasing the dream

There is a segregation of the types of students. Until about a decade back, a majority of the brighter ones would opt for professional courses, mainly in the hope of a settled career because the private sector industry is strong. The less bright would bide their time and attempt government-organised exams. But there has been a change in the trend. Also, students from middle and lower-middle class are coming forward. Many young doctors and engineers are looking at second options in the hope that they can make a difference in society and gain a greater level of satisfaction.

Tips for aspirants

Understand where you stand and be ready for the competition. Be clear about why you are here, and how many attempts you would want to make. Know the ground rules. It is imperative to thoroughly examine past papers. When you know that from about 12 lakh, only 1,000 or so get selected, you must do your homework. Wide reading on a variety of topics is paramount, as is unwavering motivation.

How competitive has the All India Services exams become, especially with the mushrooming of coaching centres?

Yes, coaching infrastructure has grown in leaps and bounds. A key reason is the growth of education in the country. On the flip side, this is an age of consumerism, and the underbelly of burgeoning coaching infrastructure is also apparent. But the genuine ones help in aggregation and compilation of vital study material. Quality of teaching may differ, but the study material will be useful for a conscientious aspirant.

What is the role of technology in imparting quality education?

The predominant system is, of course, a teacher-student model. A teacher decides what and how to teach. But, we are moving towards a global change of outcome-based education. We do face a shortage of quality teachers and this has to be addressed. Today, beyond the teacher, there is a lot of study material in the public domain that is easily accessible to a student. It becomes especially useful for more modern and complex topics such as artificial intelligence that a teacher may not be in a position to elucidate. I won't say use of technology in education is hyped, but it needs proper application. More importantly, it has to be integrated and not used as a replacement.

Many young doctors and engineers are looking at second options in the hope that they can make a difference in society and gain a greater level of satisfaction.

What about brain drain? Is there any eventual gain?

Well, a student seeks education out of the country as there is no similar system set up within the country. But it is also important to move to a higher peer group. Then, perhaps, there is better research work done in some other countries. Also, it is natural to aspire for a better job, educational infrastructure and salary package. But, on the other hand, about 40% of them return as teachers. So, there is also a gain.

What were your college years like?

In the earlier days, we certainly used to work really hard. I come from a village in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district, and we used to walk miles to reach school. We had to fight several hardships to succeed, and that prepares you to fight in life. However, that is not what everyone should face. It is always good to learn to find your own way and your strategy to tackle obstacles. When you find a solution yourself, you become creative. Spoon-feeding is your greatest enemy. My mentors were my teachers in all levels of education. My school days were sort of an extension of the *gurukul* system. It is important to know the difference between coaching and talking.

BON APP-ETIT

ARATHI MINI

Most of us spend the moments before dozing off at night scrolling through our social media accounts or reading about the happenings of the day across the world. However, most doctors opine that this affects the quality and number of hours of our sleep. Here are some apps that will help us sleep better.

Sleep Cycle

This smart alarm clock tracks your sleep patterns from bedtime till morning and creates a detailed analysis with the app. It generates daily sleep graphs, detailed sleep statistics and carefully selected alarm melodies, which will help you wake up without the shock of a loud alarm. The sleep statistics will inform you how deep your sleep was, and how to improve it. You can also create a customisable wake-up window of up to 90 minutes. There are sleep notes which will inform you how drinking coffee, eating late or working out affects your night's rest. (http://bit.ly/2y4uNTN)

Sleep as Android

Do you need lullabies to fall asleep? Then, this app might work for you. Not only does it track your sleep, it also plays nature lullabies such as sea, chants, whales, and so on, with binaural tones for you to rest well. It has contact-less ultrasonic sleep tracking capabilities which will ensure you don't need to keep your phone on the bed for it to track your sleep. It also records your sleep talk and snoring so that you can track them. Apart from that, it tracks sleep respiration such as sleep phaser, oximetry or sonar. (http://bit.ly/2Z4pqA0)

Sleepmeter

Not only does this app track your sleep, but it also lets you know how much credit or debit sleep you have. It tracks your nightly sleep periods with whatever gaps that happened in between. Upon tracking your sleep, the app creates at least 25 graphs mentioning different aspects of your sleep. It allows you to save screenshots of these graphs and statistics in case you want to share the same with your medical professionals, family or friends. Sleepmeter also lets you track sleep quality and dreams and wake you up with the gentlest sounds. (http://bit.ly/2Sx7StP)

Mapping out friendships

Forging early friendships and staying informed about your campus, can make your transition easier

GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

BACKPACKER'S GUIDE

USHA RAMAN

I have just spent a few days helping my daughter move to a different city, where she starts a new job and a new kind of life, away from the comfortable familiarity and taken-for-grantedness of home. As with any new phase of life, there is excitement and apprehension in equal measure; excitement about all the new possibilities of learning, growth, and experience, and apprehension about unfamiliar people and an unknown place. If it is a place one has never visited, there is a nervousness about finding one's way and becoming familiar with all the roads and landmarks, as also the uncertainty of making new friends. At the same time, there is a sense of freedom to explore the world, on one's own terms, without the moderating influence of family and known networks.

I have also just spent a week getting to know a new batch of students, who are, similarly, in a new location, many of whom are away from home for the first time. I can sense the tentativeness in them, as they navigate the rules of a new institution, and the dynamics of a new group of peers. There are many aspects of a new situation that one needs to get used to before it feels like "home", or offers a sense of belonging. The process of settling in is much like building a personal map that covers both physical geography, and the many invisible elements that are a part of it. The former includes such things as roads, buildings, offices and classrooms, where to eat, shop, and hang out. The latter includes aspects such as networks of trust, reliability and efficiency, as well as understanding expectations and responsibilities, and the consequences of actions of various kinds.

Networking matters

Building that map becomes easier if you have friends to help you through this new landscape. Some of us are fortunate to have seniors who can do a bit of hand-holding through the first few days and weeks, giving you tips that can prevent too much stumbling. Others might have a familiar cohort, former classmates who embark on this journey together and offer a readymade network. But more often than not, you are just as alone as the next person in your class, feeling your way around just as tentatively – and wondering if this might be the first step towards friendship.

As with any new phase of life, there is excitement and apprehension in equal measure; excitement about all the new possibilities of learning, growth, and experience and apprehension about unfamiliar people and an unknown place.

These days, social media networks can give us a head-start when we enter a new context. Most universities and colleges have social media pages populated by alumni, as well as current students, and going through the posts on these pages can give you a sense of what to expect. You can even make a few virtual connections to follow up on, once you reach the campus. In addition, you can learn a lot by reading through the website, finding out about the rules and regulations (are you allowed to choose roommates, can you cook in the hostel room, what are the food options, what does the calendar look like), as well as getting a sense of the lay of the land (how large is the campus, how does one get around, where are the key facilities and buildings located). You are then likely to know what questions to ask, and maybe, even where to find answers. Finding information ahead of time, and forging friendships in the first few days, can help ease that anxiety and make that transition just a little bit easier.

The writer teaches at the University of Hyderabad and edits Teacher Plus.
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Get your groundwork straight

OFF THE EDGE

NANDINI RAMAN

I am a 32-year-old lawyer. However, I feel that I have chosen the wrong career from my personality as I have zero interest in this profession. I think I should opt for setting up a business, but I neither have the finances nor the experience. What do I do? – Anon

Dear Anon,

This is your prime – it is time you got some clarity about where you are headed. What kind of business would you like to do? Do you have any friends and working partners that you have identified to work with? It is tough if you are going to venture in that space without any prior experience, zero finances and no dependable team. Please meet a competent career counsellor and get your profiling done, at the earliest, and assess where your aptitude lies. We need to identify your skill sets and career interests to match and complement your personality, to identify what would be a lucrative career choice for you.

I am 22-year-old literature graduate. I want to know the procedure to become a counsellor and its scope. – Simran Sharma

Dear Simran,

What counsellor do you want to become? Spend time to identify what it is that you want to do first. Counselling, in India, is still in its nascent stages, and hence it is not yet a registered profession. Only Rehabilitation Council Of India, (http://www.rehabcouncil.nic.in) is a regulated body that runs standardised syllabi and provides services to persons with disability, in the field of rehabilitation and special education.

Once you know what you want to do, identify the institute, college and the university that you wish to study at and check the admission criteria with them for a master's programme in counselling psychology or psychology. Many universities are particular and have a prerequisite of an undergrad in psychology for master's admissions. Some are easy with a BA in any humanities subject, whilst others today treat the programme as M.Sc and need the candidate to have a science/ biology background. You could also study and learn through distant education and/or a credible online certified programme. However, you will need to intern with an existing established professional (in the area of your specialisation) to bridge the gap between theory and practice, to gain hands-on experience eventually. Some of the lucrative specialisations are in child and school counselling, adolescent management, special education, marital and relationship counselling, corporate counselling, geriatrics, and so on. Take your time and you will eventually figure out what you want to pursue.

I recently passed my class XII CBSE exams in PCB and am interested in psychology. However, the problem is that I do not have the adequate scores for getting admission. Please suggest how I can pursue my goal. What are the opportunities in this field? – Nitin Pandey

Dear Nitin,

Yes, the cutoffs for admission this year, across the country, have been rather high.If you want to pursue psychology, even if you don't get into the college of your choice, see which other university is offering the course and take it up. You could also consider doing a liberal arts course with psychology being one of your electives; it is getting increasingly difficult to do master's in it without a bachelor's degree in the same stream. Having said that, psychology is an umbrella term – identify what under it is something that you want to learn. You could look at certificate programmes and courses online and overseas, as well. Today, it is indeed a lucrative course that could give you many career options such as being a child, students, marriage and/or relationship counsellor, and so on, a corporate/softskills trainer, a HR manager, an organisational behavioural psychologist, work in the advertising field doing quantitative and qualitative research studies, branch into special education or even become a forensic psychologist, get into education policy and reforms, social and rehabilitation work and so on.

I am an undergraduate in English literature. I aspire to become a teacher. Are there any colleges that offer teacher training courses with campus interviews? – Malavika Venu

Dear Malavika,

Teaching is indeed a great career choice, especially in our country where education is a necessity for growth, and a mindset change to eradicate poverty. Please identify and determine what level and subjects you would like to teach – at school or the university level. If you would like to teach primary school students, you will need a diploma (D.Ted.), and to teach secondary school, you will need a bachelor's (B.Ed.). Both are two-year programmes. A master's (M.Ed.) is required for specialised subjects and is a one-year programme.

Teacher recruitment in India, at the primary and secondary levels, is tied to state and national eligibility testing. You must pass the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) to qualify to teach in a government-owned school and some private institutions. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) offers preparatory curriculum for the exam, and determines the minimum eligibility requirements for each year. Please refer to their websites and get the necessary information.

Disclaimer: This column is not a substitute for long-term therapy. It is merely a guiding voice. Some issues may need medical intervention.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. She will answer questions sent to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com. The subject line should be: 'Off the edge'

VIDEO CAFE

KRITHIKA RATHORE

Time-lapse of the Future: A Journey to the End of Time

A recording of Stephen Hawking's voice in the middle of the video remarks, "What we do now and in the next few years will profoundly affect the next thousand years."

This time-lapse video paints a picture of how the future of our planet might unfold. The video starts with a satellite view of Earth as it looks now. As the video progresses, it shows all the possible changes that might occur in the future. We see drastic rise in sea levels, supervolcano eruptions, deadly gamma ray bursts, among several other disasters. The video features the voice of several scientists who talk about our planet's bleak future. "The universe has only just begun."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uD4izuDMUQA

EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN

IN CONVERSATION

Virtual superstardom

Gaining over 13 million subscribers — and counting — is not a feat Bhuvan Bam expected to ever achieve. Four years later, he is one of the top YouTubers in the country

MADHUVANTI S. KRISHNAN

A couple of years ago, Bhuvan Bam was your typical college kid – he had a night job as a singer at a Mughlai restaurant in Delhi. Today, he is one of top YouTube superstars of India by sheer dint of hard work and a smattering of luck. In fact, his interview with actor, director and internet personality Steven Wolfe, aka John Sins, garnered over 17 million views in five days, earlier this year. So, what set this seemingly 'just another college-goer' on the path to becoming a YouTuber and consequently, an almost overnight success?

"Before starting my YouTube career, I used to play music at a restaurant. YouTube was never a part of my plan," admits Bam. "One day, I was checking the video quality on my phone when I saw the news on TV about the floods in India. One reporter asked a lady about how she felt on having lost her son, in the floods. This was, naturally, a wrong question to ask. Miffed, I made a satirical video on it and uploaded it online. That is how I took baby steps into the YouTube world."

Soon after, he launched his channel "BB Ki Vines" in 2015 and now has over 1.7 billion views and 13 million subscribers. What makes the channel relatable is that it is about a middle-class guy and the problems revolving around him and his family. "Vines was a famous app in the U.S., back then; I borrowed the name from there but never used the app," he adds.

Titu Mama, from Bam's "BB ki Vines" is a beloved character, and through a segment, *Titu Talks*, Bam has featured many B-town celebs on his channel – his interview with Shah Rukh Khan garnered over 17 million views.

Ask Bam about how he is able to create such funny fictional characters almost effortlessly, and pat comes his reply, "The characters are pure observations. I spend a considerable amount of time thinking about them and their way of talking/acting."

School diaries

However, becoming a YouTube sensation was the last thing on Bam's mind, while at school – for a short while, he had evinced an interest in archaeology. What then, brought about this sea change? "Every child thinks archaeology is about digging up land to find dinosaur remains and gold. I had the same intentions. I chose commerce while at school, but didn't get admission for B.Com in any college, based on my marks. Hence, I decided to pursue History Honours, which I eventually graduated in, from Shaheed Bhagat Singh College."

Singing vs. conventional career

Bam had always been interested in singing and wanted to become a musician too, after class XII, which got his parents sceptical. "They were not completely fine with the idea of me singing at the restaurant, and put their foot down. Eventually, however, I wore them down with my passion and determination," he laughs.

> **The characters are pure observations. I spend a considerable amount of time thinking about them and their way of talking/acting."**

Challenges

Today, becoming a YouTuber for a career is not unheard of, and is in fact, fast gaining popularity. But a few years ago, this was not the case in India. Bam says that he had never imagined a career in YouTube. "I had some jokes in mind and I just did it for fun. I never realised when this became a full-time profession. There were not many challenges as I went with the flow, without thinking of failure," he admits.

Calling all youngsters...

He believes that marks are most certainly important, but one's mental health and self-confidence is way bigger than any exam one will ever attempt. "Life is full of tests. These school/college tests shouldn't bother you much," he believes.

What about a career similar to what he does? "While it is a great platform to showcase your talent, YouTubing is not as easy as it looks. To be successful, remember to ensure your content is what you can relate to, and not what is in trend. Wait for your audience to find you. They are hidden somewhere and waiting for you to reach them. Keep trying!"

Revolutionise learning...

Options are aplenty — from WhatsApp classes and interactive sessions to producing podcasts. Make way for next gen learning pods

BLACK BOARD

M. RAJESH

English literature with journalism is a much sought after option, at the UG level. However, the real charm of this combination is lost, due to lack of quality. Many higher learning institutions are still following the one-way lecture method to educate next gen learners. It is high time we bring a change in the classroom to equip students.

As a teacher, if you want to make your learners independent, self-reliant and confident, strenuous effort is required, for, learning transcends the realms of textbooks. To attain quality, a re-structure of the semester system and updated curriculum is required. Other methods needed include:

Interactivity

Interactive teaching methods help students and teachers communicate effectively. It requires planning, and out-of-the-box thinking. In this method, every student, whether average or advanced in communication, is accorded an equal role in interactions. The outcome of such interaction brings positive energy in the classroom, as opposed to traditional teaching methods. It improves students' critical thinking and widens their horizon.

Tools of education

Newspaper is a great tool of learning in classrooms, especially in language and journalism classes. Being mass educators, newspapers play a key role in shaping youngsters' outlook towards the world. Music and fun also can be applied in classroom during interaction sessions. This is also the right space to identify different talents among students. Being a stress-buster, music relieves learners' academic tension.

Creativity is key

There is a common belief that students are not equipped with real-life skills. They are taught to concentrate on marks and exams alone. Creative Quotient (CQ) is also important, in today's education.

New-age classrooms

It is absurd to completely prohibit the use of smartphones in classrooms, in this digital era. Instead, it can be used as a great tool of teaching, under the direct monitoring of teachers. Live streaming is applied in many educational institutions in advanced countries.

WhatsApp

For instance, if you are dealing university students, let them join your WhatsApp group and interact through messages on a particular topic, followed by an interactive lecture. Start a particular lesson on WhatsApp and use it to guage students' quick writing skill. When students talk back to their teacher through this channel, hundreds of ideas are generated. Once in a week, silent WhatsApp classes can be conducted, applied to make a change in the classroom.

Podcasts

Teachers and students can engage in classroom discussions, record the content and make podcasts. Later, the edited version of podcasts may be played for the entire class room. Debates, presentations, group activities, film shows, jockeying, rather than just the age-old seminar presentations are also to be encouraged, to make learning more interesting and active.

The writer is a digital journalist and teaches journalism in UG classes.
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ADMISSIONS

MSc Clinical Health Psychology

INSTITUTION: The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
ELIGIBILITY: First or upper second-class Honours degree in Psychology. IELTS 6.5 (with no score below 6.0) or equivalent
FEE: £18,450 full-time for international students.
www.strath.ac.uk

MA Landscape Architecture

INSTITUTION: The University of Sheffield, the U.K.
DURATION: Two years, full-time
ELIGIBILITY: Undergraduate honours degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject. Overall IELTS grade of 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in each component, or equivalent.
FEE: £21,100
DEADLINE: Prospective students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible prior to the course start date in September.
/www.sheffield.ac.uk

MSc Electrochemistry and Battery Technologies

INSTITUTION: University of Southampton, the U.K.
DURATION: One year, full-time
ELIGIBILITY: Minimum 60% in a bachelor's degree or an equivalent standard in other qualifications approved by the University in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, or a closely related subject. The student must have completed minimum four years in higher education.
FEE: £22,268
DEADLINE: July 31
www.southampton.ac.uk

Bachelor's, master's and diploma programmes in Fashion Design

INSTITUTION: International School of Design, Delhi
ELIGIBILITY: Class X pass for diploma, 10+2 for bachelors and diploma and graduates for master's degree or diploma (any stream).
DEADLINE: July 31
www.insd.edu.in/apply-online.html

CAREERS

Stay a step ahead

To be a good designer, one needs more than just mastery of design skills and an eye for detail

RUPAL DALAL

The world of design, be it fashion or interior designing, offers numerous opportunities. Unlike many other fields, it is not theory-driven. Rather, it is a culmination of diligently curated ideas. The ability to think outside the box, hard work, dedication and discipline are essential qualities one must possess to excel in this field.

Skill check

The following are a few other traits one must possess or acquire, to attain expertise and success in design:

Creativity: Designing of any kind requires creative thinking. The ability to generate unique and out-of-the-box ideas might seem like an obvious statement, but it is true. Creative thinking allows a designer to come up with ideas that are new, and subsequently create products and designs that have a unique appeal. Visual and popular culture, and art and fashion movements can be good sources of inspiration.

Ability to grasp requirements: A designer creates products for a client, directly or indirectly. While developing designs and ideas for a client, one should be able to grasp each detail, no matter how minute, about customer requirement and develop a design along those lines. One should also be able to give ideas and suggestion based on the client's requirements.

Being adaptive: Designing derives a lot from its environment. Each season brings a new trend and the designer should be flexible and experimental enough to adapt new ideas. Being able to experiment with new material, techniques, ideas, design approach and so on, is always an added advantage.

Willingness to learn: The willingness to learn new things is also one of the major qualities which help a person in the long run. If a designer is not open to learning, then the magnitude of experimentation diminishes, and the result may not be of high quality. A closed-minded approach often results in repetitive and uninventive ideas.

Awareness about trends: Since design represents the current time, the designer should also have an interest or at least be aware of current affairs and current trends in his field. Designing requires staying ahead of the times, and a person involved in these fields should understand trends forecasting and trends prediction. Since designs are always generated keeping the future in mind, being involved with industry trends is a big deal.

Eye for detail: Another quality that stands out for a designer is having an eye for details. A design is not considered complete until it is perfect in every sense, from inception till the end. A good designer should be vigilant to spot minute details which can be easily missed by the ordinary eye.

Teamwork: As it is believed that the strength of the team is its individual member, the strength of each member is the team. Design is rarely a one-person idea and always involves teamwork. Just like hard work and dedication, teamwork is an essential quality to possess. At different stages, designing involves different people who have expertise in certain areas, and the result is a combination of their efforts.

The writer is the Executive Director, JD Institute of Fashion Technology.