



New BJP government in Karnataka scraps 'Tipu Jayanti'

page 8



The situation is normal in Jammu and Kashmir, says Governor Malik

page 12



Do a deal now or lose it, Trump warns China as trade talks resume

page 14



Shaw suspended until November 15 for doping violation

page 20



NEARBY



Rajasthan Bills on honour killing, lynching tabled

JAIPUR

The Congress government on Tuesday tabled two separate Bills against mob lynching and honour killing in the Rajasthan Assembly, while affirming that their stringent provisions would help check these incidents.

NORTH & EAST PAGE 6

Terror charges dropped, 2 seek new lease of life

NEW DELHI

Mohammed Azam and Zaid Malik, who were cleared of terror charges earlier this month, reflect on what led to their arrest and what they need to do to lead a normal life.

CITY PAGE 3

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OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 15

Coffee Day's Siddhartha goes missing

A massive search is on to trace entrepreneur, who was last seen near Nethravati river in Mangaluru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU/MANGALURU

V.G. Siddhartha, founder of the iconic Cafe Coffee Day (CCD) chain, went missing from a bridge across Nethravati river in Mangaluru on Monday evening, sending shock waves in business and political circles.

A home-grown entrepreneur who gained international fame with the success of CCD and since diversified into hospitality, logistics and investments, Mr. Siddhartha, 60, is the son-in-law of former Karnataka Chief Minister and Union Minister S.M. Krishna.

While a massive search has been launched, especially in the river, he remained untraceable till late on Tuesday. A purported letter by him surfaced, highlighting his financial troubles and blaming harassment by a senior Income Tax official for "succumbing to the situation." He particularly faulted the IT Department's move to attach the shares he held in Mindtree Ltd. and later in

Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd. towards his tax liability, creating a liquidity crunch.

As per the police complaint filed by his driver, Mr. Siddhartha had left Bengaluru informing his family that he was headed to Sakleshpur in Hassan but had instead travelled to Mangaluru. Before reaching his destination, he got off on the bridge across the Nethravati. He went walking along the bridge around 6.30 p.m., asking his driver to wait after crossing, and has been missing ever since.

The police found that his last call was around the same time to one of the senior executives in his enterprise. After Mr. Siddhartha failed to show up for an hour, the driver tried to call him. He later called the family.

The police said a sniffer dog squad pressed into service had stopped in the middle of the bridge.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
EVIDENCE LED TO ACTION ON COFFEE DAY SHARES PAGE 16



Rescue boats searching for V.G. Siddhartha, inset, in the Nethravati in Mangaluru on Tuesday. H.S. MANJUNATH



Business as usual at cafes

STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU

For most customers, it was just another day at The Square, Cafe Coffee Day, located in the upmarket Vittal Mallya Road, which also houses the main offices of the firm. They nursed their cappuccinos and nibbled on their snacks.

Staff members, however, took quick breaks to look at their mobile phones and monitor the news on the disappearance of CCD founder V. G. Siddhartha.

One of the waiters described Mr. Siddhartha as an extremely down to earth employer, who interacted with everybody.

While some customers — working professionals, families, and friends — remained oblivious to the news, others discussed the circumstances of how the founder went missing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Income Tax Department raises doubts over letter

STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU

A letter purportedly written by V.G. Siddhartha, chairman and managing director of Cafe Coffee Day, that surfaced hours after he went missing blamed harassment from Income Tax authorities for his situation.

But the Income Tax Department is raising doubts about his signature. "The authenticity of the note is not known and the signature does not tally with Shri VGS's signature as available in his annual reports," it said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Protest over Unnao accident rocks LS

Don't politicise issue, says BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday witnessed sloganeering and loud protests by the Opposition parties over the "suspect" accident involving the Unnao rape survivor, who was critically injured in a car crash.

The woman had alleged that BJP MLA Kuldeep Sen-gar had raped her in 2017.

As soon as the day's proceedings began, Congress members took the lead in protesting over the accident. Members from the Trinamool Congress, the DMK and the BSP raised slogans like 'We want justice'.

The ruling BJP said the Uttar Pradesh government was taking steps to ensure justice for the woman, and urged the Opposition not to politicise the matter.

Though the Central Bureau of Investigation filed a charge sheet and the lawmaker is in jail, the trial is yet to begin. Also, he has not

Probe handed over to CBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

On the recommendation of the Uttar Pradesh government, the Centre on Tuesday handed over to the CBI the probe into a road accident in which the Unnao rape survivor and her lawyer were critically injured and her two aunts were killed.

been expelled by the ruling party yet.

Over 30 members, mostly from the Congress, were in the well for nearly 40 minutes, shouting slogans.

Leader of the Congress Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury demanded that adequate security be provided to the survivor's family.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
STILL CRITICAL PAGE 13

Fatal crash



Bolt from the blue: Eighteen people were killed when a small military plane crashed in a residential area in Pakistan's Rawalpindi on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES (REPORT ON PAGE 14)

Triple Talaq Bill sails through Rajya Sabha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019, better known as the Triple Talaq Bill, was passed in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

The ruling BJP comfortably managed the number in favour of the legislation, which criminalises instant divorce by Muslim men.

In the 240-member House, 99 members voted in favour of the Bill, 84 opposed it while 57 members stayed away — by either walking out, abstaining or

being absent. Minutes after the vote, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that by abolishing triple talaq, "Parliament corrects a historical wrong done to Muslim women."

As many as eight Congress MPs were absent during the vote, including Sanjay Singh, who resigned just hours before. Janata Dal (United) and AIADMK members walked out. While BSP MPs opposed the Bill during the debate, they were absent during the voting.

30 MPS ABSENT PAGE 12

Government did not try out GST system before rollout: CAG

'Lack of preparation led to lower returns'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), in its first ever audit of the Goods and Services Tax, has said the government had failed to try out the system before its rollout, leading to inadequate compliance mechanisms, and lower tax revenues. The report was tabled in Parliament on Tuesday.



The invoice matching system has not been put in place. GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

the rollout. It added that compliance in terms of the number of returns filed had been falling month after month, and that the government had not been following the rules set for the transfer of revenue to the States.

"Even after two years of rollout, system validated Input Tax Credit through 'invoice matching' is not in place and non-intrusive e-tax system still remains elusive," the report said.

RULES FLOUTED IN TRANSFER OF GST FUNDS TO STATES PAGE 13

Assam's golden tea sells for ₹50,000 per kg

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

Rajan Lohia produces about 25 lakh kilograms of tea annually from his three estates in eastern Assam's Dibrugarh and Sivasagar districts. Of this, only 2 kg has struck gold.

On Tuesday, his Manohari Gold tea fetched ₹50,000 a kg at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC). This was the highest price commanded by any tea sold in any auction centre in India.

"We made 5 kg of this handmade tea but only 2 kg got sold at the auction. We will have to wait for favourable conditions around this time next year for producing the next lot," Mr. Lohia told *The Hindu*.

Earlier record

In July last year, the same tea from the same plantation — the 1,000-acre Manohari Tea Estate — had created a record; a kilogram sold for ₹39,001 to become the most expensive tea sold at any auction in India.

But less than a month later, Golden Needles tea from the Donyi Polo Tea Estate in Arunachal Pradesh fetched ₹40,000 for a kg and sold 1.1 kg at that price. It was a comeback for Golden Needles that had fetched ₹18,801 a kg at the GTAC on November 10, 2018.

"Ours is a specialty golden orthodox tea made from the buds of P-126, the



Around 6 kg of tea buds went into producing 1 kg of this record-breaking tea.

finest tea clone grown under the perfect climatic conditions during the second flush. Unlike the traditional Assam teas processed by machines, this is done manually with the utmost care," Mr. Lohia, 56, said.

A little less than 6 kg of tea buds went into producing a kilogram of the record-breaking tea that yields a golden hue when brewed. A kilogram of mass-market tea consumes an average of 4.5 kg of tea leaves. "Each kilo took a week from plucking and sorting of leaves to finishing," Mr. Lohia said.

Mangilal Maheshwari of Sourabh Tea Traders, who bought 2 kg of Manohari Gold tea in 2018, picked up the lot again this time for the record price. "People who bought the tea last time wanted it again," he said.

Mr. Maheshwari had retailed the tea last year at ₹8,000 per 100 gm.

Truecaller bug sparks fears of hacking

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Several Android phone users, who have installed the Truecaller app, were in for a shock on Tuesday when they received text messages saying their registration for

the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) app has started, and their bank account was linked to ICICI Bank's portal for UPI transactions.

Truecaller, a user-generated content app that stores registration details of tele-

phone numbers in its database, has a feature named Truecaller Pay, which offers UPI-based transactions like any other payment application. The incident occurred when the app was updated.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Cautious but hopeful: picked up by NIA, freed men seek new lease of life

Azam relies on goodwill to revive business; Zaid now mindful of Internet searches

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Mohammed Azam returned home in north-east Delhi's Jaffrabad on July 2 and since has been trying to revive the earnings of his medical store, which he said "have dropped by half" while he was in prison.

Home after six months

Mr. Azam was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in December 2018, along with 13 others from Delhi and Western Uttar Pradesh, for allegedly trying to establish an "Islamic State caliphate" by resorting to large-scale terrorist attacks. He spent six months in jail as a terror suspect before the charges were dropped against him.

Mr. Azam said he has been relying on the goodwill he had earned earlier to revive his business. "In areas like these, shops mostly run on goodwill. Why would anyone come to the shop in my absence," he asked. The shop was being run by Mr. Azam's nephew in his absence.

"I am just happy to be back home," he said, while attending to a customer who entered the shop declaring: "Dukaan ki raunak wapas aa gayi [The shop has regained its life]."



The house (second from left) in Jaffrabad from where NIA had arrested 'terror suspects' last year. ■ FILE: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Mr. Azam suspects that he was picked up because he was in contact with Mohammed Mufti Suhail, an alleged mastermind, who was also arrested. "I used to ask him about my doubts regarding Islam. Last year, I had gone to Saudi Arabia and called him from there as well to ask something. We grew up together and our fathers also knew each other. This is what I told the NIA too," he said.

A few kilometres from Mr. Azam's house resides Zaid Malik (23), who was also released on the same day. Mr. Malik's brother Zubair is still in jail.

Mr. Malik, who helps his family in their motor manufacturing unit, said he is now cautious about who he

meets, talks to and what he searches for on the Internet.

Currently, he is using the family's spare smartphone and said he would take a SIM card only after two-three months.

'Rest for a while'

"If someone wants to meet me, I call them home as I don't prefer going out. I need rest for a while... mentally. I did not do anything wrong and so I will live my life like I used to. But, I am taking precautions for a few months," he said.

Mr. Malik said his family, friends, relatives and neighbours knew he was innocent and so his image has not been tarnished because of the arrest. "Those who matter know I did not do anyth-

ing and those who don't matter, can think what they want," he said.

Recalling a conversation he had with a female friend three years ago, Mr. Malik said: "She told me 'you have started keeping a beard, people will start seeing you differently'".

Talking about his time in jail, Mr. Malik said he always had a positive mindset because of his religious learnings. "I used to read the Koran from 2.30 a.m. to 7 a.m. as it was a peaceful time. The teachings, especially about destiny, helped me a lot. God had sent me inside [jail] and I knew he would help me come out," he said, adding that he spent his days in jail talking to people and listening to their stories. "It was an experience," he said.

Main link

Mr. Malik also suspects that the reason he was picked up was because he was in contact with Mufti Suhail. He said he had spoken to him a number of times in 2018 regarding Islam and its teachings.

On July 2, Mr. Malik was received outside Tihar jail by his father, brothers and friends. He recalled that the first thing he ate upon returning home was biryani.

Report sought from Rohtak SP over 'harassment'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

The Haryana Human Rights Commission has sought a report from the Rohtak Superintendent of Police in connection with an incident

wherein a de-addiction centre owner allegedly tried to kill himself and was found injured outside his office.

A newspaper report had alleged that the man had taken the step as he was being

harassed by the police.

A video also showed the injured man being dragged away by an officer. The incident happened on July 27.

Taking cognisance of the report, the commission has

sought a reply within four weeks.

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

Infant girl dies after falling into manhole

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GURUGRAM

A 10-month-old infant died after she allegedly fell into an open manhole while playing on Tuesday, the police said. The incident at Sector 31 led to protests by agitated residents over what they said was the negligence of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram.

Tek Chand, the girl's grandfather, said the infant crawled near the uncovered manhole and fell into it. She was brought and taken to a hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead, he added.

Admitted to hospital, prisoner escapes from police custody

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

An undertrial prisoner who was getting treated at a government hospital in west Delhi escaped from police custody on Sunday night, the police said on Tuesday.

DCP (West) Monika Bhardwaj said Raju alias Mango, a resident of west Delhi's Raghbir Nagar, was arrested in 2015 under Section 363 (punishment for kidnapping) of the IPC.

He was admitted to DDU when he complained of illness. He allegedly cut the net of the hospital window and fled, the police said. "The information was received at 10.10 p.m. in Hari Nagar pol-

ice station about the escape of an undertrial prisoner, who was lodged in Tihar jail. He was in custody of two constables," Ms. Bhardwaj said.

A senior officer said it is suspected that the accused managed to steal a sharp object during his treatment, which he used to cut the window open. Constables Sandeep and Mahesh of the third Battalion were on duty at that time, the officer said.

A report on the incident has been sent to DCP of the third Battalion and a case under Section 224 (resistance or obstruction by a person to his lawful apprehension) of the IPC has been registered.

Fire in building with coaching centres

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A fire broke out in a multi-storey building in west Delhi's Janakpuri on Tuesday morning.

Around 150 people, including over 50 students, were evacuated and no injuries have been reported, said a fire department official. A call about the fire was received at 11.50 a.m.

The blaze was doused by 12.05 p.m. The official said the fire broke out in an electric meter, panel and cables on the ground floor.

The coaching centres were located on the first, second and third floor.

Bills against lynching, honour killing introduced in Rajasthan

Offences made non-bailable with heavy penalties and punishment

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The Congress government on Tuesday tabled two separate Bills against mob lynching and honour killing in the Rajasthan Assembly, while affirming that their stringent provisions would help check these incidents. The Bills have made these offences non-bailable with heavy penalties and punishment, including death sentence for honour killing.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal introduced the Bills in the Assembly during the ongoing Budget session.

The Bills have been titled the Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019, and the Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019.

The Bill against lynching stated that it would protect the constitutional rights of vulnerable persons and punish the acts of lynching



CM Ashok Gehlot

through trial in the designated courts, besides rehabilitating the victims and their families.

The State has witnessed several incidents of mob lynching since April 2017, when Haryana's dairy farmer Pehlu Khan was killed allegedly by a mob of cow vigilantes on the Jaipur-Delhi national highway.

The statement of objects and reasons for the Bill mentioned the Supreme Court's recommendation made in 2018 in the case of *Tehseen S. Poonawalla vs. Union of India* for enacting a legislation to

create a separate offence for lynching. "It is proposed to nip the evil in the bud and prevent spreading of hatred or incitement to mob lynching by creating special offences," it said.

Life imprisonment

The Bill provides for life imprisonment and fine up to ₹5 lakh for the offence of lynching, appointment of a nodal officer of the rank of Inspector-General of Police to prevent lynchings and establishment of relief camps in safe zones for the victims. It defines lynching as an act of violence, whether spontaneous or planned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation and ethnicity.

The Bill against honour killing laid down death penalty or life sentence and fine up to ₹5 lakh for killing a couple or either of them on the basis that their marriage had disho-

noured or brought disrepute to the caste, community or family. The life sentence for the offence will mean imprisonment for the remainder of the convict's natural life.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced enactment of laws against mob lynching and honour killing while replying to the debate on the 2019-20 State Budget on July 16. Mr. Gehlot had referred to the recent murder of a newlywed couple in Sirohi district and asked what right did the family members have to kill a boy or girl on their interfaith or inter-caste marriage.

Rights groups' plea

Civil rights groups here have demanded that the two Bills be sent to the Assembly's Select Committee for getting the public inputs, rather than rushing through their passage in the Budget session. Activists said the Bills, for which a demand had been made since long, were brought in without any public consultation.

U.P. teenager 'set ablaze' over Ram chant dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDAULI (U.P.)

A 17-year-old boy, who was allegedly set on fire in Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli district two days ago for not chanting 'Jai Shri Ram', succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday, the police said.

Mohammad Khalid, a resident of Saiyad Raja town, around 350 km southeast of Lucknow, had alleged that he was kidnapped on Sunday by four men, who poured kerosene and set him on fire for not chanting 'Jai Shri Ram', a charge denied by the police.

Khalid, who sustained nearly 50% burn injuries, was admitted to a nearby hospital and then referred to government hospital in Varanasi.

He died in the morning, the police said.

Chandauli Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar Singh, however, had denied the allegation and said the teenager changed his statements three times.

Hooda rally in August, Tanwar in the dark

Infighting in Haryana Cong. intensifies

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Infighting among the top leaders of the Haryana Congress has escalated after senior leader and former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda announced a mega rally on August 18, in the run-up to the Assembly polls to be held later this year, without any formal intimation being sent to State Congress president Ashok Tanwar.

Mr. Tanwar told *The Hindu* that he has no formal information or invite for the 'Parivartan Maha Rally' to be held in Rohtak on August 18.

"I have come to know about the rally through newspapers. There has been no deliberation about participating in the rally as of now. With elections around the corner, everyone should fight with unity against the ruling BJP to oust them from power as it is what the people of the State want," he said.

Wait and watch

On whether he would participate in the rally if invited, Mr. Tanwar said, "Let's see



Former CM B.S. Hooda

what happens. Going there or not going there [to the rally] is hypothetical at this point of time."

The Congress has been struggling to set its house in order ahead of the Assembly polls. The party's State unit seems to be divided between two camps – one headed by Mr. Hooda and the other by Mr. Tanwar.

Recently, Mr. Hooda held a meeting of the party's leaders in Delhi in which 13 Haryana legislators participated. Mr. Tanwar and some other senior leaders of the party were not present in the meeting.

Attacks against the Haryana Congress president sharpened after the Lok Sabha election results in which the party faced defeat in all 10 seats in the State.

New NRC order on descendants of D-voters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A person born in Assam before December 3, 2004 may be included in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) if a parent from whom "legacy is not drawn" is a doubtful or D-voter, declared foreigner or with a case pending in a Foreigners' Tribunal.

This was stated in a public notice issued by Prateek Hajela, the State Coordinator for NRC, on July 26, in pursuance of a Supreme Court order issued on July 23.

A D-voter is one who is marked "doubtful or dubious" on the electoral rolls by the election department officials.

The Foreigners' Tribunal – Assam currently has 100 and 200 more are coming up – declare a person a foreigner after conducting hearings. An analysis of Foreigners' Tribunal cases has revealed that 82% of people on trial were declared foreigners, mostly in *ex parte* or one-sided judgments.

Eligibility criteria

"For any NRC applications/claimants, if parent/legacy person through whom eligibility is sought to be established is a DV [doubtful vo-



People wait outside an NRC centre at a village in Nagaon district. ■ FILE PHOTO

ter] or DF [declared foreigner] or PFT [pending in Foreigners' Tribunal], then such person will not be included in the NRC irrespective of the status of the other parent," the notice said.

"For those persons born before December 3, 2004, if the parent through whom legacy is drawn is not a DV or DF or PFT and is found eligible for inclusion in NRC, but the other parent from whom legacy is not drawn is a DV or DF or PFT, then such descendants may be included in NRC," the order said.

But it was made clear that a person born on or after December 3, 2004 will not be included in the NRC if any of the parent is a DV or DF or PFT "even if the parent from whom legacy is drawn is clear from all angles".

Heavy showers lash parts of south Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD

Parts of south Gujarat and Saurashtra have received heavy rains in the last 24 hours ending 8 a.m. on Tuesday, with the India Meteorological Department predicting “widespread” rainfall across the State till Saturday.

Dharampur taluka in Valsad received the highest 288 mm rainfall during this period, while 12 talukas received 101-150 mm rainfall, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC). As many as 34 talukas have received 50-100 mm rainfall.

For six hours on Tuesday morning, several parts of Saurashtra region received heavy rains, with Dhrol in Jamnagar receiving 89 mm and Jodia 85 mm, as per SEOC data.

“Rajkot district in Saurashtra zone received 203 mm rainfall during this period. Kaprada in the district received 191 mm, while 208 mm rainfall was recorded in Waghai in the Dangs district,” the SEOC said.

Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were put on stand-by in various rainfall districts in north and south Gujarat and Saurashtra region to tackle any eventuality.

NDRF teams have been put on stand-by in the district headquarters of Surat, Valsad, Navsari, Aravalli, Banaskantha, Patan, Rajkot, Gir Somnath, and Kutch, among others.

Four MLAs resign, to join BJP

Three are from Sharad Pawar-led NCP, one from Congress

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

In a major setback to the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress, four of its MLAs submitted their resignations to Assembly speaker Haribhau Bagde on Tuesday. They are expected to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday.

The Sharad Pawar-led NCP, which recently saw many regional satraps leave the 20-year-old party, bore the maximum brunt of the latest move as three of the four MLAs belonged to it.

The NCP received a jolt last week when its Mumbai unit chief Sachin Ahir joined the ruling coalition partner Shiv Sena.

Three MLAs from NCP – Sandeep Naik (Airoli), Shivendraraje Bhosale (Satara), and Vaibhav Pichad (Akole-ST) – and one from Congress Kalidas Kolambkar (Wadala) handed over their resignation letters separately to Mr. Bagde in Vidhan Bhawan.

Mr. Naik is son of senior NCP leader and former minister Ganesh Naik, who is also likely to shift his loyalties. On Tuesday, all corporators of the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC), controlled by Mr. Naik, extended support to him saying they would back any decision he takes.

Mr. Bhosale, was first elected as MLA on a NCP ticket in 2004. Recently, NCP chief Sharad Pawar had said at a press conference that Mr. Bhosale would not be quitting the party. According to agency reports, Mr. Bhosale, whose cousin Udaynaraje Bhosale is NCP MP from Satara, said, “I am more interested in protect-



Quitters: Congress MLA Kalidas Kolambkar (left) with Vaibhav Pichad from NCP; Sandeep Naik (bottom left) and Shivendraraje Bhosale (both NCP) outside Vidhan Bhawan after resigning on Tuesday. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI



ing the interest of my Assembly constituency.” Both cousins are known to be at loggerheads with each other for many years now, which is seen as one of the reasons for Shivendraraje’s resignation.

Mr. Pichad – son of Madhukar Pichad, one of the founding members of the NCP and hardcore supporter of Mr. Pawar – has said he is quitting the party as his constituency’s development was stopped because he was from the Opposition party. In June, Radhakrishna

Vikhe Patil, then Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, quit the Congress and was inducted into the BJP and made a cabinet minister. Mr. Kolambkar, a seven-time MLA, had made his intentions of quitting the Congress clear during the Lok Sabha elections when he campaigned for the Shiv Sena candidate. He had openly thanked Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and even put up his posters in Wadala constituency.

(With PTI inputs)

Many more eager to join us: BJP

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

The State unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has said it is in touch with at least 50 Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) legislators eager to switch sides ahead of the Assembly polls. Senior leaders said the party has put in place an internal committee to scrutinise the applicants and will short list those who have better experience and can add value.

“Many are excited and eager to join the BJP. But we also, have some limitations, and cannot admit everyone,” said Maharashtra Water Resources Minister and senior BJP leader Girish Mahajan on Tuesday.

Senior leaders said the induction will continue across the State as the party carries begins its electoral yatra on August 1. They said even if some candidates join for a vested reasons, several others will have suitable experience to help the party grow in the future. “We are hoping that during the yatra local leaders will be convinced of BJP’s work and switch sides. We will be happy to accommodate,” said a BJP leader.

Last week, the NCP’s Mumbai unit chief Sachin Ahir joined the Sena. Soon after, its women’s unit chief for Mumbai Chitra Wagh too quit.

Cabinet clears MahaJyoti

This institute will help in social, educational and economic development of OBCs, SBCs, VJNT

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Continuing with its spree to dole out sops ahead of the Assembly polls, Maharashtra Cabinet on Tuesday accepted the report to set up Mahatma Jyotiba Research and Training Institute (MAHAJYOTI) for the OBCs, Special Backward Classes (SBC) and Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes (VJNT) communities.

The Mahajyoti will function on the lines of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI) for Scheduled Castes and Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research, Training and Human Development Institute (SARTHI) for Marathas.

The Cabinet also cleared extension of all benefits provided to Scheduled Tribes by the Tribal Development department, with a provision of ₹1,000 crore allocated in the State Budget. A sum of ₹500 crore has already been budgeted.

“This institute will work to bring social, educational and economic development of the OBCs, SBCs and VJNT and also work to prepare students from these communities to sit for various competitive examinations,” said Dr. Sanjay Kute, Minister of OBC, SBC, VJNT Communities Welfare department.

The institute will be headquartered in Pune, with divisional offices in Nagpur and Buldhana, and have a budget of ₹380 crore for two years. The decision to set up the institute was taken on the basis of a committee report which was accepted by the Cabinet, Dr. Kute said.

It would conduct surveys for improving the situation of backward classes and deprived sections of the society, and make available facilities for self-employment, besides imparting skill training, the minister added.

Mahajyoti will also have a helpline and counselling centre, and provide scholarships for M. Phil and Ph.D courses, besides creating awareness for removal of caste and creed bias. The institute will offer three programmes, namely ‘Jyotidoot’, ‘Jaldoot’ and ‘Savitridoot’.

While Jaldoot will have programmes of awareness in water literacy, conservation, irrigation, and water man-

agement, Savitridoot will create awareness on gender bias, prohibition and cleanliness, and Jyotidoot will work to eliminate dowry and caste discrimination.

Dr. Kute said, as per the Cabinet decision, 13 schemes being implemented by Tribal Development department will be extended to Dhangers. Prominent among these are providing land for grazing of sheep, financial assistance for Dhangar students if there is no provision for hostels, giving admissions to meritorious students from the Dhangar community in prominent English schools as well as a scheme to build 10,000 homes for the community.

Hyperloop project gets a crucial push

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Mumbai-Pune Hyperloop project received a much-needed boost on Tuesday with the Cabinet approving appointment of DP World and Hyperloop Technologies as its Original Project Proponent (OPP).

The hyperloop, once ready, will reduce travel time between Mumbai and Pune to just 30 minutes.

The Cabinet also decided to grant ‘public infrastructure’ status to the project, helping it gain easier access to funds and concessions. The project will

be implemented in two phases – first, a test track on an 11.4-km corridor from Gahunje to Ozarde, and in the second phase the final 117.5-km track will be constructed. About 150 million people are expected to use the hyperloop annually.

This will make India the first country to officially commission a hyperloop. The project involves a direct foreign investment (FDI) of ₹70,000 crore. According to officials, the Pune Metropolitan Regional Development Authority will float tenders by mid-August.

A village dedicated to books



Keeping reading alive: Tourists engrossed in reading books as 78-year-old Phulabai Parthe blows air to burn charcoal to protect the books from fungus, stiffness during the rains, and to maintain the temperature at her home in Bhilar village in Satara district of Maharashtra. This first ‘village of books’ in India – or Pustakanche Gaon, in Marathi – was set up on May 4, 2017, inspired by Hay-on-Wye, a town in Wales known for its bookstores and literature festivals. As many as 30 villagers offer space at their residence for the large variety of books. ■ PRASHANT NAKWE

NCP joins other parties, backs Aug. 9 anti-EVM rally

Rally is being planned by EVM Virodhi Rashtriya Jan Andolan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Sharad Pawar-led NCP on Tuesday declared its support for the August 9 protest rally against the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the upcoming Assembly elections.

The announcement was made by State unit NCP president Jayant Patil at a press conference which was also attended by his Congress counterpart Balasaheb Thorat, CPI(M) leader Ashok Dhaware, and Peasants’ and Workers Party (PWP) leader Jayant Patil, among others.

The rally is being planned by ‘EVM Virodhi Rashtriya Jan Andolan’ seeking use of ballot papers in the polls, due in September-October.

“We had to taste defeat despite fielding winnable candidates in some Lok Sabha seats. At some places, (Opposition) candidates did not get votes from their own



United against EVMs: Leaders from Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, and Peasants and Workers Party at a press conference in Mumbai on Tuesday seeking use of ballot papers in the Assembly elections. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

family members,” a statement quoted Mr. Patil as saying.

“Even the elected candidates have raised suspicions about EVM functioning. Hence, we are supporting this anti-EVM movement,” Mr. Patil added.

Mr. Pawar has repeatedly raised concerns over functioning of EVMs.

In the recently-held monsoon session of the State legislature, the NCP had demanded that the Assembly elections be held through ballot papers.

HC notice to Chidambaram on suit filed by 63 moons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has issued notices to former finance minister P. Chidambaram and two serving bureaucrats in connection with a suit demanding ₹10,000 crore in damages filed by 63 moons technologies, formerly known as Financial Technologies Ltd.

The HC asked them to remain present in person or through their lawyers on October 15 “to answer the plaintiff’s claim”.

The company filed the suit on June 12 before the high court against Mr. Chidambaram and bureaucrats K.P. Krishnan and Ramesh Abhishek, accusing them of taking “malicious and mala fide” action against it.

The company was facing continuous “targeted and mala fide actions” in the wake of an engineered payment default crisis, it said.

‘Unnao accident: unfair to judge State by one case’

Former U.P. Governor Ram Naik says truth will come out soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Days after the Unnao rape survivor met with an accident, former Uttar Pradesh governor and senior BJP leader Ram Naik on Tuesday said it would be “unfair” to judge the State on the basis of one case.

The 19-year-old woman, who was allegedly raped by BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar at his residence in 2017, was travelling with her family on Sunday when their car was hit by a speeding truck in Rae Bareilly district.

Two of her family members were killed in the accident while she and her lawyer were critically injured. The woman’s family has filed a complaint alleging “conspiracy” behind the car



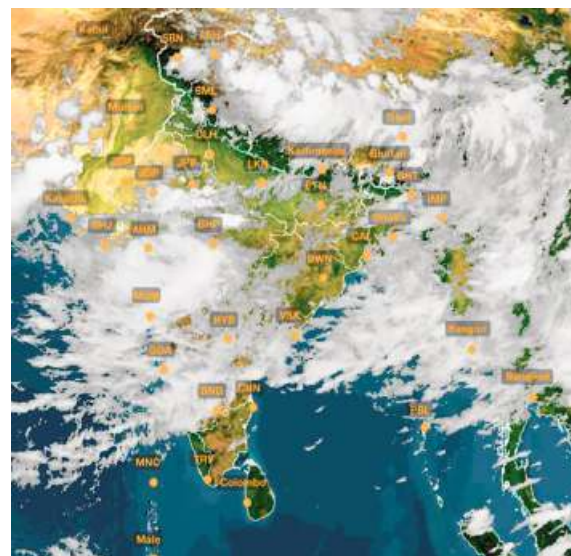
State unit BJP president Chandrakant Patil handing over the receipt of party membership to former Uttar Pradesh governor in Mumbai on Tuesday. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

crash. “Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has already agreed to a CBI inquiry into the case. The truth in the Unnao case will come out soon. It would be unfair to form an opinion about the

entire State based on a single case,” he said. He claimed that organised crime in U.P. had come down in the past five years, and the rest would also be reined in in the coming days.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Goa, central Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, south Rajasthan, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and coastal Karnataka.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.6	30.0	26.2	Kozhikode	12.4	31.0	24.4
Ahmedabad	13.6	28.2	24.6	Kurnool	3.0	32.1	23.7
Aizawl	5.0	—	20.5	Lucknow	—	33.2	27.3
Allahabad	—	32.7	27.4	Madurai	—	39.0	26.2
Bengaluru	—	27.0	20.1	Mangaluru	13.6	30.8	23.1
Bhopal	166.5	26.8	22.6	Mumbai	38.9	29.4	24.6
Bhubaneswar	1.1	28.7	26.4	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	35.3	28.6	New Delhi	—	35.1	27.4
Chennai	—	34.0	27.1	Patna	—	33.6	26.8
Coimbatore	—	33.6	23.1	Port Blair	0.3	30.3	25.9
Dehradun	0.3	28.1	24.6	Puducherry	6.8	34.4	24.0
Gangtok	27.0	21.8	17.0	Pune	34.6	25.1	21.7
Goa	19.0	29.4	23.7	Raipur	3.6	25.7	23.3
Guwahati	—	35.2	27.2	Ranchi	2.6	25.7	21.2
Hubballi	—	24.0	21.0	Shillong	1.2	24.6	17.3
Hyderabad	6.7	27.2	21.8	Shimla	1.5	19.7	17.4
Imphal	0.4	30.7	22.3	Srinagar	—	31.2	19.8
Jaipur	—	32.0	25.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.5	25.3
Kochi	—	32.6	25.8	Tiruchi	—	37.7	27.8
Kohima	11.2	25.4	16.8	Vijayawada	—	33.5	25.2
Kolkata	19.4	33.7	26.2	Visakhapatnam	1.4	31.3	26.7

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	81	27	70	82	—	—	In observation made at 4:00 p.m., Jodhpur
Bengaluru	9	42	71	—	110	—	Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 228 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gulbarga, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 13
Chennai	6	18	60	112	—	—	
Delhi	16	27	34	44	195	—	
Hyderabad	18	19	14	18	22	—	
Kolkata	3	34	54	31	37	—	
Lucknow	—	24	69	28	—	—	
Mumbai	12	20	103	31	47	—	
Pune	74	8	67	21	21	—	
Visakhapatnam	16	44	37	41	83	—	

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: 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_x: 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

Too much quota may impact right to equal opportunity: SC

The court said that reservation is intended to achieve equality of opportunity

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday orally remarked that excessive quota may impact the right to equal opportunity guaranteed under the Constitution.

Justice S.A. Bobde, leading a three-judge Bench, said quota benefits given to the most "forward" classes, especially to those who had no qualification whatsoever, would result in "excess" reservation and breach equality.

"Quota an exception" "Reservation itself is an exception. Reservation is intended to achieve equality of opportunity," he remarked.

The Bench is examining



whether to refer to a Constitution Bench a batch of petitions challenging the validity of a constitutional amendment providing 10% economic quota in government jobs and educational institutions.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan made a strong pitch for referring the issue to a Constitution Bench. He ar-

gued that economic reservation violated the 50% reservation ceiling limit fixed by a nine-judge Bench in the Indra Sawhney case. Further, the 1992 judgment had barred reservation solely on economic criterion.

In a 6:3 majority verdict, the Supreme Court, in the Indra Sawhney case, had held that "a backward class

cannot be determined only and exclusively with reference to economic criterion... It may be a consideration or basis along with and in addition to social backwardness, but it can never be the sole criterion."

After a gap of 27 years, the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act of 2019 has provided 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions for the "economically backward" in the unreserved category.

The government, represented by Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, however, told the court that the 10% economic quota law was a move towards a classless and casteless society.

HC refuses early hearing of CBI plea in 2G spectrum case

Arguments in the case will take place on October 24

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday declined a CBI application seeking an early hearing of its appeal against former Telecom Minister A. Raja and others' acquittal in the 2G spectrum allocation case.

Justice A.K. Chawla said the "arguments in the case will take place on the next date of hearing on October 24," the previously scheduled date for hearing the case.

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain sought an early hearing, saying a huge number of bilateral treaties



Former Telecom Minister A. Raja was acquitted by a CBI court in December 2017.

were being invoked pursuant to the 2G verdict.

"If we lose on merit, we lose, but we should not lose on account of the matter not being heard," he argued. In December 2017, a spe-

cial CBI court in New Delhi acquitted Mr. Raja, Kanimozhi, MP, and others in the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED) cases, noting that the prosecution had "miserrably failed" to prove the charges.

It acquitted 17 others, including late DMK supremo M. Karunanidhi's wife Dayalu Ammal, Vinod Goenka, Asif Balwa, film producer Karim Morani, P. Amirtham, and Sharad Kumar.

On March 19, 2018, the ED approached the High Court challenging the special court order. A day later, the CBI too challenged the acquittals in the court.

Insurance scheme for cattle lost to tigers mooted

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry and the Department of Livestock and Animal Husbandry are exploring a scheme to devise an insurance policy that will compensate people who lose their livestock to tigers.

A day after India declared that it had 2,967 tigers – a 33% jump since the last tiger census in 2014 – officials from several Ministries met on Tuesday to discuss ways to ensure that these gains were not lost.

"No policy currently" The growing tiger base, however, has also brought with it challenges of man-animal conflict, with reports of the big cats preying on cattle and sometimes mauling humans who live in the vicinity of their habitat.

"Currently, there is no policy on compensating people for such cattle lost because tiger reserves are no-go areas, and people and cattle are not supposed to be present. However, in the larger interest of reducing man-animal conflict, we need to think of such measures," said Siddhantha Das, Director-General (Forests,



Sustaining the prey base of the big cat was also discussed at the meeting.

Union Environment Ministry. He was one of the participants at the meeting.

Another plan discussed was to improve water conservation in forests, along with the Jal Shakti Ministry, Mr. Das said.

Sustaining tigers is about sustaining their prey base. He attributed the greater presence of tigers to more dependable water sources and the presence of more chital and deer.

The nearly 6% annual increase in the tiger population could mean at least 3,400 tigers by the next survey, and therefore increasing pressure on its habitat and on the occurrence of man-animal conflict.

IMA calls for strike against NMC Bill today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has called for a 24-hour strike on Wednesday to protest against the Lok Sabha approving and passing the National Medical Com-

mission (NMC) Bill 2019. The strike includes only the withdrawal of non-essential services.

It noted that Section 32 of the Bill provided for licensing 3.5 lakh unqualified non-medical persons to practise

modern medicine. "The term Community Health Provider has been vaguely defined to allow anyone connected with modern medicine and be licensed to practise," the association said.

"This," it added, "would mean that all paramedics, including pharmacists, nurses and others are becoming eligible to practise modern medicine and prescribe independently. This law legalises quackery."

Puri temple bans chewing of tobacco

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

With the spitting of tobacco becoming a challenge to cleanliness, the management of the 12th century Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri has banned the entry of devotees and priests found chewing either tobacco or 'paan' (betel leaf).

Habitual tobacco and paan chewers will have to cough up fine of ₹500 if found chewing the substance on the temple premises, from August 1.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) at Puri on Monday.

P.K. Mohapatra, chief administrator of the SJTA, said the prohibition will come into force from August 1. All persons, irrespective of whether they are devotees, temple staff or priests, will be fined if found consuming tobacco or paan.

The administration will put up display boards to warn about the prohibition at different places. Guards deployed at the gates will be asked to check devotees and temple staff for the banned substances.

In most government offices including the State Secretariat, almost all corners and staircases have stains.

In order to prevent the menace, tiles having pictures of gods and goddesses were fixed at different places. Though limited success has been achieved, the authorities have not been able to completely control the nuisance.

Pak. allows special group of pilgrims for Nankana Sahib

Group will begin process for festivities at Kartarpur Sahib

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As part of the celebrations for the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, Pakistan on Tuesday allowed a special group of Indian pilgrims to enter the country.

The group heading for the Sikh shrine of Nankana Sahib will begin the festivities that will ultimately lead to the main festival at the Gurdwara of Kartarpur Sahib where both India and Pakistan are building infrastructure for a peace corridor.

"Pakistan feels honoured that celebrations of the 550th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak by Indian Sikhs are being started from Nankana Sahib, Pakistan," said a press statement issued by the High Commission of Pakistan on Monday. The



Sikh pilgrims led by Sardar Gobind Singh Longowal, SGPC president, reached Pakistan on Tuesday. ■ ANI

group of 500 pilgrims was granted visa on July 26 as a special provision over the usual number of visas issued under the 1974 India-Pakistan Protocol on Visits to Reli-

gious Shrines of 1974. The statement reiterated Pakistan's commitment to celebrate the life of Guru Nanak. India and Pakistan held talks on the corridor on July 14.

Row over MP's remark on women

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP MP from Haryana D.P. Vats created a furore in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday when he said the uniform for women police personnel did not suit the "Indian female figure".

"The present pattern of summer working dress/uniform with shirt tucked under the belt and pant is very inconvenient for ladies in police and military, especially, during pregnancy and afterwards. It does not suit the Indian female figure," said Mr. Vats, during the Zero Hour. "In addition to Beti bachao, Beti padhao, make the Beti comfortable and dignified that is to Restore the dignity of the Indian lady, especially in uniform," he said. His comment drew angry retorts from women members in the Opposition.

Unnao survivor still critical

BJP says MLA suspended and Opposition is staging a drama over accident

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Amid calls for action against Kuldeep Singh Sengar, jailed BJP MLA booked for allegedly plotting an accident involving the car in which a woman who had accused him of rape was travelling, the party on Tuesday said he had already been suspended.

The BJP's Uttar Pradesh president, Swatantra Dev Singh, said the State government was standing firmly with the victim and would heed all her requests.

His comments came hours after the Yogi Adityanath government sent a formal request to the Centre for a CBI probe on the application filed by the survivor's uncle who is lodged in a Rae Bareli jail.

Mr. Swatantra Dev ac-



Call for protest: Members of Parliament from Opposition parties staging a protest in New Delhi. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

used the SP, BSP and Congress of staging "a drama on a road accident" and "creating propaganda over the incident" as they lacked "an agenda for development".

He, however, did not clarify why the MLA was expelled from the party after many leaders including Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra de-

manded stricter action against the controversial legislator from Unnao.

"For god's sake, Mr. Prime Minister, divest this criminal and his brother of the political power your party is giving them," Ms. Vadra tweeted. "Why do we give people like Kuldeep Sengar the strength and protection of political pow-

er and abandon their victims to battle for their lives alone," she asked.

The rape survivor and the lawyer continue to be critical. King George's Medical University, Lucknow, said both patients were still on ventilator support but in a stable state.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who visited the aggrieved family at the hospital, blamed the U.P. government and the police for the entire sequence of events. Mr. Yadav demanded that a special investigation team under the supervision of a sitting judge probe the Rae Bareli accident in which two aunts of the survivor died.

The BJP has linked the owner of the truck, which caused the accident, to the Samajwadi Party.

Rules flouted in GST fund transfer: CAG

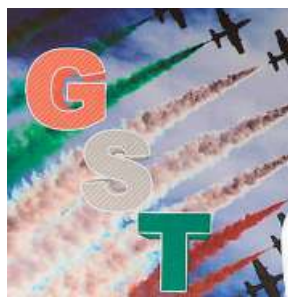
Audit report flags violations in transferring the Integrated GST amount to States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In its first ever audit on the Good and Services Tax (GST), the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has said government has not been following the rules set out regarding the transfer of revenue to the States.

The report, tabled in Parliament on Tuesday, said the government had in 2017-18 transferred the Integrated GST amount in a manner that contravened the rules laid out for such a transfer.

"During 2017-18, Government of India resorted to devolution of IGST year-end balance to States as per Finance Commission formula, in contravention of the provisions of the Constitution of India and the IGST Act," the CAG said.



"This also had the impact of distribution of funds to the States on a completely different basis instead of the 'Place of Supply' concept as envisaged in the IGST Act."

The report said failure to try out the system before rollout, had led to lower tax revenues

"The growth of indirect taxes slowed down to 5.8% in 2017-18 over 2016-17 as compared to 21.33% during

2016-17, with GoI's revenue from goods and services taking a 10% dip," the report added.

Returns declining
Regarding compliance, the CAG audit found the number of returns filed each month was declining, contrary to the expectation that compliance would improve as the system stabilised.

Further, it found that there were discrepancies between the various forms filed.

"The filing percentage of GSTR-1 returns (monthly returns on outward supplies) were throughout less in comparison to the corresponding filing of GSTR-3B returns (summary self-assessed return)," the report said.

"The introduction of

GSTR-3B has resulted in filing of returns with Input Tax Credit (ITC) claims which could not be verified."

The lower number of GSTR-1 returns meant that the tax departments did not have the complete invoice level details filed by the suppliers, which would have allowed authorities to verify the details provided in the GSTR-3B form.

"The complexity of the return mechanism and the technical glitches resulted in rollback of invoice-matching, rendering the system prone to ITC [Input Tax Credit] frauds," the CAG said.

"Without invoice matching and auto generation of refunds, assessments, etc. on the whole, the envisaged GST tax compliance system is non-functional."

Family had written to CJI on threats

Letter of July 12 narrates intimidation by kin of accused at her home

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A letter written by the family of the Unnao rape survivor on July 12 to the Chief Justice of India about threats received from the accused persons in the case has come to light almost two days after a truck collided with their car.

The collision, which happened on Sunday near Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh, claimed the lives of two aunts of the woman. It has left the survivor and her lawyer, who was travelling



with them, grievously injured.

An official of the Supreme Court confirmed the receipt of the letter, which

is written in Hindi. The CJI has asked the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the letter. Copies of the letter were also sent to the Allahabad High Court and other authorities of the Uttar Pradesh government.

Kuldeep Singh Sengar, a four-time BJP MLA from Bangermau, is an accused in the rape case and was arrested in April last year.

The U.P. BJP on Tuesday said that Sengar had been suspended from the party in 2018.

The letter to the CJI nar-

rates the incidents of July 7 and 8 when some people allegedly associated with Sengar, the sitting BJP legislator, threatened the victim's family with dire consequences.

The letter signed by the woman, her mother and aunt, stated that on July 7, Naveen Singh, son of an accused in the rape case, Shashi Singh, Manoj Singh, brother of another accused Kuldeep Singh and one Kunnu Mishra visited their house and threatened them.

Three naval officers face court martial

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Navy has started a general court martial against three of its senior officials found guilty of dereliction of duty by a high-level inquiry panel that probed an accident involving the frontline warship *INS Betwa* on December 5, 2016.

Official sources said the court martial proceedings against two Commanders and the captain of the ship began in Mumbai on July 26 based on findings of the Board of Inquiry, which carried out a detailed investigation into the accident.

Two sailors were killed when the Brahmaputra-class guided missile frigate capsized in a dry dock in Mumbai. The 3,850-tonne guided missile frigate crashed to its side during undocking, triggering severe criticism against the Navy.

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Digitally signed Bids through Central Public Procurement e-procure Portal as well as offline bids as hard copy are invited for **Single Part Expression of Interest (EOI) for Capturing Market Information to Formulate the Policy Document and Firming up Open Tendering Process for Engagement of New Special Processing Units (SPUs) Partners /Conversion Units for Development of Downstream Products from NALCO's Ingots to Wire Rods / Conductors are invited from reputed and capable & interested agencies.**

For details please visit www.e-procure.gov.in or www.nalcoindia.com. Any Updates / Amendments / Extension / Corrigendum will only be hosted in above websites.

AGM (Elect), T&C

When the 'best job' is just a hop away

It is often unrealistic to expect millennials to stay in a role for long, and given this climate, companies need to have an irresistible engagement strategy to retain their top talent

LIFFY THOMAS

Five jobs spread over nine years, with the maximum stint lasting three-and-a-half years. That is a snippet of information about A. Narayanan's career as banker.

Thirty-two-years old, Narayanan is currently in a senior position at his fifth job, and he considers himself successful. He attributes this success largely to his ability to realise when he has outgrown a role – or, figuring out when a role is not serving him as well as he is serving it.

"If I don't get the recognition I think I deserve despite performing well, I move out," says Narayanan.

An Indeed study based on responses from 1000 professionals has found that 56% of Indian workers have voluntarily left a role after a short stint, the duration being 16 months or less.

The trend is more prevalent in mid-sized companies with 200-500 employees.

The study says 'stickiness' is higher in traditional sectors such as manufacturing in comparison to IT and telecom.

Today's employees display a lower tolerance threshold when their expectations don't quite mesh with the reality of their job. The rise of the gig economy



ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

is a factor encouraging them to look for greener pastures, especially because in some cases, they can return to what they have left.

'Portfolio careers'

The changing recruitment climate is another factor. Unlike how it used to be only a decade ago, a resume marked by a series of short stints is now given a fair chance.

Recruiters now try to find out if the candidate had been loyal to the roles he

served in those short stints.

"We cannot expect millennials to be retiring from the same organisation or even serving one for a few decades. Loyalty to an organisation is no longer a priority for employers; but what we look for is loyalty to the role," says K. S. Raja Rajasekar, deputy general manager, human resources, Kone Elevator.

What Rajasekar means is that the person has to be a value-addition for the given responsibility.

Research also says that job hopping is a reality today.

Poonam Sharma, global head of talent management and organisation development, Alkem Laboratories, has moved four organisations over the last 14 years. This is called 'portfolio careers', where work is defined by the diversity of the industries and roles, she says.

"One must put in at least two years in an organisation and have something sub-

stantial to show for that period," says Poonam.

She also says employees must not quit on a whim.

With organisations also in a state of flux, their expectations from the workforce change with time. In this day and age, the demand for new skill sets is continual, and given this, organisations are sometimes as keen on bringing new candidates on board, as employees are in finding better prospects.

However, organisations know they also have to strive

With organisations in a state of flux, their expectations from the workforce change with time

to keep their top talent intact, which can be a big challenge in this job-hopping age.

"More than attrition, the focus today is on retention and how to keep employees engaged and productive," says Rajasekar.

Organisations that are invested in building a productive work culture, offering flexibility and freedom and providing opportunities for employees to grow, are the ones that manage a good retention record.

Women startup summit in Kochi



Representational picture only

PTI

On August 1, aspiring women entrepreneurs from across the country would converge on Kochi for a summit that is aimed at finding ways to increase women's representation in businesses involving science and technology.

The 'Women Startup Summit' is being hosted by the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), in association with the Indian Women Network under the Confederation of Indian Industry. KSUM is the nodal agency of government of Kerala for entrepreneurship development and incubation activities.

The summit would bring together successful women leaders, startup founders, policymakers and aspiring women entrepreneurs on a common platform to share their experiences and success stories, KSUM said in a press release. The focal

theme – 'Developing an Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystem' – would feature inspiring visionaries whose innovative actions are changing the world.

The meet is set against the backdrop of Kerala having 13% women participation in the technology startup ecosystem and the proactive steps taken by the state government to increase women's participation in the sector.

The administration has implemented multiple policies and schemes that focus on supporting startups run by women. Based on the concept 'Of Women, By Women, For Women', the state government schemes can be availed by women startups from across the country.

About 20 women startups shortlisted from the 'She Loves Tech' national grand challenge would be showcased at the summit.

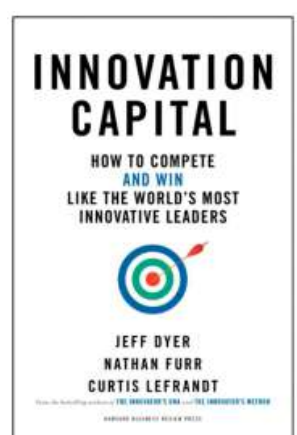
NEWS BYTE

An innovation challenge

Central Reserve Police Force, in association with Startup India, is inviting startups and individual innovators for a grand challenge through which it seeks to identify new concepts and innovations in certain areas. The programme is aimed at addressing critical issues hampering growth in

the security sector in India, says a note on the Startup India website. The organisers are looking for solutions in "utilization of remotely piloted aircraft systems", "shoes against spikes" and "controlling blood loss". Applications for the competition closes on August 5. For details, visit www.startupindia.gov.in

FROM THE BOOKSHELF



for innovation, techniques to amplify innovation capital, ways to garner attention for ideas and projects and what it means to provide visionary leadership and how it can be achieved.

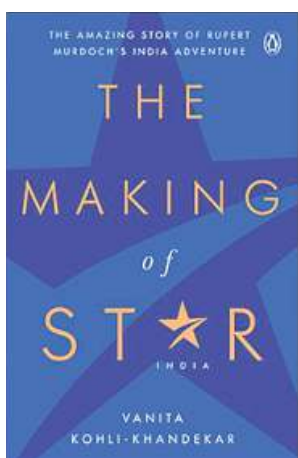
Rebuild
Author: Ramya Ramamurthy
Publisher: Hachette India

The book discusses how organisations, home-grown and multinational, have tackled crises – some unexpected and some self-inflict-

Innovation Capital
Authors: Jeff Dyer, Nathan Furr and Curtis Lefrandt
Publisher: Harvard Business Review Press

By featuring interviews with the superstars of innovation – Jeff Bezos (Amazon), Elon Musk (Tesla), Marc Benioff (Salesforce), Indra Nooyi (PepsiCo) and Shantanu Narayen (Adobe) – the book explains how to compete and win like these leaders.

The ideas discussed by the authors include how to build a personal reputation



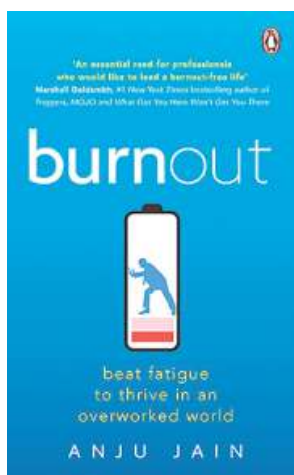
ed. The crisis management strategies adopted by companies such as Coca-Cola, Unilever, Kingfisher, Tata Sons, the Indian Premier League, Facebook, Uber, Nokia and Nestlé Maggi Noodles are featured in the book.

It also features interviews with top management executives, and examines the circumstances that cause brands to falter – faulty products, leadership changes, disastrous sales cycles and competition, among others.

The Making of Star India
Author: Vanita Kohli-Khandekar
Publisher: Penguin

The "India journey" of Rupert Murdoch, executive chairman, News Corporation, is presented in this book. It discusses why Murdoch invested in a pan-Asian broadcaster that was neither "fish nor fowl" and also about the rise of Star India.

Burnout
Author: Anju Jain
Publisher: Penguin



some of the tell-tale signs of burnout at the workplace, the author writes about why some people suffer from work-induced fatigue and fall by the wayside, while some others manage to be tenacious and energetic despite taking on a lot of work. *Burnout* offers a framework and simple strategies to lead a good and productive life. The author is a senior psychologist and business leader.

Can AI impact corporate culture?

Most C-suite executives who took an online poll say it can, negatively

As artificial intelligence (AI) gains more traction in the workaday life of organisations, a little over two-thirds of industry honchos are worried about the potentially negative impact that this technology can have on their corporate culture, according to an online poll conducted by development solutions provider Dale Carnegie.

Respondents in the online poll were CEO/directors. They recognise that gains from AI can be offset by losses, at least in part, if the resulting impact on their corporate culture disengages their employees, says the survey.

The online poll was carried out among 3,500 CEOs/

directors across a range of industries covering spanning 11 countries.

"Today, success depends on human-machine partnerships. Leaders should focus on building trust, providing transparency and building confidence in their workforce to evolve along with the changing work culture. Trust and transparency will go a long way in bringing more people into decision-making processes and helping employees approach AI with a positive attitude," says Dale Carnegie India chairperson and managing director Pallavi Jha in the report.

Achieving the full potential of AI depends on the successful partnership between humans and ma-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

chines, it adds. As much as 44% of the respondents agree that AI will fundamentally change the way they work and live over the next 10 years, and expect those changes to be positive.

But many are unsure about the impact AI may have. A little more than two-thirds, or 64%, are slightly worried about losing their jobs as a result of advancements in AI in the near fu-

ture. But around 70% feel positive about the potential to hand over a part of their work to AI, giving up routine tasks that get in the way of focusing on more meaningful work.

Further, 23% respondents feel AI and automation are already impacting them in their roles, and another 44% expect it to go up over the next five years.

GENERAL

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IN BRIEF



Air Express net profit at ₹169 crore for FY19

NEW DELHI
Air India's low-cost international arm, Air India Express, on Tuesday reported a net profit for the fourth consecutive year at ₹169 crore for the fiscal 2018-2019. In a year of adverse market conditions and rise in fuel prices, the airline witnessed a 16.07% increase in its revenue to ₹4,202 crore compared with ₹3,620 crore in the previous fiscal.

Chola Investment Q1 net profit rises 10%

CHENNAI
Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (CIFCL), a Murugappa Group company, has reported a 10% growth in its standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 2019 to ₹314 crore compared with the corresponding year-earlier period, despite tight market conditions. Total income rose to ₹2,030 crore, up 26%, while total disbursements increased by 22% to ₹8,572 crore. Net interest margin grew 16% to ₹943 crore.

Granules India Q1 profit zooms 61%

HYDERABAD
Drugmaker Granules India has posted a ₹83-crore consolidated net profit for the quarter ended June, a 61% increase from the year earlier period. The company has declared an interim dividend of 25 paise per share (face value of ₹1 each). Sustained growth in high volume based molecules business and an unwavering focus on the U.S. market enabled to achieve the growth, CMD Krishna Prasad Chigurupati said on Tuesday.

Axis Bank Q1 net jumps 95%

Lender attributes increase in profit to sharp rise in trading income

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

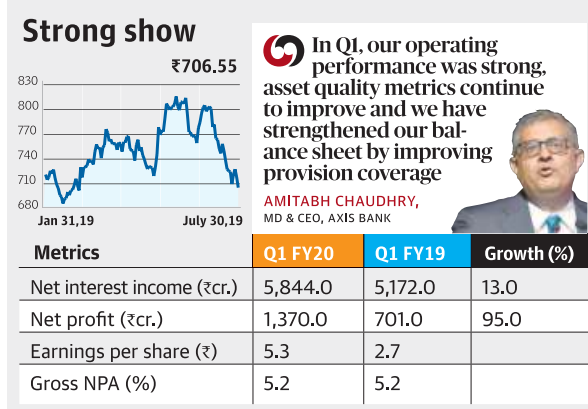
Private sector lender Axis Bank reported a 95% increase in its net profit to ₹1,370 crore for the April-June quarter mainly due to sharp rise in trading income.

The trading profits for the first quarter stood at ₹832 crore as compared to ₹103 crore in the same period of the previous year.

Trading profit helped non-interest income to grow 32% on year to ₹3,869 crore, while fee income grew 26% to ₹2,663 crore.

The bank's net interest income (NII) grew 13% on year to ₹5,844 crore while net interest margin was at 3.40%.

Asset quality was maintained with gross NPA and net NPA ratio were at 5.25% and 2.04% as on end June, as



against 5.26% and 2.06% as on March 31, 2019.

Slippages were higher at ₹4,798 crore during the quarter as compared to ₹3,012 crore in the previous quarter and ₹4,337 crore in the year ago period. The NPA ratios fell for the fifth

straight quarter, the bank said. "During quarter one, our operating performance was strong, our growth metrics were healthy, asset quality metrics continue to improve and we have further strengthened our balance sheet by improving provi-

United Bank reports ₹104.9 crore Q1 profit

Says it will come out of PCA by Sept.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA**

Kolkata-based United Bank of India (UBI) closed the first quarter of fiscal 2020 with a ₹104.9 crore net profit as against ₹388.7 crore loss a year ago. Total business grew by around 3% during this period.

"The worst is behind us and we will come out of the RBI's prompt and corrective action (PCA) framework by the second quarter," UBI managing director and chief executive officer Ashok Kumar Pradhan said at a press meet.

He attributed the improved performance to a 2.8% increase in net interest margin and an improvement in cost-to-income ra-

tion at 49.7%, among other parameters.

During this quarter, UBI's provisions for non-performing assets stood at ₹414.6 crore against ₹697.8 crore a year ago. "Stressed assets position has shown continuous improvement with a decline in the GNPA and NNPA ratio," the bank said in a release.

Mr. Pradhan said that a recovery target of ₹4,000 crore had been set for this fiscal, of which ₹820 crore had been achieved.

He also said that the bank would take a call on deposit rate (reduction) at an appropriate time, but added that rate transmission may not happen automatically due to 'a number of constraints'.

DHFL defaults on ₹25 cr. NCD interest due

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI**

Mortgage lender DHFL has again defaulted on an interest repayment worth ₹25.06 crore on non-convertible debentures (NCDs).

A total of six investors are impacted due to the default, which happened on Monday, the company informed the exchanges on Tuesday.

The gross principal amount on which the default has taken place is ₹274 crore, it added. This is the fourth default by the company since early June.

The secured NCDs carry a coupon of 9.32% and were issued for five years. The date of issue of the NCDs was not disclosed.

sion coverage," Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO, Axis Bank, said in the post-earnings conference call.

Provision coverage, as a proportion of gross NPAs including prudential write-offs, stood at 78%, up from 77% in Q4FY19.

The bank has made an additional provision of ₹2,358 crore towards various risk contingencies, over and above the regular provisioning requirement, which is not counted towards provision coverage ratio calculations.

"We have also laid out a goal to reduce cost-to-asset ratio to 2% in the course of 2022 and this quarter, an important step forward. Our cost to asset fell to 2.08% during the quarter," Mr. Chaudhry said.

'Have given info on related party issues to authorities'

IndiGo's Gangwal says Bhatia hiding behind 'veil of sources'

**LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI**

Rakesh Gangwal, co-founder and shareholder in InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., which owns and operates IndiGo, has lashed out at Rahul Bhatia, the other promoter, and his IGE Group, urging him not to 'plant' stories in the media under the garb of sources.

Mr. Gangwal who stays in the U.S., said in a statement: "Many misleading news articles keep getting planted from so-called sources and I largely ignore most of them. However, a news article published on July 29, 2019 caught my attention, where the reporting went on to say: The IGE Group has also said



Rakesh Gangwal

there is not a shred of evidence to substantiate allegations on related-party transactions between the airline and IGE because there are no whistleblowers as claimed by Gangwal. The person added that regulators had been seeking similar information for the past

10 days and none has been forthcoming."

Mr. Gangwal added, "To address this canard, please note that I have provided this information to the relevant authorities. I wish people had the conviction to be quoted and not hide behind the veil of so called unnamed 'sources' to spread a false narrative in the media."

A text message to a senior executive of InterGlobe Enterprises remained unanswered till the time of going to press. A person close to Mr. Gangwal said "a lot of people are mounting a misinformation and character assassination campaign to demean Mr. Gangwal in the eyes of the public."

End-use norms for external commercial borrowings eased

Relaxation for working capital, general corporate purposes

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

The RBI has decided to relax norms for end-use of funds raised via the external commercial borrowing (ECB) route by companies and non-banking finance companies, following feedback from various stakeholders.

The central bank said the relaxation was for working capital requirements, general corporate purposes and repayment of rupee loans.

Eligible borrowers will now be allowed to raise ECBs with a minimum average maturity period of 10 years for working capital purposes and general corporate purposes.



"Borrowing for on-lending by NBFCs for the above maturity and end-uses is also permitted," RBI said.

RBI also said that ECBs with a minimum average maturity period of seven years can be availed by eligible borrowers for repayment of rupee loans, availed

domestically for capital expenditure, as also by NBFCs for on-lending for the same purpose.

For repayment of rupee loans availed domestically for purposes other than capital expenditure and for on-lending by NBFCs, the minimum average maturity period of the ECB is required to be 10 years.

RBI has also decided to allow corporate borrowers to raise ECBs for repayment of rupee loans availed domestically for capex in manufacturing and infrastructure, if classified as SMA-2 (special mention account) or NPA, under any one-time settlement (OTS) with lenders.

Hexaware's Nishar unveils start-up 'Azent'

**PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI**

Hexaware founder Atul Nishar has launched an education technology start-up Azent Overseas Education Limited with daughter Priyanka Nishar, aimed at disrupting overseas education advisory industry with the use of innovative technology.

Mr. Nishar plans to invest ₹250 crore in his new venture.

Mr. Nishar's first venture was the educational institution Aptech, which he exited in 2003.

When asked for comments, Mr. Nishar told *The Hindu*, I am combining both, my experiences of education and technology in Azent."

Best automatic hatchbacks under ₹6 lakh

It makes sense to opt for a hatchback that comes with the convenience of an automatic gearbox

RIVAN RS

With a growing number of cars congesting city streets, it would make sense if you plan to opt for a small hatchback that also comes with the added convenience of an automatic gearbox. Not only does it make for a convenient city runabout, but it's also easier to find parking spots. Here is a look at some of the best automatic hatchbacks you can find for under ₹6 lakh.



Maruti Suzuki Wagon R

The latest-gen Wagon R is available with two petrol engine options – a 68hp, 1.0-litre, and an 83hp, 1.2-litre. Both engines get the convenience of an AMT, though it's the larger engine that delivers the stronger performance and is the one to buy. The AMT is also pretty smooth, with shifts happening in a timely manner. Do note, as spacious, practical and easy-to-drive the Maruti Suzuki Wagon R is, it's not an ideal highway car.



Renault Kwid

If you're on a very tight budget but still want an automatic, the Renault Kwid is a good buy. Some may not like the rotary dial for the AMT and the lack of a manual mode, but the system works well enough with the 68hp, 1.0-litre engine. The addition of a creep mode has also helped the experience in town. Drivers will also appreciate the addition of Android Auto and Apple CarPlay functionality to the touchscreen.



Hyundai Santro

The Santro is the first Hyundai to come with an AMT gearbox. The transmission is smooth and refined, with minimal pauses between gearshifts. There's also a Tiptronic mode on offer, to shift gears manually. The budget hatchback has a spacious cabin and comes loaded with kit. However, the Hyundai Santro AMT is pricier than its rivals, and the cost-cutting measures are a bit too evident in some areas.

Maruti Suzuki Celerio

The Celerio popularised AMT gearboxes in India. The unit has been refined over the years, and today, it is relatively smooth-shifting and its creep function works reasonably well. The fuel economy from the 68hp, 1.0-litre petrol engine is another plus point. Of the other things, the Maruti Celerio's cabin space is a highlight, but the interior lacks features that are offered on other affordable models.

Tata Tiago

The AMT adds a dose of convenience to the already-likeable Tata Tiago. Like rivals, a manual mode and a creep function are standard, though there's also a 'Sport' mode that helps performance to some degree. Sure, the Tata AMT system isn't the slickest around, but the Tiago's cabin space, big car demeanour, and genuine value make it a great choice for automatic buyers on a budget. Tata also recently updated the model with more safety kit and added a top-spec Tiago XZA+ automatic variant that is loaded with kit, but exceeds the ₹6 lakh mark.



POOCH CAFE



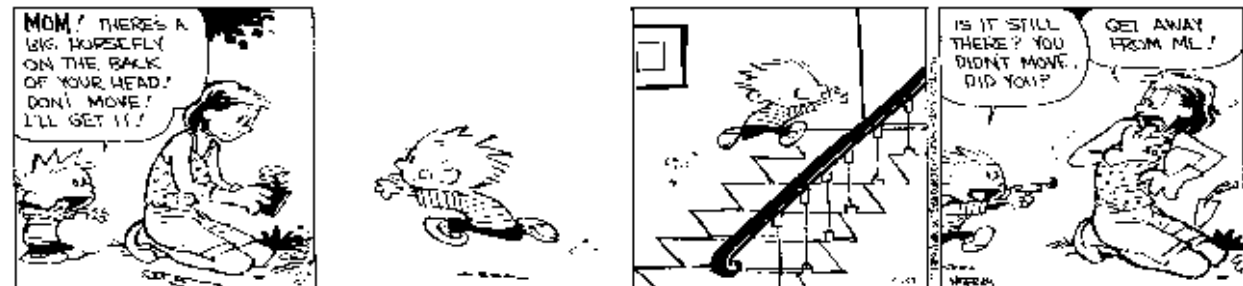
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



TIGER



GRAFFITI
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Procrastinators live in the yesterday

HEALTH CAPSULES
by Bron Smith

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Across

- Fabled one-eyed giant (7)
- Body of troops arranged in a line (7)
- Most humble (7)
- Means of execution (3,4)
- First premier of the Soviet Union, d. 1924 (5)
- Based on personal accounts, possibly unreliable (9)
- Stinks (9)
- Praise (5)
- Person from Barcelona? (7)
- Young children's horses? (3-4)
- Unintentional self-inflicted harm (3,4)
- Give someone the right (7)

Down

- Beast of burden (5)
- Innocent (5)
- Quite exceptional person (3,2,1,7)
- Light upon (6)
- Equestrian competition (5-3,5)
- Very nearly (6)
- Introduce publicly for the first time (6)
- Per head (4)
- Florence's river (4)
- Slightly crazy – bird (6)
- Still in existence (6)
- Confused interwoven mass (6)
- (Make a) chirping noise (5)
- (Fabric woven with) a fine cotton thread (5)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 1, 2019.

Solution No. 13135

C	R	I	T	I	C	I	S	M	P	R
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WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

