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NEARBY

Akbar denies sexual assault allegations

NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister M.J. Akbar on Saturday denied allegations of sexual assault levelled by four journalists while being cross-examined in a defamation case filed by him against senior scribe Priya Ramani. The case will now come up for the recording of complainant's remaining witnesses' evidence on July 15.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

Jaipur gets UNESCO World Heritage tag

JAIPUR

Jaipur, celebrated for its grid plan-based architecture and buildings of pink façades, on Saturday entered the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It was among the seven sites worldwide to have made it to the list.
The decision was taken by the World Heritage Committee at the UNESCO's 43rd session at Baku, Azerbaijan.

LIFE ▸ PAGE 20

MAGAZINE ▸ 32 PAGES (TABLOID)
CLASSIFIEDS ▸ PAGE 4 & 6

Karnataka govt. teeters as 12 lawmakers resign

9 Cong., 3 JD(S) MLAs hand over letters to Speaker's office

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a day of dramatic developments that brought the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government in Karnataka to the brink of collapse, 12 MLAs of the ruling coalition submitted their resignations to the Assembly Speaker's office on Saturday.

While Anand Singh (Congress) had resigned on Monday, 12 MLAs – three from the JD(S) and nine from the Congress – submitted their resignation letters on Saturday, taking the total to 13. The Speaker has said he will look into the resignations when he returns to his office on Tuesday.

It is being speculated that more resignations are in the offing next week. Late on Saturday, 10 of the MLAs who had resigned left for Mumbai after a meeting with Governor Vajubhai Vala at the Raj Bhavan.

The resignations come at a time when Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and State Congress president Dinesh Gundu Rao are on private visits to the U.S. and the U.K. Both leaders are expected to return to Bengaluru on Sunday.

Jumping ship: JD(S) MLA A. H. Vishwanath and others talking to the media in Bengaluru on Saturday. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

An experiment

If the resignations are accepted, the 13-month-old government would be reduced to a minority, ending an experiment that began after the 2018 Assembly elections to keep the BJP out of power.

At the end of Saturday, the coalition's strength (if the resignations are accepted) stood at 105. This is inclusive of the Speaker, suspended Congress MLA Roshan Baig and two Independent MLAs who are Ministers.

The MLAs who resigned on Saturday are former JD(S) State president A. H. Vishwanath (Hunsur), K. Gopaliah (Mahalakshmi Layout) and Narayana Gowda (K.R. Pet), all JD(S).

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
NO ROLE IN RESIGNATIONS, SAYS YEDDYURAPPA ▸ PAGE 10
CONGRESS ACCUSES BJP OF HORSE TRADING ▸ PAGE 10

'Jai Shri Ram' a pretext to beat up people: Sen

STAFF REPORTER
KOLKATA

Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has said the slogan 'Jai Shri Ram' is being used as a pretext to beat people up and that a new culture is being imported to promote "divisive politics" in West Bengal.

The affinity towards the slogan was a recent development in the State, and it was not always part of its culture, Dr. Sen said on Friday at an interaction with students of Jadavpur University.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
SEE ALSO ▸ PAGE 11

Hitman on the prowl again

Incredible run: Rohit Sharma's fifth century of the tournament — a new record — and K.L. Rahul's first hundred in the World Cup powered India to a seven-wicket win against Sri Lanka in the final league game at Headingley, Leeds, on Saturday. ▪ AP (PAGE 17)

Govt. keeps options open for more fuel price hikes

T.C.A. SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

While the Budget has effected a hike in the duties and cess on petrol and diesel amounting to ₹2 per litre, the government has given itself the leeway for a further increase of levies by ₹5 per litre, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced a ₹1/litre increase in the Special Additional Duty on petrol and diesel and a ₹1/litre increase in the Road and Infrastructure Cess on the fuels in Friday's Budget speech.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
START-UPS HAPPY ▸ PAGE 13

Budget does not ignore middle class: Nirmala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday sought to quell complaints that the Budget had ignored the middle class and punished the rich, and that the government was turning protectionist in trade policies.

She said the proposals for infrastructure and affordable housing would help the middle class, and the tax hike should be viewed as a sharing of responsibility rather than a measure to punish the rich.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE ▸ PAGE 11

Kejriwal launches project for CCTVs in all Delhi govt. schools

Cameras to be installed in over 1,000 schools by November

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday inaugurated a project for installation of CCTV cameras at all government schools in the Capital.

Terming the project a "historic milestone", Mr. Kejriwal said over 1,000 government schools in the city will be equipped with CCTV cameras by November this year.

"It's a historic milestone in school education in the country and the world as live feed from classrooms will be provided to parents on their mobile phones through an app," Mr. Kejriwal said, adding that private schools have already been directed to instal CCTV cameras.

Under the project, two CCTV cameras will be installed in each classroom. Entire school premises, barring the washrooms, will be under 360-degree coverage of the cameras and their feed will be monitored from a control room.

Parents of students will be able to get live feed through the 'DGS Live' app, which can be downloaded from Google Play Store. The parents will be able to access live classroom feed after proper verification.

Arvind Kejriwal during the inauguration event at a school in Lajpat Nagar on Saturday. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

'No privacy breach'

Dismissing concerns that the CCTV cameras would compromise privacy of the schoolchildren, the Chief Minister said that the initiative will help improve results of Delhi government schools next year. "There will be no privacy breach, children go to school for education, to learn discipline and become good citizens of the country... They do not go there for anything private," he said, adding that the CCTVs will ensure children's safety and instil discipline in them.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio, said that Shaheed Hemu Kalani Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in Lajpat Nagar, where the project was launched, had become the country's first government school to have CCTV camera coverage.

Sunny Deol's poll spend over EC limits

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

BJP MP Sunny Deol's 2019 Lok Sabha election-related expenditure has been found to be in excess of the statutory limit of ₹70 lakh.

Mr. Deol, the BJP MP from Gurdaspur in Punjab, has reportedly spent ₹78,51,592 – around ₹8.51 lakh above the limit.

Gurdaspur District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Vipul Ujjwal on Saturday told *The Hindu*, "With regard to Mr. Sunny Deol, the amount we have reconciled during a recent account reconciliation meeting was found to be in excess of ₹70 lakh. We compared the expenses of Mr. Deol with our 'shadow registers' and found there were some gaps."

"We have sent a report to Punjab Chief Electoral Officer and it is for the higher authorities to take a further call," said Mr. Ujwal. A copy of the report has been sent to the Election Commission of India, said Punjab's Chief Electoral Officer S. Karuna Raju.

Radio jockey arrested for hit-and-run

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A 34-year-old radio jockey was arrested on Saturday in connection with an alleged hit-and-run case in which a man died last week, the police said.

A barcode on a mudflap of an SUV led to the arrest of Ankit Gulati, a resident of Patel Nagar.

The police had to scan over 300 black SUVs before they were able to track him down.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 5

Soon, docs to prescribe only generics

Govt. considering amendments to Drugs and Cosmetics Rules

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central government is considering amendments to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, to ensure that registered medical practitioners dispense only generic medicines.

The matter was recently brought before the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

"A proposal was received by the CDSCO committee wherein the DCC was apprised that registered medical practitioners can supply different categories of medicines, including vaccines to their patients under the exemption provided, with certain conditions, under Schedule K of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945," a senior health official said.

As of now, there are no specified types of medicines which can be supplied by doctors to their patients, the official added.

It is now proposed that registered medical practitioners shall supply generic medicines only, and physicians' samples shall be supplied free of cost.

The Indian Medical Association said that it is planning to meet the drug control authorities on the issue later this month.

IMA welcomes move

A senior member of the association said, "While we welcome the move to ensure that generic medicines are supplied, the government also has to ensure easy availability, unclogged supply chain, and strict quality control of generic medicines."

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OUR RESULTS IN 2019 : 158 SELECTIONS ALREADY (TILL DATE)

TRIPURA JS-2019 | HP JS-2019 | DELHI JUDICIAL SERVICES RESULTS, 2019 (MAY) - 95 Selections out of 126

JHARKHAND HJS 2018-19: Rank 1 Sanjeev Bhatia; Rank 15 Anjani Anuj

UPSC IAS 2018-19: Rank 668 Aahuti Dev

GUJARAT JUDICIAL SERVICES RESULTS, 2019: Rank 1 Ridhima V. Johari; Rank 18 Devanshu Sharma; Rank 20 Bhoomika J.K. Palsania; Rank 21 Anmol S.S. Goel; Rank 29 Saumya Rai; Rank 34 Supreet K. Gaba

DELHI JUDICIAL SERVICES RESULTS, 2019 (JAN.) - 27 Selections out of 32

ASSAM JUDICIAL SERVICES RESULT 2019: Rank 2 Nadia Rahman

M.P. JUDICIAL SERVICES RESULTS, 2019 - 22 Selections.

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SUNDAY, JULY 07				
RISE	05:30	SET	19:23	
RISE	10:11	SET	23:16	
MONDAY, JULY 08				
RISE	05:30	SET	19:23	
RISE	11:15	SET	23:54	
TUESDAY, JULY 09				
RISE	05:30	SET	19:23	
RISE	12:18	SET	00:00	

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

Delhi Palam Today
36ºC Warm and humid weather is likely to continue. Sky will be cloudy. There are chances of rain.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35ºC A hazy and dusty morning lies ahead. Day will be warm and humid.

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Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	88	Gurugram	65
Ghaziabad	81	Faridabad	56
Noida	75	Greater Noida	78

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

IN BRIEF

DTC Union joins CATS employees' protest

NEW DELHI

The DTC Employees Ekta Union, comprising contractual employees of the public transporter's rolls, who has been demanding permanent appointments joined an ongoing demonstration by CATS employees outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence here on Saturday. The CATS Union have been demanding permanent employment as well as a rollback of what it alleges is an attempt by the Delhi government to "privatise" it

Five held in temple vandalism case

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Sunday held five more people, including four juveniles, in Hauz Qazi temple vandalism case. The police said that total 17 people have been held in the case till now. The case is under investigation and more people will be arrested after being identified in CCTV footage. Police personnel are still deployed in the area for maintaining order.

18-month-old toddler hit by car, dies

NEW DELHI

A toddler died after being hit by an SUV in Herat Nagar of North-West district, the police said on Saturday. DCP (North-West) Vijayanta Arya, said that the 18-month-old girl of Bharat Nagar Colony was killed by the vehicle inside the residential colony. The driver was about to reach the main road when he hit the girl. The victim's parents are construction labourers working at a site in the colony.

DELHI TODAY

Music: An evening of Rabindra Sangeet by Aditi Gupta at Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Dance: Bharatanatyam Arangetram of N. Shivaranjani, a disciple of Guru Vijayalakshmi Ramanan at Delhi Tamil Sangam, R.K. Puram, 6.30 p.m.

Exhibition: Vibhor's VIBGYOR, a solo show by Vibhor Gupta at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Colours of the Himalayas", a solo painting show by Shabnam A. Singh at Visual Arts Gallery, IHC, 11 a.m.-7 pm.

Screening: "Beside me", a Romanian film, directed by Tedy Necula will be screened as part of the ongoing European Union Film Festival at Gulmohar Hall, IHC, 7 pm.

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

THE HINDU
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From wells to '*kundas*', a steep switch for Haryana villages

Underground reservoirs, replenished with water procured from private tankers, help Nagina tehsil residents meet everyday needs

ASHOK KUMAR
NUH

Most households in Madhi village in Nuh's Nagina tehsil have underground reservoirs, locally known as *kundas*, to meet their daily need of water for drinking, washing and cooking as well as for their cattle.

Having a population of around 3,000, the village is at a distance of around 100 km from the national Capital.

"Till a decade ago, the women and men of the village used to fetch drinking water on foot or on bicycles from a well in the neighbouring village. But it gradually dried up. These *kundas* have come up across the village over the past few years. They are replenished with water procured through private tankers, costing ₹800-₹1,000 per tanker. The water usually lasts for 10-15 days," said Mohammad Majlis, a villager.

Majlis, an operation theatre technician at Gurugram's Medanta Hospital, said a monthly expenditure of around ₹2,000 on drinking water was "too much" for the locals since most of them were poor farmers or those engaged in jobs with monthly incomes of ₹10,000-₹12,000.

Parched land: (Left) A dried pond at Madhi village; residents collect drinking water from a cemented water tank in Nuh, Haryana. ▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Saline groundwater

The groundwater in this part of the district is saline, making it unfit for drinking and its level too has gone down. The lone pond in the village also dries up every summer, adding to the woes of the villagers.

Irshad, another villager, said the natural course of rainwater to the pond was hindered by the construction of a school, reducing the amount of water reaching the pond and causing it to dry up every six months.

"The cattle suffer the most when the pond dries up. Since we cannot afford water to drink and cook, bathing the cattle becomes almost impossible," he added.

Erratic water supply

Though the authorities laid water pipelines to the village several years ago, the villagers complained that the supply was "erratic". "We do not get water for weeks together. Sometimes there is no water for months. The situation is more or less the same all through the year. But there is slight relief when the pond is replenished during monsoon," said Shamim Ahmed, a local.

A similar situation prevails in more than two dozen villages in Nagina tehsil. The ponds dry up every summer and the locals, heavily dependent on private tankers for their everyday water needs, are forced to dig up *kundas* to store water.

But there are people like Jamil, running a cigarette kiosk on the Nuh-Alwar highway in Madhi, who cannot even afford a "kunda" whose construction costs around ₹ 30,000-40,000.

He is at the mercy of his fellow villagers to meet his family's daily need for water and usually "begs" for it. "Sometimes I contribute to the payment made to the water tanker by those who have a *kunda*," said Jamil.

Ganduri resident Mohhamad Akil complained that water stored for too long in *kundas* sometimes caused skin ailments and other illnesses, but the villagers have little choice.

"More than half of Nuh district faces water crisis with Nagina tehsil being the worst affected. The water supply to Nagina is erratic and the groundwater level has gone down. Almost all ponds across the district dry up during the summer. Plans for their revival remain mostly on paper," said social activist Saleem Khan.

> **More than half of Nuh district faces water crisis with Nagina tehsil being the worst affected. The water supply to Nagina is erratic and the groundwater level has gone down**
>
> SALEEM KHAN
> Social activist

Brisk tanker business

With the authorities failing to meet the drinking water needs of the people of the district, private water tanker owners do brisk business all through the year, especially in the summer.

Owners of agricultural land at the foothills of the Aravalis have drilled borewells and sell groundwater to private tanker owners, who in turn supply it to the villages across the district.

Amjad, one such landowner, told *The Hindu* that he replenished 18-20 tankers every day during the summer, but the number decreased to almost half during the winter.

"We have laid a pipeline from our land in Khoiri village to Rajaka Pul and supply water to private tankers. There are around a dozen such points across the district," claimed Amjad.

Private tanker owner Saad, who takes water from Amjad at Rajaka Pul point, claimed that he made around ₹20,000 per month by supplying water to villages like Badkali, Kreda, Kithurpuri, Mandi, Notki and Khwajlika.

The estimated demand for private tankers in the district is around 100-125 per day, mostly in the Nagina tehsil. The tankers also supply water to Ferozepur Jhirka, Punhana, Tauru and Nuh tehsils but the demand there is lesser.

Government measures

Executive engineer, Public Health and Engineering Department (Punhana division), Vinod Siroha conceded that there was a shortage of water in a few villages in Nagina tehsil as they were at the tail end of the 73-km-long pipeline carrying water from rainy wells. "Being at the tail end, these villages in Nagina tehsil don't get adequate water during the summer due to increased demand. Frequent and long power cuts also hamper water supply to these villages. We plan to set up another integrated boosting system to augment water supply in this area soon," said Mr. Siroha.

He said water was supplied to around 160 villages under his jurisdiction through more than 5,000 tankers over the past two months to make up for the erratic supply through pipelines.

His claim was strongly contested by the villagers. Jalapur village sarpanch Sakunat's husband Jaan Mohammad said not a single government tanker ever came to his village. Lukman, another villager, said that he had never seen a government water tanker in the village all these years.

'Large part of J&K under Pak. occupation because of Nehru'

BJP blames first PM; marks party founder's birth anniversary

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The BJP blamed former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for "mistakes" which had ensured that a "large part of Kashmir" was under "the occupation of Pakistan", at an event to mark the birth anniversary of the party's founder Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee here on Saturday.

The party's senior leadership, which included its national organisation general secretary Ramlal, national vice-president and Delhi incharge Shyam Jaju, organisation general secretary Siddharthan, Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Vijender Gupta, former Union Minister Vijay Goel and MPs Meenakshi Lekhi and Pravesh Verma among others paid floral tributes to Dr. Mukherjee at the Shahidi Park.

'Mistakes committed'

"A large part of Kashmir is under the occupation of Pakistan due to the mistakes committed by Jawaharlal Nehru. Congress always played the politics of splitting the country and we believe in taking all together," Mr. Ramlal said.

"Dr. Mukherjee wanted to make Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of India. At that time Jammu and Kashmir had a separate flag and separate Constitution. Dr. Mukherjee was not only a nationalist but he also sacrificed his entire life for the unity and integrity of the country. On his birth anniversary, all of us should pledge that we will end the anti national thinking from his native state," he said further.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said that Dr. Mukherjee had strongly opposed 'Do Vidhaan-Do Pradhaan and Do Nishaan' in the country.

"He [Dr. Mukherjee] had also sought to end Article 370 in his speeches in Parliament. In a massive rally in August, 1952, in Jammu he had expressed his pledge that either I will give you the Indian Constitution or I will sacrifice my life for the fulfilment of this objective. Taking pledge for realising the dreams of Dr. Mukherjee will be the real tribute to him," he said.

Stage set for BJP's membership drive today

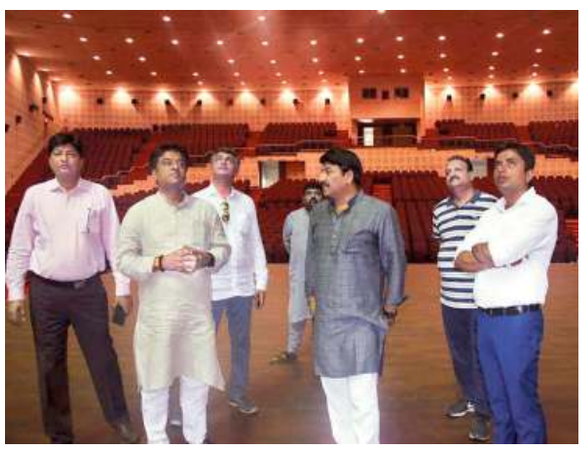
Party to enrol 'eminent personalities' as members; Tiwari inspects preparations

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP will enrol several "eminent personalities" from the Capital as members at a significant programme related to the party's national membership drive to be held here on Sunday.

The party's State chief Manoj Tiwari, on Saturday, inspected preparations being made for the 'Sangathan Parv' at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium even as he said that the drive would prove to be a "milestone" for the BJP's victory in the Delhi Assembly elections scheduled early next year.

"The membership campaign has already been launched today by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president Amit Shah and will be launched at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in a big programme tomorrow for which all the preparations have been completed," Mr. Tiwari said.



State BJP chief Manoj Tiwari inspects preparations ahead of the 'Sangathan Parv', at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Saturday. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BJP national vice-president and national membership campaign head Shivraj Singh Chauhan will inaugurate the campaign at the stadium on Sunday, the party said in a statement.

Strengthening step

"The Sangathan Parv-Sadasyata Abhiyan is a step to strengthen the party because members are the backbone of any organisation. This has become more important because the Assembly elections are going to be held in Delhi shortly. We are confident that we will achieve the target for enrolling more and more new members and strengthen the party, which will prove to be a milestone in ensuring a victory in the Assembly elections," Mr. Tiwari added.

> **We are confident that we will achieve the target for enrolling more and more new members and strengthen the party, which will prove to be a milestone in ensuring a victory in the Assembly elections**
>
> MANOJ TIWARI
> State BJP chief

DU: 36,000 admissions in second list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

More than 36,000 students have been admitted to Delhi University after the second cut-off list, according to data shared by the varsity. After 751 withdrawals since the beginning of admissions, the number of admissions stand at 36,850, the varsity said.

After the second cut-off, 3,069 cancellations have happened, it added.

Saturday was the last day of admission after the second cut-off was announced on Wednesday.

According to Hindu College principal Anju Srivastava, B.Com (Honours), B.A. (Honours) economics and physical science have seen a high number of admissions.

AAP appoints new district in-charges

Move to rejuvenate the party cadres

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday announced new district in-charges for all 14 districts units of the party in Delhi, ahead of the Assembly elections due early next year.

"The AAP has begun its preparations to strengthen the party organisation for the upcoming Assembly election. The party is appointing fresh faces to lead each of the 14 districts as district in-charges [DIs]. They have been tasked with strengthening the grassroots-level organisation of the party. The next step will be to restructure the booth level organisation," AAP Delhi in-charge Gopal Rai said.

Gopal Rai

Fresh faces, with new ideas and perspectives, have been included by the party to rejuvenate the party cadres with energy and enthusiasm, he said.

"The restructuring of the party organisation is aimed at kick-starting the preparations for the Assembly elections that the party is going into," an official statement read.

Tiwari holds *Janata Durbar* for residents of his constituency

Residents complain about water, power and pension issues

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP president and North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari on Saturday invited residents from his parliamentary constituency to meet him regarding issues being faced by them at a Janata Durbar which he held at his office here.

The citizens who met Mr. Tiwari, complained about issues broadly relating to water, power, admissions to schools, issues related to widows' and senior citizens' pension, free treatment to the poor, police and other problems related to administration.

After listening to their complaints, Mr. Tiwari said, "The poor people of the area are suffering due to lack of medical services besides the failure of Delhi government to provide education according to the interest of the students."

At many places, Mr. Tiwari alleged, citizens complained of facing shortage of water and while some alleged they were not getting pensions meant for widows and senior citizens.

Attack AAP

"If the Ayushman Bharat Yojna is implemented in Delhi, the poor people may get the treatment up to ₹5 lakh. If *Naakampanthi* [Chief Minister Arvind] Kejriwal could realise the sufferings of the people of Delhi then people in such large numbers may not have come here to complain," he alleged.

The North East Delhi MP also took the opportunity to attack the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government even as he assured those who met him to taking their complaints up at the "appropriate level".

"The time has now come to dislodge the Kejriwal government and ensure basic amenities to the people. The problems about which we have been informed will be solved at the appropriate level and more such programmes will be held so that we may be able to learn about the problems of the people and free them from the misgovernance of Kejriwal," he added.

Delhi Cong. to protest against BJP leader

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Saturday said that party workers will hold a demonstration outside BJP leader Subramanian Swamy's house, on Sunday, to protest against his remarks on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Mr. Subramanian on Friday had alleged that the outgoing Congress president "consumes cocaine" and that Mr. Gandhi would "fail the dope test". Mr. Swamy's comments came after Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh's order of a mandatory dope test for all government employees. DPCC working president Rajesh Lilothia termed the charges as "unwarranted and baseless".

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M.J. Akbar denies sexual assault allegations

During cross-examination in court, he says not aware of article by scribe on sexual misconduct on his part

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister M.J. Akbar on Saturday denied allegations of sexual assault levelled by four journalists while being cross-examined in a defamation case filed by him against senior scribe Priya Ramani.

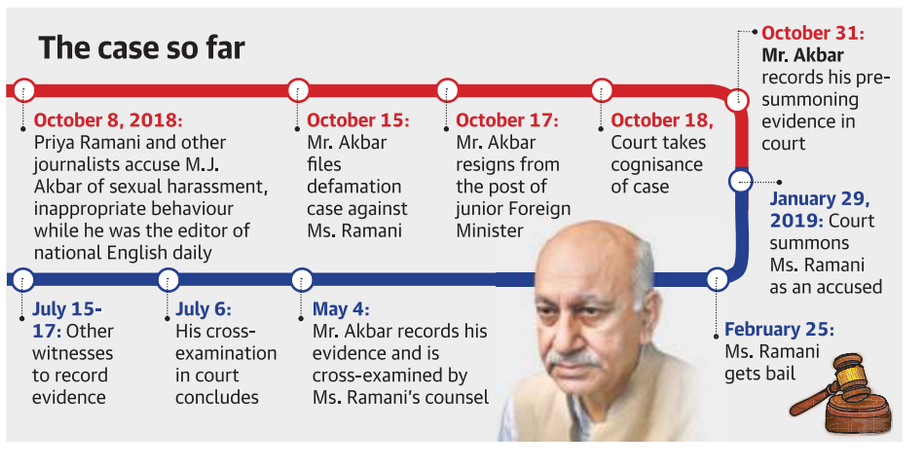
Replying to queries during his examination in the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal, Mr. Akbar said, "It is wrong to suggest that one of the scribespublicly recounted her experience of being sexually assaulted by me while she interned at The Asian Age as an 18-year-old."

Mr. Akbar said he could not recall whether he received an email from her father or replied to it with an apology. He added that he was not aware that she is a journalist of international repute.

Regarding another journalist, the former Minister said he was not aware of any article written by her recounting several instances of sexual misconduct on his part. "If any such article is there then it is wrong and the allegations, if any, are denied," Mr. Akbar said.

About his another colleague at The Asian Age, he said, "I worked with her in 1994 at The Asian Age. I was made aware of an article written by her in The Washington Post dated 01.11.2018. But I deny all those allegations."

Mr. Akbar further said he was not aware whether she had recounted her account in The Washington Post later in her tweets.



'Not aware of tweets'

Talking about another woman, who worked at The Asian Age as feature editor from 2000 to 2002, Mr. Akbar said he was not aware of her tweets earlier when the same was shown to him.

He also denied that the witnesses who deposed in his favour at the pre-summoning stage were tutored ones. The cross-examination of the former Minister has concluded.

The case will now come up for the recording of complainant's remaining witnesses evidence on July 15 and 17.

Noida man duped of ₹80,000 in ATM fraud; accused on the run

Victim's debit card was with him at the time: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An employee of a private company lost ₹80,000 after a fraudster allegedly withdrew the money from his account from an ATM in Delhi, the police said.

An FIR was registered by the cybercrime unit of Noida police on Thursday.

Abhinandan Das, who works with a real estate company, said he received two SMSes on Wednesday and two on Thursday regarding the withdrawal of the money from his account from an ATM in Delhi's Ghonda.

He received the first SMS on Wednesday at 11.47 p.m. stating that ₹20,000 was withdrawn from his account. The total amount was withdrawn in four instalments as the fraudster was aware that the customer has set the maximum withdrawal limit at ₹40,000 per day.

> We have asked the bank to provide CCTV footage of the ATM from where the money was withdrawn
>
> POLICE OFFICER

In two instalments

The victim alleged that ₹40,000 was withdrawn on Wednesday at 11. 47 p.m. in two instalments and the same amount was withdrawn on Thursday at 12.03 a.m.

"The debit card was with me at that time. I had got a chip-embedded card to avoid any cloning or any other online frauds but it seems that the accused managed to break the high-security features," he said.

The police said a case under relevant sections of the Information and Technology Act has been registered. They will contact the bank where the complainant has an account.

"We have asked the bank to provide CCTV footage of the ATM from where the money was withdrawn. We need to find out how the cybercriminals got access to the details of the customer," said an officer.

Man held for duping 1,000 persons of over ₹1.5 crore

Lured victims from across India on the pretext of giving them lucky draw prizes

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 27-year-old man has been arrested from Kalkaji for allegedly duping over 1,000 persons of more than ₹1.5 crore in the past one year across the country on the pretext of giving them lucky draw prizes, the police said on Saturday.

Deepak Negi from Sangam Vihar was arrested on Monday, they said. The police said one teacher from Odisha filed a complaint in May against an e-commerce company – Key4kart.com.

Deepak Negi in police custody. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The complainant stated that in April 2018, she received a call from the company, which lured her to shop on its website to win a bike in a lucky draw, they said. She was asked to submit some part of the prize value along with her photo and Aadhaar card.

She then transferred ₹62,649 but did not get any prize.

In another similar incident, a person from Gujarat was duped of ₹5.84 lakh, the police said.

"During investigation, the police got the details of the company through a bank statement and identified Negi as the owner. He had an office in Kalkaji in the name of another company," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Chinmoy Biswal.

During interrogation, Negi said he and his associates – Parmeshwar, Manmohan, Bharat Lalwani and Ansh Lalwani –, started the company. They duped people on the pretext of contest and lucky draws, the DCP said.

They kept on changing the locations and registering new companies at various addresses by taking properties on rent, Mr. Verma said. They used to hire and train undergraduate men and women for making the calls.

Items recovered

Two laptops and cheque books were recovered from his possession, they said, adding that teams are trying to nab his associates.

Hanging by the thread

No life coach: Commuters hang on to doors and windows of a moving train near Old Delhi. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Two men held for stealing laptops, mobiles from train passengers

They targeted Vande Bharat and Shatabdi Express trains: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Government Railway Police arrested two men for allegedly stealing laptops and mobiles phones of passengers on the Vande Bharat and Shatabdi Express trains, said officials on Saturday.

(From left) Ezaz Ahmad Malik and Saddam Hussain. ▪ SPECIAL AARRANGEMENT

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Railway) D.K. Gupta said Ezaz Ahmad Malik from Kashmir's Pulwama and Saddam Hussain from central Delhi's Jama Masjid, have been arrested.

"We have recovered three laptops and two mobile phones from their possession. The articles were stolen from the New Delhi Railway Station. Total seven cases of mobile phone and laptop thefts have been worked out," said Mr. Gupta.

He said they had got a complaint regarding a passenger's laptop being stolen from Vande Bharat train on May 20. "We obtained CCTV footage from the coach where the theft was reported. Meanwhile, we got a similar complaint from another passenger travelling in Shatabdi Express," said Mr. Gupta.

The CCTV footage was thoroughly examined and a person was spotted carrying the laptop bag of the complainant. It was circulated among informer groups after which Ezaz Ahmad was nabbed.

During interrogation, Ezaz revealed that after stealing the laptop, he sold it to Sadam, the police added.

Bike-borne men snatch purse from woman

Cops refused to lodge FIR: victim

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two bike-borne men allegedly snatched a purse from a woman outside her home in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar, the police said on Saturday.

The incident was reported on July 2 at 9.45 p.m. when Maya Yadav was outside her house. Two men on a bike came near her when one of them snatched a purse from her hand and sped off. The entire incident was captured on a CCTV camera installed in the area.

However, the police refused to lodge an FIR, the victim alleged.

After persuasion, the investigating officer registered the case under sections of theft and did not check the CCTV footage, the victim alleged.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Jasmeet Singh said he just got to know about the incident. He has ordered registration of an FIR under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code.

Maya Yadav. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> On July 4, the IO gave me an e-FIR but that was of theft. I provided him with the CCTV footage. In e-FIR, the IO mentioned that my purse was missing from outside my house. I demand strict action
>
> MAYA YADAV
> Vitcim

"We have ordered detail inquiry over the role of policemen into the matter. If found guilty, disciplinary action will be taken against them," said Mr. Singh.

Ms. Yadav alleged that her family members made a PCR call at 10.05 p.m. An Investigating officer reached her house and recorded her statement but did not register FIR into the matter.

"On July 4, the IO gave me an e-FIR but that was of theft. I provided him with the CCTV footage. In e-FIR, the IO mentioned that my purse was missing from outside of my house. I demand strict action against the snatchers and the policemen," added Ms. Yadav.

Burglar posing as key maker held

'He would come from Indore for a few days to steal items'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A man who posed as a key maker to gain access to victims' valuables has been arrested for allegedly committing several burglaries. The accused periodically came to the city from Indore, committed a few burglaries, and then went back to Madhya Pradesh to sell the stolen items, said the police.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Meghna Yadav said they got a complaint from a woman on April 23 about a burglary at her house in Gandhi Nagar. The complainant said she suspected a key maker to be involved.

The woman said she had called a key maker to make a duplicate key for her almirah. The accused tried to make a duplicate key for over 90 minutes after which he left the house, promising to return the next day with more tools, the police said.

After this, the woman checked the almirah and discovered gold ornaments worth ₹2.5 lakh missing from the locker. She informed her family members and reported the matter at Gandhi Nagar police station.

During the probe, the team checked CCTV cameras in the area and spotted the suspect. "We found out that the suspect's name was Sunil and he was traced to Paharganj," said Ms. Yadav.

On June 4, acting on a tip-off, a team checked the hotels in Paharganj and nabbed the accused. He was identified as Sunil Singh from Indore. The accused disclosed his involvement in several cases of burglary with the same modus operandi. He said that he had sold the gold items to a jeweller in Indore.

"He and other associates come from Indore and checked-in at a hotel in Paharganj. They commit burglary by posing as key makers and go back to Indore and other cities of MP to sell the stolen items," added Ms. Yadav.

Three arrested for killing man over personal enmity in east Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Three men were arrested for allegedly killing a person over personal enmity in east Delhi's Gazipur on Saturday, the police said.

The accused have been identified as Neketan (21), Mohit (20) and Raj Kumar (26), all residents of Rajbir Colony in Delhi, they said.

They had killed 22-year-old Ravi following a drunken brawl on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Jasmeet Singh said, "Ravi had attacked the Neketan's brother with blade and snatched his phone around one-and-a-half years ago."

On Thursday, Ravi came to the accused persons in a drunken state and asked them to get wine for him, the police said.

Following this, a fight ensued between them when Neketan along with Mohit and Raj Kumar, strangulated him.

The accused had fled the spot after the crime, the police added.

Civil rights bodies urge Minister to defend forest dwellers' rights in SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Civil rights organisations on Saturday wrote to Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda and all States, drawing their attention to issues related to proper implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and urging them to convincingly defend the law in an ongoing case in the Supreme Court.

The FRA recognises the rights of forest-dwelling communities, many of them Scheduled Tribes, over the land they have inhabited traditionally.

'Illegal forest dwellers'

On February 13, the apex court had ordered the eviction of 11.8 lakh "illegal forest dwellers" whose claim for land rights had been rejected.

However, on February 28, it stayed the ruling and directed the states to file affidavits detailing the process adopted in rejecting the claims. The next hearing is scheduled for July 12.

Bhumi Adhikar Andolan, an alliance of more than 300 organisations working for rights of forest dwellers, urged Munda and all the states to "put forward credible defense of the FRA in the court and ensure that the order evicting the tribals and other traditional forest dwellers is annulled".

The letter also urged them "not to fall prey to the impression that there is no need for the Supreme Court's February 13 order to be recalled or modified after the February 28 stay order".

The interpretation of the FRA is not only faulty but also not supported by law. It tends to compound the historical injustice that the law seeks to undo, the civil rights organisations claimed.

They also claimed the performance of the states with regard to the recognition of community forest resource rights and habitat rights has been abysmal and flawed.

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By R.C. Sinha
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कार्यशाला के साथ बैच प्रारंभ
इतिहास BY Hemant Jha JULY 08 08:30am
समाजशास्त्र BY Dharmendra Dharmendra's Sociology JULY 08 08:30am
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MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
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Bihari
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HINDU NADAR /24 /B.E/ PVT /3.5Lak / P.ASG Durainadar Chromepet Ch–44 044–48573284, 6381576005 10am– 6pm

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Contact: 9443043948, 9443666487

BALIJA/GAVARA 26/160 M.E Energy Engg,Lecturer,Chennai (Only Daughter) Punarpusam.Seeks Govt,Bank Groom 26 to 30yrs. Ct:9444147074,9940697055

1973/171 NAIDU MBA slim good looking working seeks groom below 49yrs. 9444663564 dlokeswaran@yahoo.co.in

BALIJANAIDU (ONLYCHILD) v.fair 24/ 162 M.Arch/Architect/MNC/Chennai 50Kpm seek groom 9380471999/ 9384884888

NAIDU, V.BEAUTIFUL, 27/165, B.E (E& C), SWE, INFOSYS, 50000PM, Seeks any profnl, 9500085718, 9003077746

KAMMA (B'LORE) 25/160 B.Tech (IIST) beautiful bride Central Govt Employee NoDemands 8880088856/ 9382554555

CASTENOBAR 23/167 v.beautiful B.Tech, MBA(IIM) MNC/Chennai seeks any graduate 9840046277/9848197222

BALIJANAIDU FAIR 28/162 BE(ECE) State Bank Manager/Chennai 60Kpm seeks India/abroad 9345563793/ 9384887888

CASTENOBAR V.BEAUTIFUL 23/170 BArch welltodo business famly seek India/abroad groom 9385599077/ 9385599011

NAIDU PADHMA Velama, Graduate, 1981, Aswini, Mesham, Seeks Decent Settled Family Only. Ph: 9380157836

TELUGU

REDDY 35/165 ME, Veg, Divorce, No Child, empld in Chennai, seeks below 40yrs without child. 9884635286

TELUGU KAAPU, 39, MS, USA, SWE Seeks Groom Employeed Profession in U.S.9490743746.

URDU

SMU 25/162CM Graduate From Decent Well Settled Family. Contact: 9092186127, 9841736622.

SMU PARENTS Seeking allaince Daughter 28/168 M.D final year. Preferably Post Graduate Doctors. 9791106339

SMU Syed 38 unmarried Govt. employee, Gazetted, seeks suitable qualified religious groom having good family background. Ph: 9495519229, s.fahidha@yahoo.com

CHENNAI URUDU Parents seeks alliance from Qualified, clean habit groom for educated, religious, fair & Homely daughter (Khula): 7397428335

SMU 30 /BDS Slim Emp. Chennai settled 3yr Son Khula seeks, BDS/BE Ch. Groom Watsapp 9841388975, 9841384247

41/ 5" 3', Ph D CSE, Wheatish, Sunni. Contact: 9182973484

✔ SMU SYED parents seeks suitable professional well settled groom with good family values preferably settled in abroad for their younger daughter 24/ 160, born & studied in middle east, B.E, working in Bengaluru MNC. Contact gulshan.sssk@gmail.com / 9841576943 & W-Up 0097455946987

Elite Matrimony — From BharatMatrimony

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 26, 165 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a well known Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 8695668994

BRAHMIN, 30, 191 cms, Management Professional, BA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from any community. Contact: 7871502020

SAIVA VELLALAR, 26, 183 cms, Doctor, pursuing MS General Surgeon. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Chief Engineer. Family is financially well off. Looking for likeminded Doctor match. Contact: 6381751157

REDDY, 32, 175 cms, Entrepreneur, MBBS. Lives in Tamil Nadu. Father is a working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded Doctor match from any community. Contact: 9362294184

DEVAR, 33, 175, Divorced, Orthopedic Surgeon, MBBS. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a well known Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from any community. Contact: 9360655558

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 32, 173 cms, Management Professional, Lives in UK, Father is a Doctor. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the any community in UK. Contact: 9381823520

REDDY, 25, 173 cms, Hardware Engineer, MS. Lives in USA. Father is a General Manager. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community in USA. Contact: 9087000812

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 25, 157 cms, Architect, B. Arch. Lives in Chennai. Father is a well known Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 9360655558

YADAV, 26, 163 cms, Junior Resident, MBBS. Lives in Port Blair. Father is a working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible Doctor/Entrepreneur from the same community. Contact: 9380054589

MUSLIM, 32, 173 cms, Doctor, M.D. Lives in Ireland. Father is a Doctor. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated doctor match from the same community. Contact: 9344351215

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COSMOPOLITAN

SLIM & FAIR Catholic girl, 30/164 cm, BA LLB (Hons) and passed CS (Inter) appearing for finals. Senior Legal Executive in a reputed company in Chennai. Father Mangalore Catholic and mother a catholic, Kerala. Parents based at Cochin. Ready to relocate after marriage. pramich2014@gmail.com / + 91 9447777754.

Wanted smart educated well settled match for good looking mudaliar girl, widow, 37 years/5'.7", employed ,from mudaliar family settled at Hyderabad cast no bar ph:8008608222.

LOOKING FOR a well–educated bridegroom who appreciates family and values in life & is open to living in SE Asia/India. Girl(33) , Christian Family, MBA from premier institute , currently working in Chicago. caroline.cjc@gmail.com

DIVORCEE

DIVORCEE 32 years MBA Telugu Vegetarian affluent family seeks Telugu/Tamil, divorcee/widower. Caste no bar. Contact +91 9941436666, 044 24582327

DOCTOR

RC VANNIAR 34/165, MBBS, DNB (O&G) Pondy Govt, 1L p.m, Seeks Dr/ Er/CA/IAS, 35-40. CNB. 9003619589

YADAVA/NAIDU MBBS, MS 29 Seeks MD/MS/MDS/Doctor/CA/IAS/ Grade 1 Grooms only CT :7305352183

24 Manai Telugu Chettiar, Rishabam,Karthigai, 29/ 165cm, Doctor MD, Well Settled. Looking for Any Chettiar / Naidu Doctor - MD Groom / Well Settled Business Professional.
09840733299 / 09840744477

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
Fair, Beautiful, Cultured Doctor Girl, MD 2nd year, Chennai, 29/165, Father Kerala Nair - Doctor, Mother Tamil CSI. Grooms with MD / MS / DM / M.Ch. Keralites & Tamils preferred.
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Hindu Adidravida 29/161 IPS Officer Fair seeks IAS,IRS,IPS Officer Groom Caste & Religion No Bar. 8838348204

I.R.S OFFICER 30/163 Hindu Mudaliar Asst. Commr (Customs & CE) Chennai 1Lpm seeks similar Employed Groom CNB.9840136141/dskflats@gmail.com

NRI

TAMIL HINDU Vellalar Divorcee 46 MS,SWE,US Employee, Son17yr seek US Employee Groom.Ct: 9940623480

MUDALIAR CANADIAN CITIZEN
28/160, Registered Nurse, working in Toronto, seeks Educated Boy (Engineer / Doctor / SW professional) & willing to settle in Canada. Caste No Bar
ramadosss@focussedconsulting.com

TAMIL

✔ TAMIL MUSLIM fair slim 33 yrs B.E educated girl looking for never married well educated Boy from Chennai. Whatsapp Biodata:7358624675

TAMIL MUSLIM Chennai Settled, DENTIST, 32Yrs Good–looking, Fair, Divorcee No issues,Well placed Educated Parents, Seeks Dr / Er / PG / Prof. Qualified Groom. Ct: 8939214627.

SEEKING PRACTISING Muslim living in USA for 24yrs/163cm PG girl with F1 US visa to do phd. 9940014700

FAIR LOOKING, Dy. Manager, SBI Chennai, Mylapore. Tamil, BE/ 27yrs, Roman Catholic seeks Govt/ Bank/ IT Groom Ct: 94439 52465/ 87789 97608

CSI SC DOB 12.8.1982 DOCTOR–BHMS C.NO 9626637750, 9843162625

MUSLIM DOCTOR 26/154.MD final year seeks tamil muslim doctor groom studying or completed PG. 9884623120

INTER CASTE RC 29/162 BE (E & I) Working Corporate Co Seeks Educated, Employed Groom RC/CSI 94459 31257

CHRISTIAN RC DOCTOR MD 33,Divorced, working Private, seeks Groom below 36 MD/MS/DM, PG/Civil Service/Engineers.Ct –9789075098

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil , working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private) , Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

CSI–AD– 35/150CM. M.SC, Sr.Copy Editor Presently not employed, Chennai Seeks suitable Groom Ct: 9840149374/ 8754549326 manuel.engg@gmail.com

TAMIL

AGAMUDAIYAR 43 MSc IT in Chennai seeks Groom (1st Marriage) from OBC Mob– 9445612997

DIVYA NIVEDA 27/BE, SC–AD, Pvt Job 25000/– Middle Class Settled in Chennai. Seeks same Caste. 9840126883

DIVORCEE CHENNAI bound St Govt School teacher MA B.Ed 31/152 Issueless Valluvan(Father)/Veerakodi Vellalar(Mother) seeks Tamil Bridegroom(Divorcee/Widower–no child) in Chennai Caste No Bar 9443208536

SOZHIA VELLALA 39/167 Uthiratadi BE MBA empld– Chennai, Divorcee no encumbrance seeks educated groom. Subsect no bar. 9283433069/ 9840329160

HINDU 32 / 152 B.E, M.S, Upper Middle Class, Divorcee, Seeks suitable groom India / Abroad. Caste No Bar. Contact : 9489695984

VANNIAR, 35, Chithirai, M.Tech, Fair, working in MNC seeks suitable groom from good family Ct:9444028038

2ND MARRIGE 40/160 BE Issueless SC, Seeks Groom 40–45Yr Hindu CasteNoBAR. 9840368809, sbpalani@yahoo.co.in

ME , 5.2" , 20.07.1992 , Pisces , Puratathi,Native: Erode. Peferring educated gavara naidu groom Ph no. 9965157980.

SEEKING GROOM For Mudaliar Bride 28yr 165cm BE MBA Uthiradam/Magaram MNC in Chennai 9444038889/ 9444012991

WANTED BRIDEGROOM for SC Girl 30 yrs CA, Employed as Grade A Officer in PSU Salary– 75000/pm Star– Moolam, Rasi–Thanasu caste no bar. M– 9444396676 email: mohan6359@gmail.com

MUDALIYAR 28/155 B.Tech, Wheatish, Bharani, Working in USA seeks Equally Qualified USA Groom. Ct:9840697596. Mail: vishnusuresh9816@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR B.COM., MBA/ age 29/164cm/1,50.000PM /Bridegroom wanted /K.A.Raman Nadar/ what's : 9380791999

✔ HINDU INTERCASTE Fbc/Msc, 30 MSC journalist Uthiram Nonveg Chennai seeks suitable Groom with clean habits.ct 9940504016

SC AD BE 29 Wheatish Chevvai Thosam Working in Foreign Bank. Prefer In & Around Chennai Send BHP Ct : 9841966234

YADAVA GOOD Looking, 28/155, Ayilyam, Kadagam Rasi, B.Com, MBA, seeks Yadava groom. Ct: 9844261097

TAMIL

CHETTIAR PATTINAVAR 29/155 BE MNC, Anna University MIT Campus 18L p.a, Good Looking, Seeks Suitable well educated groom. Caste No Bar. Cont: 8056239541 / 9717747071

SC 26/164, B.E MBA, Fair.Seeks working Govt / PVT Groom with good family.Ct:9444991091

YADAV BRIDE 38 BSc., Smart, Bank Job Well Settled in Kilpauk Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 73389 64190

SC, AD, 24, Fair, Govt. Doctor, MBBS, Rs.75000.p.m. seeks Doctor Groom. CNB. Ct: 6369222735. mail: murthy_murthy2@yahoo.com

1000 CRORES (Caste No Bar) 23/ M.S., Own Dhall Mills Supplies all over India & Abroad, (Well known company in India) Commercial Complex etc, fair girl Seeks Groom. Caste No Bar. 8939550566

MUDALIAR, 23,B Tech, 5'4" Good look, working seeks suitable groom CNB, Ct. 8778514465/ 7200866346

TEXTILE 1000 CRORES, Mudaliyar 21 / M.B.A., Own Cinema Theatres, Malls etc. Well to do, FairOnly Daughter, Seeks Grooms. 9962868165

TV, 39YRS+ ME Girl Working in PVT Engg.College. Seeks quali.Boy from Decent Family. 9840477890/ 9176471222

V.FAIR 26 BE, IT Professional, 170/ Kettai Sozhia Vellalar seeks groom. Ct: 0431–2473535/ 9486644133

Hindu SC AD 23/154 BE Bharani, Mesham, Fair, Trichy. Seeks employed fair groom. 9442539235, 9445217880

NAIDU, 28, 5'5" . B.Sc, Fair looking girl, Rich family back ground lives in Chennai, Father is a real estate business man. contact: 9500122962

SEEKING ALLIANCE for SC/AD bride, 35 yrs/153cm, B.Tech, Bharani/ Mesham, working Sr.Consultant in a reputed IT firm.Caste No Bar. Ct 8056404941/04449595634

CNB 43/168CM, BE, Uthiram, not working, issueless divorcee, seeks suitable groom. Ct: 9600159071

TAMIL, VANIYA Chettiar, Oct 1989, 161cms 59kgs, MD Paediatrics, Wheatish, Non–Veg, Father Retd. GM, Chennai seeks groom 30–32yrs, same community, PG Doctor, Clinical branch, fair, Non–smoking ,Teetotaller, good family background. Ct: 8939296375

SOZHIA VELLALAR Pillai/Barani 31/ 162 Govt. Doctor. MBBS, Pursuing MD (Ped.), seeks suitable Dr./Engr./Bank Officer/Govt. Employed groom between 32-35yrs. Ct: 9944227062

TAMIL

Vanniyar Uthradam Dhanusu 27/168 BE,MBA Work-Pvt seek Educated,Employd groom.6374776824/9884239606

HINDU SC AD B.Tech 26/165 cm, seeks Raghu Kethu Dosam Groom. Ct: 9443681102, Coimbatore.

HINDU Adidravidar (Kongu) 28, B.E, M.Tech., (Ph.D), Seeks goodlooking Groom. CT: 7598988370.

HINDU NADAR 36/165CM M.Com, Ph.D Divorcee no issues, Seeks good Job PG groom. Reply BHP Email to: paandiyanraajam@gmail.com

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU Jan 1976, Mirugasiridam, Mithunam, MCA, SWE, CTS Chennai. First Marriage seeks Groom. 9444823815. Email: snsukumar13@gmail.com

NAIDU 29/165, Uthiram MDS Fair Seeks any PG Professionals/ well settled Grooms in Chennai SNB/ 6382122136

JYESHTA REDDY, Chennai bred, 29/ 158/70, pretty, wheatish, MBBS, embryologist, 1 lac pm, jovial, friendly, outgoing, seeks Telugu, Hindu, extrovert, dynamic, family type from metros or abroad. WhatsApp 9418009585

BALIJA NAIDU Swathi very fair good looking 27 B.Tech/ M.Tech Sastra Univ, doing Ph.D Guindy Engg, Chennai seeks PG professional well settled grooms. Ct: 9865098336, Whatsapp: 7904411819/ rpramanujam@gmailcom

BALIJANAIDU 1972/50K PM/ Fair/ 165cm/BA/Poosam/CNB Seeks Settled Groom. Ct:. 7395916003, 044–26200465

Balija Naidu Hastam 31/155 BE SWE 11Lpa seeks Goodlooking Groom earn Rs.1Lpm & below 35yrs. 9444634347

REDDY 40 Unmarried Govt.Job, Seeks suitable Reddy groom in & around Chennai 9884310199 pbjmails@gmail.com

Kapu 29 Yrs B'Ful Girl Software Engineering 2nd Marriage Salary 1 lakh seeks suitable Groom Ct: 9666563435

BALIJA NAIDU Telugu Fair Girl 24 Yrs seeks suitable groom CA/CS/CMA/ Doctor/Govt.Officers/Engineers. Girl has past history of Sarcoma Small Tumor in left hand Elbow treatment completed and free from it now.Cont–7989260722,9441378926

GAJULA BALIJA 23/170 Anusham Fair Slim B.Com (ACS) seeks BE High Class same caste clean habits 9445895188

KAMMA 25, 168, BE/SWE, MNC, Chennai Uthrattathi, Affluent Family seeks Groom from Same Caste below 30 years. Ct:7823988999 yjtilak@gmail.com

BRIDES WANTED

BUSINESS

Alliance for our only son, aged 29 yrs, B.E, Fair, handsome with clean habits residing in Chennai, height 5'78, doing business in Construction, Agri Exports, Mining, Intercaste Vellalar, Net worth about 300 Crores. Fair & beautiful bride from a decent educated family of same net worth with clean habits preferred. Caste no bar age below 26 yrs.
E-mail : mgnath77@yahoo.com
7299844777

COSMOPOLITAN

SMARTHA DESISTA Marathi /31/173/ BE. MS/MNC Bangalore seeks well qualified, employed Brahmin girl. Contact: 9480616626 / 9845830683.

RICH SENIOR Citizen Life Partner Age : 35–50. Divorcee And Widow Welcome. 9445435377/ agni1960@yahoo.com

43, IYER, krithigai, govt PG teacher chennai seeks suitable bride. subsects no bar. Brokers excuse 8667251909/ 9894381875.

TAMIL, 57, divorce, fair, handsome, clean habits. Grade 1 officer; well educated & settled. Annual income Rs. 20 lakhs. Looking for a not working, beauteous, honesty, poor divorcee & widow bride. Caste , religion and language no bar. Apply with photos. Ct: himalaya 497@gmail.com.

DIVORCEE

IYER DIVORCEE Boy, Vadoolam, Thiruvonam, 44/168, Director IT MNC Seeks Iyer Graduated Divorcee Bride without Issues. 9841942915.

ANY BRAHMIN bride for Tamil brahmin Divorcee 49yrs MA Software French MNC Bangalore 10lakhs/year Ct:9591904754

ENGLISH

Professor, 39/ 170, PhD, Hindu, Vanniya Kula Kshatriyar, Ayilyam-Katagam/ Vellore/ Seeks Qualified Girl (age 27- 34)/ CNB/ Call me @ 9791177668.

MALAYALAM

CHRISTIAN ERUDITE 28, Tall, US Employed. US Based Parents any Denomination Kindly Contact: 9791683272

NAIR BOY Trivandrum 37/173, Pooruttathi, B.Tech, Software Portfolio Manager, MNC Chennai, Ph: 8129280150

NAIR BOY: Fair, Bharani Star, 33/5.9', M.Sc., NET, B.Ed. Working as lecturer at Govt PU College, Hassan, Karnataka.Ph.no.07353016038 /09844419813

MARATHI

Brahmin Marathi 47 / 5'5" Doctor Cardiologist working Hyderabad seeks qualified any Brahmin girl 38-40yrs 7013810359

ORIYA

HYDERABAD BASED Odia MBA 35 (6 ft) issueless divorcee in private sector seeks alliance. Mail profile at gangarath1957@gmail.com

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR 33/176, US Educated Corporate employed Chennai from Business Rich Affluent Educated family seeks Professionally Qualified Bride from same Community. Ct: 9443256614, 9884353795.

CSI NADAR 13.04.1975 162cm B.E, M.S, D.G.M, M.N.C, Chennai 2L/M, Slim Handsome Young needs M.E, M.Sc,M.Phil, Ph.D, MBBS Bride.Ct: 9442758847

DOCTOR age56 Widower Earning 2Lpm Seeks Widow, divorcee. Age Caste No Bar. 9840568449.

TAMIL MUSLIM 37, PG, Tall, 30L PA, affluent seeks educated, pretty, Tamil /Malayalam bride.PH: 9344087122

MUSLIM 28/176 MD paediatrics Seeks Prof qualified bride Ct: 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

TAMIL

AG CHRISTIAN 38 / 178 Fair, slim, BE MS Owns Software Firm, Own house in Chennai, Only Son, Parents – Retd.Govt Officers, seeks suitable bride. Subsects no bar. Ph: 9445481313

INTER CASTE 33/162 B.TECH. M.B.A working in MNC seeks educated bride RC/CSI 9884825317

INTERCASTE VELLALAR Christian(RC) M.B.A/31/175 cm Manager MNC seeks Hindu/Christian bride working in Chennai,Ct:9884600667

RC BOY 30/173 MS, Engr USA, seeks alliance from fair, slim RC girl 24 to 27 Yrs Engineer/ MS working in Bangalore/ USA. Ct/ Watsapp: 9980163714

CHRISTIAN, CASTE No Bar. 27/5'7". B.Sc (Nautical Science) Mariner in Merchant Navy, Salary Rs.1.5 Lakhs. Expects a similar minded bride from any caste. contact: 9500122918

TAMIL MUSLIM Boy 27/175/BE working in Gulf. Parents invite alliance from Educated religious family. Contact 9384252660 / bridegroomksa@gmail.com

YADAVA TAMIL wheatish, 39/170cm , BCom IATA certified, in Mumbai – (vasai area), works at MNC in airline/tourism 9663894480/r_pads@yahoo.com

HINDU/ KARUNEEGAR (Pillai) Viveka Vinayagam B, BE graduated, 36 yrs, ht 5'4" Chennai, Looking for suitable bride ct: 9789878162

ThuluvaVellala Mudaliar 32 BE(ECE) emp MNC,Chennai seek eductd Mudaliar bride.9840334131/ 9840898891(w)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (Group 1 Officer) Commercial Taxes, 39/175, CNB, seeks suitable Girl with MBBS or Any Degree. CT: 98655-88329.

MUDALIAR/38/SECTION OFFICER,GOVT.,HIGH Court,Ch.Caste No bar. 9486021062

Balija Naidu Krithigai 29/160 BE MBA Working Banglore seeks Educated Employed Bride. Contact: 9840983387

SEER KARUNEEGAR, V.Viswanathan B.E, Age 27 Yrs, Vegetarian, Working as Software Engineer in WIPRO–Chennai.Seeks Bride With Good Family Background & Education.(Vegetarian Only) Contact : 9445863207 / 9551756618

HINDU ST Poosam 38/162 BE, MBA ManagerCentralgovt Divorcee NoIssue seeksEducatedBrideCNB.9677247227

HINDU GAVARA 39/160 BE MNC CHN 8.5 LPA, seeks middle class girl cont: 7871433297.

IYER MOUDGALYAM Gowthram 33 years BE, MBA, working in Pvt company, 24000/pm near Kanchipuram seeks graduate bride. No expectations. Both parents not alive. Contact: 9994657081

HINDU NADAR, unmarried, 41/180 BBM, Pooradam, fair self-employed, clean habits, well std in Blr, seeks graduated, good family BG bride upto 36. LCNB, 9980914365, raam2366@gmail.com

HINDU SC Ayilyam 43/178 Doctor MS Handsome Teetotaler Unmarried seek Doctor Bride below 40yrs. Caste No Bar.Ct: 8668090209 / 8248223023 (W)

CASTE NOBAR Handsome Hindu SC/AD 38/168CM BE, HCL,Chennai 16Ls/ Annum.Ct: 9840368809, sbpalani@yahoo.co.in

TAMIL VANNIYAR, well educated & decent family 49/178, UK Citizen, MS, FRCS, Laproscopic bariatric surgeon in a leading London hospital, Annual income 1Cr, handsome, divorced seeks well educated, good looking bride below 40yrs from affluent family willing to migrate. Caste no bar. 9381017851/ ramardoctor42@gmail.com

SAIVA MUDALIYAR 34/180, BA, BL, M.Sc., Legal Company & Bank 15L P.A Seeks Fair Good Looking Educated Family Veg Only 9080374843 / 9841298539

VISHWAKARMA GOLDSMITH Chennai, Never Married Groom 42/176, Pvt Compy. +2, CNB Only Hindu - 8754589314

INTERCASTE PARENTS (F–chettiar M–saiva Mudaliyar) Seeks Suitable Working Girl (Vegetarian) for their son Age 28 (B.E)/ Uthiram/ 178 cms/ Fair/ SWE,Contact 9710080772, 9442506706

HINDU Adidravidar (Kongu) 27, B.E, M.Tech., (Ph.D), seeks goodlooking bride. Ct:8760883559, 8637663072

RJ arrested in hit-and-run case

Scooterist died on the spot; barcode of accused's SUV helps police crack case

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A barcode on a mudflap of an SUV led to the arrest of a radio jockey wanted in connection with a June 30 hit-and-run case in which a scooterist died.

The incident happened on June 30 when Dheeraj, who was driving to India Gate, was hit by a speeding SUV. He died on the spot, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Madhur Verma said they scanned over 300 black SUVs of a particular make before they traced the accused driver, Ankit Gulati. Mr. Verma said the registration number of the SUV was not clear in the CCTV and there are more than 22,000 black SUVs of a particular make in Delhi-NCR.

"We verified the barcode printed on a mudflap of the car, which was recovered from the spot. We got the clue that the SUV belonged to the latest model and the manufacturing year was 2018. With this, we zeroed in on 300 black SUVs," said Mr. Verma.

(Clockwise from top) The barcode found in the mudflap; the SUV involved in the accident; Ankit Gulati. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Meanwhile, CCTV footage obtained from the accident site was sent for forensic examination to get clarity on the car's registration number. "The CFSL Hyderabad team confirmed that the first two letters of the SUV were 'DL' and the last digit was '6'," the officer added.

After this, around 12 teams were sent to trace the SUV. "We zeroed in on 22 SUVs out of 300 for verification. Teams were sent to every owner for verification of the car and the reason was kept a secret, fearing suspect could flee with the SUV," said Mr. Verma.

One team finally traced the suspect and he was nabbed from his house in Patel Nagar. When his whereabouts on June 30 morning was verified, it was found that he was at the accident spot.

Ankit confessed to the crime. "On June 30, the accused met a few friends and they consumed alcohol. Around 2.30 a.m., they went to a club in Chanakyapuri where they consumed more alcohol. After this, he decided to go to another party at Agni Club in Park Hotel. He was watching videos on his phone while driving and did not see the victim," said the police.

Ankit also said that he had sent the SUV to a private garage for repair to avoid detection, the police said, adding that the car has been impounded. Mr. Verma said the accused has been arrested under IPC Section 304 A (causing death by negligence). A case was registered at Parliament Street police station.

'Green cover in NDMC area has increased in 4 yrs'

Will develop hi-tech nursery at Yamuna catchment area, says council chairman

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The green cover in New Delhi area under the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has increased from 46% to 50% during the last four years, said its chairman Naresh Kumar on Saturday.

The chairman was speaking at the launch of a multi-level campaign to plant saplings, improve sanitation, and take preventive measures against water-borne diseases.

Rainwater harvesting

"To further enhancement of this green cover, the NDMC has decided to develop a hi-tech nursery at Yamuna catchment area in south Delhi just opposite Sarai Kala Khan. And 25 acres of land had been taken from the DDA for the purpose. The tender process has been initiated for finalising the bidder to kick off the project," Mr. Kumar said.

He also said that 60 rainwater harvesting chambers, each with a capacity of at least 20,000 litres, will be constructed in different areas in NDMC. Currently, 237 such chambers have been constructed in different areas, including parks and residential colonies.

During the current monsoon season, the NDMC has a target of planting 2,500 fruit-bearing trees such as mango, guava, chiku and orange in its gardens and along roads and residential colonies, said BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi.

Besides, 1,700 trees and 30,000 shrubs will also be planted during this time, she added.

Vector-borne diseases

The NDMC also inspected 1,140 houses and issued 235 notices to people at whose houses mosquito breeding was found in water tanks, vessels or other places.

The team also inspected 17 government buildings including Nirman Bhawan, Udhyog Bhawan, Kashmir House and eight schools, four major parks and six NDMC residential areas, including Tughlak Crescent, Palika Gram and Railway Colony at Sarojini Nagar.

Environment Ministry building gets notice

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An New Delhi Municipal Council official told *The Hindu* that the buildings which have been issued notice for having conditions of mosquito breeding, includes Indira Paryavaran Bhawan in Jor Bagh, which houses the Central Environment Ministry, and Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan in Aurobindo Marg that has the corporate headquarters of the Airports Authority of India.

The notice states that the NDMC has found mosquito breeding conditions in the building and asks them to be more "alert" or challan will be issued.

Haryana panel seeks details of steps taken to protect two eyewitnesses

Takes suo motu cognisance of case involving their murder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Taking suo motu cognisance of a matter pertaining to the murder of two eyewitnesses in separate murder cases, the Haryana Human Rights Commission has sought a report from the Director General of Police seeking to know the steps that were initiated to protect them.

Police inaction

According to a newspaper report, one Puran Chand, a resident of Naraingarh, was shot dead at his house earlier this month.

He was an eyewitness for the murder of Randhir Singh, who in turn was an eyewitness in the murder case of Gurdeep Singh and was shot dead on May 13 last year.

Taking serious view of the matter, the Commission, in its two-page order, observed that the murder of the two eyewitnesses showed inaction and failure on part of the police authorities.

It further said it was the duty of the police to protect the life and the liberty of the persons who were the main witnesses in the heinous crimes.

The order also said the laxity and the lethargic attitude of the police was clear from the fact that Mohit, the accused in the murder case of Randhir Singh, was a frequent visitor to the village, but was not arrested.

The Commission has also sought to know as to why the accused was not arrested.

It also demanded the details of the action initiated against the erring officers.

Headed by Chairperson Justice S.K. Mittal and comprising members Justice K.C. Puri and Deep Bhatia, the Commission has also sought a report from the Additional Chief Secretary, Home, demanding to know as why not to award a suitable compensation to the legal heirs of the two eyewitnesses.

The two reports are to be submitted in six weeks' time. The matter has been fixed for hearing on September 16.

Units in Alipur discharging effluents, claims plea

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to submit a report on a plea alleging discharge of effluents by industrial units in Alipur.

Noting that the DPCC and the Alipur SDM had stated in a report that units found operating without consent were closed, a Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "Let an updated report about follow-up action and recovery of environmental compensation be filed by the DPCC within two months."

The directions came on a plea seeking remedial action against the discharge of effluents by industrial units, which it alleged are causing air pollution.

"It is also alleged by the applicant that a pond has been encroached upon and resorts have been set up around the village, causing air pollution," the Bench noted.

The earlier report furnished by the authorities had stated that a joint inspection carried out by the DPCC and Alipur SDM had found 13 units located in residential or non-conforming areas.

> It is also alleged by the applicant that a pond has been encroached upon and resorts have been set up around the village, causing air pollution
>
> NGT BENCH

Green tribunal seeks fresh report on illegal groundwater extraction

Says papers furnished by North body 'evasive, inadequate'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging illegal withdrawal of groundwater in Rohini, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought a fresh report from the North Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Delhi Jal Board (DJB).

Stating that a report furnished by the North body is "evasive and inadequate", a Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "It [the report] does not furnish the actual information as sought. The status report shows that the order of this tribunal has not been taken seriously."

"Sensitivity to check illegality is missing. Either competence is lacking or there is extraneous consideration on the part of persons giving the report, which needs to be looked into for upholding the rule of law," the Bench noted.

The directions came on a plea alleging that groundwater was being illegally extracted through a borewell in Rohini for the purpose of selling packaged drinking water.

Following submission by the civic body's counsel that the DJB is responsible for sealing of the borewell, the Bench noted: "Illegality cannot be allowed to continue unchecked merely by saying that it is up to one or the other authority to take action."

Warning of action against officials involved, the tribunal said: "Water is a scarce resource. Illegal extraction of water must be taken seriously and if there is collusion of officers or inaction, they should also be required to pay the compensation for illegal benefit."

Siesta time

A lion takes a nap in its enclosure at the National Zoological Park in New Delhi on Saturday. A cloud cover cocooned the Capital, offering some respite to the people from heat. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

CM announces ₹10 lakh aid for rape victim

Assures all help; Delhi government to arrange a lawyer for the family

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced financial assistance of ₹10 lakh for the family of a six-year-old girl who was allegedly raped in south-west Delhi's Dwarka earlier this week.

Accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Mr. Kejriwal met the girl and her family members at the Safdarjung Hospital following which he made the announcement.

"The Delhi government will give a financial assistance of ₹1lakh to the family. It will also arrange for the best lawyer required to bring the culprit to books," the Chief Minister said.

Arvind Kejriwal

A 24-year-old man was arrested for allegedly raping the girl in Dwarka's Sector-23 on July 2. According to a senior police officer, the victim was found in the bushes and was rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital. Later, she was shifted to the Safdarjung Hospital where her condition was stated to be critical, the officer had said.

CCTV footage

The police identified the accused with the help of CCTV footage obtained from the area. The footage showed the accused with the girl on the day of the incident. The accused was unemployed and lived in the same locality as that of the victim.

"I met the little girl. I also met the doctors treating her. They said her condition was serious when she was brought to the hospital. However, she is stable now. I also met her father and promised all kind of support," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Later, in a tweet, the Chief Minister further said, "I am shaken after seeing the plight of the minor rape victim. If children are not safe even in national capital, we should all hang our heads in shame. CCTV cameras helped in nabbing accused. We are installing cameras across Delhi. We are also ready to cooperate with the Centre to make Delhi safe [sic]."

The Delhi government wants to work with the Centre and city police and take all necessary steps to support them for improving in the law and order situation in the city, he added.

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

That STRANGER knocking

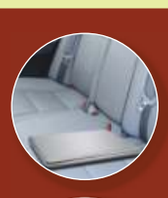
HELP US SERVE YOU BETTER

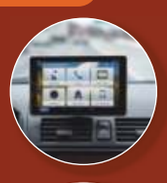
Could be DANGER lurking.

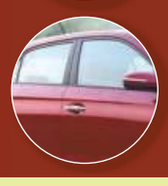
Never roll down your windowpane at a stranger's knock.
It is a distracting trick to steal valuables from your car.

OTHER SIMILAR TRICKS:
- Dropping wallet/purse
- Money lying on the road
- Tyre puncture
- Boot/dickey open
- Oil leak
- Begging/asking for help

SAFETY TIPS


Avoid keeping bags/possessions unattended on rear seat


Avoid keeping valuables on dashboard


Ensure all windowpanes are properly rolled up

Check that doors are securely locked

DP/9121/19

E-mail to CP, Delhi at : cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in

Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 100

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

Dr.E.EBENEZER RAJA M.V.Sc.,Ph.D
Retd. Professor & Head,
Dept. of Parasitology
Madras Veterinary College
10.06.1931 - 07.07.2012
Greatly missed and fondly remembered.
Vijaya, Kishore, Ruth, Ashwin
Anushka, Stephen, Anna & Ryan

OBITUARY

Mrs. RAMANI
தகன நினைவு
07-07-2010
உன் விதை
என் கதை
K. Kumaran

DEATH

Mr. M. BALAJI, 42
s/o Shri. M. S. Muthukumaraswamy of Madipakkam,Chennai-91, passed away at Chennai on 1.7.2019, cremated on 2.7.2019. Dasasthu, the 10th day ceremony on 10.7.2019 at Gnanavapi, T. Nagar, Chennai.
Ph: +91-99401-52059, +91-98409-52059.

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.
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WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Elecric Loco Shed, NKJ.
E-TENDER NOTICE
Date: 02/07/2019

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Rolling Stock, West Central Railway, New Katni Jn. Katni (M.P.) for and on behalf of the President of Union of India, invites E-Tender for below mentioned work, from reputed, experienced and eligible contractors. **Tender Notice No.-** NKJ/TRS/T/07/18, Dtd. 02/07/2019, **Name of work-** Hiring of motor vehicle driver for vehicles of ELS/NKJ. **Approx cost of the work (Rs.)** - 11,97,359.01/-, **Cost of tender from Rs.-** 2,000/-, **Earnest money (Rs.)-** 24,000/-, **Completion period of work-** 24 Months, **Last Date & Time for submission-** 26/07/2019 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Note:** 1. The complete information of the above E-tender are available in website http://ireps.gov.in. Tenders other than in the form of e-tender will not be accepted against above tenders. This notice also pasted on Notice Board of the Sr. DEE/TRS/NKJ office. 2. Earnest Money & tender cost should be submitted only through payment gateway option **(Online Payment)** available on **www.ireps.gov.in**. Earnest Money & tender cost will not be accepted in other physical forms.

DEE (TRS),
W.C. Rly, New Katni Jn.

रेल यात्रा के दौरान शिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर सम्पर्क करें

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI F-17, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110032.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Ph. No.: 011-22309220 Email-Id: dirdhs@nic.in

The Director General Health Services, Directorate General of Health Services, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of NCT of Delhi invites online tenders from eligible service providers for Outsourcing of laboratory diagnostic services (Non radiological) in AAMC, Polyclinics and Mobile Health Camps.

Tender ID	Tender description	Date &Time
Tender ID No. 2019_DHS_170650_1	Bid Submission Start Date	22/06/2019 at 10:00 AM
	Bid Submission End Date	15/07/2019 at 3:00PM
	Last date/time for downloading of tender	15/07/2019 at 3:00PM
	Last date of submission of EMD and completed bids	15/07/2019 at 3:00PM
	Online opening of technical bids	15/07/2019 at 3:30PM

It is informed that any corrigendum issued, if any, shall be published on e-procurement web portal only. Further the Tenderer/Bidder may see the details of Tender/EMD/ Security deposit etc. of the Tender Enquiry Documents from the website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

DGHS

DIP/Shabdarth/0322/19-20

JHARKHAND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A JV of Government of Jharkhand and Ministry of Railways)
Regd Office: Transport Department, FFP Building
HEC Campus Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
E-mail : jridcl.jhr@gmail.com [CIN-U45209JH2018SGC011593]

No. JRDCL/Estt/MD/1/2019 Date :- 03.07.2019

Sub: NOTIFICATION OF VACANCY FOR THE POST OF MANAGING DIRECTOR.

Jharkhand Rail Infrastructure development corporation Limited [JRIDCL] has notified the following vacancy on Deputation:

Post- **Managing Director-**
On Deputation from any Group 'A' services, with at least five years in SAG, having minimum 25 years of Group-'A' service etc.
Age not more than 55 years as on 31.03.2019.
For full detailed notification, eligibility etc. please see website
1. Railway Board website – **www.indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard**, then click for IR personnel and then vacancy circulars.
2. **www.jhtransport.gov.in**

Last date – 30 days from the date of issue.

Sd/-
Director (P&P)
JRIDCL

PR 210868 Transport (19-20)_D

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 98203 50726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in
Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL
PH: 98110 06590
gaurav.sehgal@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Replacement of over aged OHE

Open e-tender notice No TRD/OT/13/144KM/19-20. E-tenders are invited from reputed contractors having proven experience, electrical license, successful execution of similar works and sound financial standing supported by the valid documents for the work as per details given below.
1. Name of work with location : Replacement of over aged OHE from SSG/SSP to CDMR/SP in MGS division (72 Km X 2 = 144KM). 2. Approx. Cost of the work : ₹20,53,95,374.26, 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹11,77,000/-, 4. Last date and time or submission of tender : Upto 30.07.19 on 15.00 hrs. 5. Website particulars from where the details of e-tender can be obtained : www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divnl. Elect. Engineer (Tr-D)/ECR/Mughalsarai
PR/0681/MGS/Elect./T/19-20/28

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDES WANTED

TAMIL

SAIVA PILLAI CNB MSc,MBA 4Lakh/ Month CompanyOwner 10Crore Propertied onlyson Unmarried Nov.1973 whe atish 173cm Visagam. 9841553677(W)

HINDU BC fair, Rohini, Rishabam, 34/ 180 cm, B.E USA, L1B Visa, seeks fair Bride, any degree and ht above 160 cm. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9600867757. selvaraaj2013@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR /28 /B.E /5.4Lakhs /P.A SG Durainadar Chromepet Ch–44 044–48573284, 6381576005 10am–6pm

AD 31/ 170, Kadagam, Poosam BE Mech. Site Engr. Working Saudi Seeks Bride Hindu/ Christian. Ct:7708133834

PIRAMALAI KALLAR/MADURAI/LEGALLY divorced/Remarriage/Age 44/Rs. 40, 000 pm Brides wanted 8838584381

SC/AD/25/168,BE,ASWINI(RAGU/KETHU) WORK Canara Bank seeks working bride preferably Bank/LIC. ct:9994195565

RC NADAR, 29, 178 cms, MS from USA, Software Professional, Working in US, Parents Educated and well off. Looking for a like-minded and educated match. Contact: 9444380548

CHENNAI BASED THEVER well to do family, own business ,Properties, construction & Finance, MBA Age. 30,height 5.6" , Fair, Exercise body,clean habits,looking a bride – a degree holder from a well settled family from same community. Ph– 9444075777

REDDIYAR BOY 39, Poorattathy, clean habits, M.E, 14 Lakhs PA, Top MNC own Flat & House seeks suitable bride. Please Ct: 9985792975.

PILLAI, 31/179, B.E, MBA from a reputed institute, Working in an IT Product company in Chennai, 31L/ PA, Well educated and well to do family, Have properties in Chennai and native, Looking for smart, good looking, educated and working girls from Pillai, Mudaliyar and Vellalar communities. Ph: 9962952629

HINDU PALLAR 32/170 BE MBA Fair CitiBank Chen IT Support seek Same Sect working FairBride.Ct:9940972228

Christian 45/177 B.Com Govt Job Chen 70K.pm Divorcee seeks Bride CasteNoBar.8825897792/7845791450

INTER CASTE Parent 31/182 Revathi BE MBA DyMngr,Ch seek EductdBride Dr.Nathan- 9840678020 / 9884898829

BRAHMIN 38/160 MS MBA Business Seeks Pretty Veg bride Remarriage with issue acceptable Geetham 9884858014

HINDU AD PR 27/175 B.Tech NIT, IIM MBA wkg IBM B'lore seeks MBBS/ IIM/ IAS/ M.Tech bride Ct:9442181645

TAMIL VISHWAKARMA Rohini 38 BE, ECE, USA Well Settled Software Professional. Working Bride Preffered, from SameCaste or Equal other Caste. Contact: 9941876621 / 9841403396

✔ ***SAIVA PILLAI***, 26, M.Tech, Star Thiruvonam, Rasi Maharam from Kumbakonam, Currently Working in MNC Chennai,Seeks fair educated Bride, Age btw 21 to 24, Ct: 9489773845

MUDALIAR, 29/175, MBBS, MS, Doctor, Pvt.Hosp, Chennai, 100000PM, Elite Fmly, Sks Dr / Eng, 91501 53813

2000 CRORES Kungu Vellalar 27/B.E. (Big Group of Companies India) , Educational, Medical , Engineering College, Own Buses, Hospitals ets. Groom Seeks Bride. Chennai 9176042697

✔ **BRAHMIN INTERCASTE** /Tamil /Well Settled Boy@Chennai/34 yrs /157CM/ mirugasirisham/fair & good looking/ BE, 25+Lacs/year, Ph:94434–33046, jayseeni@gmail.com

EDUCATED BRIDE from intercaste(FC/ BC) for ACS well placed 9790895631

VanniyaKula Kshatriya 31/180 BE, MS(UK) 60kpm@ Chennai own house seek Educated Bride Well Settled Fmly 9498337384 / muralibabl@gmail.com

36Yrs Phd(US) PR, Working in Reputed MNC, US Divorcee (Non-Marriage) Seeks Bride, Good Looking, Professional Prefer. in US. CNB - 70322 42061

RETIRED SENIOR, Executive Parents SC, Adi Dravida Tamil require Doctor/ Engineer bride for Son 32 Years, B.E, M.Tech SWE in MNC Bangalore. Salary 65K per month. Ct: 09449941927, 080 25660728, parasuraman.udhay7@gmail.com

TAMIL

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT, 39, Chennai, Hindu, BC,165cm,Good Earning, Teetotaller, Looking for suitable alliance, CNB, Email: yesmatch2019@gmail.com

NADAR, 29,5'11'. BE, Entrepreneur of a well known multi crore edible oil business, lives in Chennai. Father well known Business man. Looking for fair, educated bride. Contact:9500124086

NAIDU, 30, 5'6". MBA, Working in ESIC (Central Govt) Salary Rs. 60,000/– . Father Rtd Executive Engineer. Family lives in Chennai. Contact: 9500122982

✔ **SC AD** Hindu CBE Kongu–PR OCT89 5.11Ft Fair B.Tech EEE(NIT), MS (Germ). Reputed Co Job at B'lore. Only Son. 9443709427(W.App) or 0422 4347427

PILLAI 33/170 Anusham BE Mech, Singapore, sevvai dosham, seeks suitable Bride. CT: 094427-94092.

TEETOTALER 37 Uk Masters Return Unmarried Exporter Talented Very Caring Smart Need Affluent/ Industrialist Brides Only – If Need He'll Relocate 9047740647

SAIVA PILLAI Barani 37/164 M.Com, MFM, SWE, MNC, 1.5 Lpm seek Good lookingEmployd VegBride.6383055706

HINDU PALLAR 39/178, M.L., Judge Seeks Suitable Bride with any degree Ph: 9443253274 / 9486347607.

VISWAKARMA 45, F.Marriage Business, UG. seeks bride below 40. Widow/divorce also. 9444353748 (W) Chennai.

HINDU SC, Caste no bar, BE, MBA, 45,Manager,NLC,Govt.of India seeks alliance,any graduate from decent family,no dowry Cont:9487140882

DOCTOR AGE 56 Widower, Fit, Clean Habits, Seeks Life Partner, Widow, Divorce. drrajkumar62@yahoo.com

MBBS, MD (Govt doctor) Age.32, 1Lakh/Pm Well settled Family. Need Dr, BE, Any PG Ct: 8248257396

VANNIYA KULA Kshatriar(Nayakar) Wealthy, Propertied, 28/177 B.Tech (SRM), IT Professional, MNC. Only son of former Bank Officer seeks alliance from Educated, Fair, Slim Girl from the same community. Parents of Chennai based / origin preferred. Send BHP : sundha.loknath@yahoo.com

SC AD Age 30/170Cm BE MBA Car Co., Chennai, Rs.65,000/– PM seeks Suitable Bride. Caste No Bar. 9444400971

MUDALIAR, 27/175, B.E, MS (US), SR–ENGR, CALIFORNIA, 100000$PA, Seeks any grad, 8056091059, 7358378866

PILLAI 30/170 Chartered Accountant–MNC/Chennai 18Lakhs p.a. seeks min Graduate 9385599044/9842127777

PILLAI, 30/175, B.E, MS, SWE, AMAZON, USA, 100000$PA, CNB, Seeks any graduate, 9566002501, 9500147440

MUDALIAR (50CRS) v.handsome 28/185 BE(ECE), MS SWE MNC USA $100Kpa seeks min grad. 9840782222/ 9385599066

ADIDRAVIDAR, 31/170, MS, PHD, SWE, USA, 100000$PA,CNB, Seeks any graduate bride, 8056272922, 9003281596

CHETTIAR, 27/185, B.E, MBA, MS, SWE, MNC, USA, 100000$PA, CNB, Seeks any grad, 9789850231, 9677086774

VANNIAR, H.SOME, 30/180, B.E, SWE, ACCENTURE, 900000PA, Seeks any graduate bride,9003077746, 9003281596

Iyer Kasyaba Chitirai Kanni 44/172 Unmarried MSc,TCS Chen seeks Educatd Bride.SubsectNoBar.9840149495

BRAHMIN HANDSOME 29 yrs/181cms B.Tech, USA citizen, earning $80000 p.a. seeks any Brahmin. Ph: 7358535950

IYER BHARADHWAJAM Uthiram, 37yrs/ 180cms, BE, MNC Chennai 15 Lakhs per annum, Own House at Chennai seeks any Brahmin Girl. Ct: 09445222214

VADAKALAI SADAYAM Srivatsam 46/170 unmarried BAemplyd seek Any BraminBride.9444740544/9444958511

TAMIL VADAKALAI Iyengar son 33Yrs MBA own Business bharani srivatsa gothram, seeks Brahmin bride frm educated decent family subsect no bar send details to iqssjn@gmail.com

TAMIL

IYER VADAMA, Srivatsa Moolam 37, B.Com EMP Saudi 6L PA Seeks Graduate with Teaching Preferred. 9941798207

Iyer, Well to do family, Uthram (4), 36 /178 cms, MBA, Manager,Hyderabad, seeks girl willing to settle in Hyd, caste no bar, No Demands.Ph:8106885021

Iyer Vadamal Poosam 38/175 Unmarried CateringBusiness chen seek bride any Brahmin/one of the parents must be Brahmin.9840964861/ 9841982562

ALLIANCE FOR our only son an innocent issueless divorcee without any financial commitments Iyer/ Vadamal/ Kousigam Krithigai(2P) Vrishabam 43yrs 172Cms/77kgs Fair/ Handsome/Teatotaller Pure vegetarian looking 10yrs young with clean habits traditional & accomodative working Academics seeks a suitable decently educated employed/ unemployed never married Girl Iyer/ Iyengar subsects no bar aged 37–43years & willing to settle at Hyd/ Kandi No Expectations simple marriage Ct: 8754463854 vembushantha@gmail.com

IYER BOY 34/175 Divorcee no issues well Educated Settled in USA Seeks well educated Iyer Bride Preferably working in USA Ct: 98412 95395

IYENGAR 60YRS Chennai Well Qualified OwnFlat Financially Strong. Seeks healthy Brahmins Brides 7010895062

BRAHMIN 36 BE LLB 13L/pa Sr. Manager Diamler Sankruthi Marriage Expense accepted all veg ok CNB 6369157055

IYER ATHREYA Nov83 Pooram 165 M.Tech 10L p.a chennai seek any Brahmin Bride.Horoscope optional 9940360931

TELUGU BRAHMIN,38, MCA, Project Lead HCL Technologies Madurai, seeks any brahmin girl, 9487851429

VADAMA, NON–KAUSIKA Bride For Moolam, 30,5–11 Very Fair Wisconcin MBA Groom Working In An MNC In Bangalore.Response Invited From Fair Good Looking Well Settled Employed Girls Willing To Relocate. Call 9789892417

ANY SOUTH indian brahmin. Divorcee without child ok. Groom 41 years. Bharadwaja gothram. Danusu rasi. Moolam star. Clean habits. Working in Bahrain. Simple marriage. Ph: 9940178242. Email: sudeendar@gmail.com

BRAHMIN, 1975, Unmarried, Pvt 2L / month. Expecting understanding partner from any Marital status. Cont : 7824033219

BRAHMIN BRAHACHRANAM N Kaysbham Iyer Moolam 4 /1973/ Diploma working in Pvt Organstn any girl 9840023524

BRIDE WANTED
HINDU NADAR, 29/175, Hastham, Fair, Handsome, B.Tech., MBA, NRI Clean Habits seeks Elite NADAR BRIDE 20 - 23.
Contact
7598344708

Parents of ROMAN CATHOLIC boy 29/180 Sozhia Vellalar U.S. citizen IT professional well settled, seeks Fair, good looking bride from suitable family background, with Professional experience B.E./Doctor, willing to settle in USA.
Mail: pravben@gmail.com
Mob (India) 87545 36298
Mob (US) 1-704-608-3785

RC 55 Divorcee Seeks Musically interested lovable companion, Caste / Religion / Age No bar. ct: 8220468477

TELUGU

CHETTIAR 36/181CMS B.Tech MBA 12 LAKHS/PA Manager. Seeks TELUGU/ TAMIL chennai girl. Preferably vegetarian. Ct 9444559768/044–42859960

TELUGU VANNAR, 34, MBA, Kanni, Astham, Mktg Mgr, Jpn. Car Mfg.Co, 14LPA, Any Telugu OK. Ct: 98942 64600

Balija Naidu Thiruvadhirai 33/170 Fair BE,MBA,SWE 19Lpa seekgoodlooking EducatedEmployed Bride.9444634347

GAVARA NAIDU, 33, Kettai, B.E., SWE- Hyderabad seeks Fair, B.E/ PG Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9362412226.

BALIJA NAIDU Chennai Based 34/ 165 Swathi, Physiotherapist, 1.5lac PM Working At Abhudhabi seeks a suitable Girl Call: 91593 73249

KAMMA 29/177CM Shatabhisha BE10L PA seeks girl from same community with Good Family9367641813/ 9080152824

TELUGU

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Sidhu urged to take charge of Power Ministry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Cabinet Minister Brahm Mohindra on Saturday appealed to his colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu to assume charge of the Power Ministry, amid ongoing stalemate between Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and the cricketer-turned-politician. However, the Opposition parties including the SAD, the BJP and the AAP slammed the Chief Minister, raising questions over his leadership claiming that the ongoing tussle between the two has led to a "constitutional crisis" in the State. "I want to appeal to him (Mr.Sidhu) that he should take the charge of his department. It (Power ministry) is a good and powerful portfolio," said Mr. Mohindra.

Rajasthan's new Ordinance for MSMEs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government has notified an Ordinance simplifying the procedure for establishment and operation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The Ordinance has several provisions for facilitating declaration of intent and approval by government agencies.

Chief Secretary D.B. Gupta on Saturday said the new provisions would exempt MSMEs from various inspections, penalties and approvals during the initial years of operation. The MSMEs will be required to submit their declaration of intent to the Bureau of Investment Promotion, which will act as the nodal agency. He said the District Industries Centres would publicise the Ordinance.

Not aware of any notice to my son, says Kailash Vijayvargiya

Contrasting statements by party leaders on notice to Akash Vijayvargiya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL

Kailash Vijayvargiya and Akash Vijayvargiya. ▪ FILE PHOTOS

BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya on Saturday expressed ignorance about the party issuing any show-cause notice to his son Akash, who is an MLA from Indore-3, for assaulting a civic official with a cricket bat last month.

"I don't know about it [party notice]. I [just] reached here [Bhopal] from Delhi but I read in newspapers that Akash was served something," Mr. Vijayvargiya told reporters.

There have been contrasting statements by party leaders on the notice. While the Madhya Pradesh BJP president had said on Thursday that no decision was taken on the matter, a senior national leader had asserted that a notice was issued.

When asked on Saturday whether any such notice has been issued to the MLA, Satyendra Bhushan Singh, office secretary of the State BJP, said, "Nothing like that, at least in my knowledge."

The issue of imminent action against Mr. Akash came up after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday disapproved of his conduct and language.

Mr. Akash had assaulted an official of the Indore Municipal Corporation on June 26 during an argument over razing of a dilapidated building. The incident was caught on camera. He is currently out on bail.

In reply to a question whether he scolded Mr. Akash over the incident, Mr. Vijayvargiya said that he had done whatever he was supposed to do as a father. "*Dantna aur samjhana*... I don't want to discuss it publicly," he said.

When asked about Mr. Akash not seen in public after the Prime Minister's statement, his father said, "Ask him. He will be here to attend the State Assembly session [on July 8]."

Monsoon is here

People wading through a waterlogged road after heavy rain in Patiala on Saturday. ▪ PTI

Farmers in western U.P. grapple with 'zero budget' farming

While some call it progressive, not everyone is enthused

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

Like many in the newsrooms, farmers in western Uttar Pradesh are also trying to make sense of "zero budget" farming that was mentioned by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Union Budget on Friday.

Rakesh Kumar of Behda Sadat village in Muzaffarnagar said that he had attended workshops of Subhash Palekar, the proponent of "zero budget" farming from Vidarbha, who was awarded the Padma Shri by the BJP government in 2016.

Mixed cropping

"What I understood was that if you practise mixed cropping, the cost of your main crop is recovered by the sale of cash crops that you sow alongside. Also, it is about using organic manure," said Mr. Kumar, who has been practising it for the last two years. "It takes time but ultimately yields positive results. One should start by devoting small portion of land to organic farming as in the first couple of seasons the yield is low in comparison to the one sprinkled with chemical fertilisers."

Mr. Kumar admitted it was hard to explain it to fellow farmers and he had to "face taunts" as there was no guidance and market for organic produce in rural areas. "It is where the government should step in and reduce dependence on middle men," added Mr. Kumar, who retired from agriculture department of Uttar Pradesh government.

Not everybody is looking at long-term goals, though. Yogesh Solanki, a farmer in Pilakhwa, said that he didn't know what "zero budget" farming stood for but he did know that the diesel prices were all set to rise. "It is going to affect my budget as I use tractor and diesel pump set."

In Dankaur, Ravi Kumar, a sugarcane farmer, said he heard that it was about returning to methods that his grandfather used to practise. "If that is the case, I think it is just a piece of advice as we have come too far down the road. I don't think it is practically possible to do without chemical fertilisers now. The soil has become used to it and the hybrid seeds require it as well."

Dr. Moj Pal Singh, retired professor of Agriculture from Janta Vedic College, Baraut, said that it was more of a *jumla* (gimmick). "Like the promise of doubling farmers' income by 2022, it has been made without checking the ground realities. The average landholding of farmers in western Uttar Pradesh is too small to practise it."

'Pay input costs'

Dr. Singh said that agriculture is the only field where the stakeholders were not involved in making policies. "For me, 'zero budget' farming would work when government will pay for the input costs of farmer. There could be another scheme like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Right now, in many areas, farm labour is doing better than farmers."

Naresh Solanki, national vice-president of BJP Kisan Morcha, described such farming as a "progressive step". "What we are seeing today are the ill-effects of Green Revolution, which emphasised on mono-cropping and use of chemical fertilisers. It worked for us in the '70s and '80s but now it is affecting not only the health of the soil but also of the farmers. I am not criticising previous governments as it was the demand of those times but as we have become self-sufficient in food production, it is desirable to return to indigenous methods of farming. It is the lobby of chemical fertilisers that prevent it from being implemented on a large scale," said Mr. Solanki.

Threatens protest

Meanwhile, the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Bhanu) has threatened to start a protest from July 9 against the anti-farmer policies of the government.

President Bhanu Pratap Singh said the farmers supported the BJP during the Lok Sabha election but the party has not reciprocated. "Among other things, we demand the formation of a Kisan Aayog (Farmer Commission) which should decide the price of crops."

Patkura poll prestige battle between BJD and BJP

Both are keen to increase their tally in Odisha Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR

With the Election Commission announcing July 20 as the date of polling in the Patkura Assembly segment, Odisha's three major political parties have begun gearing their machineries for the high-voltage fight in the coastal Kendrapara district.

According to political analysts, election to the Patkura seat, currently held by the Biju Janata Dal, will be a prestige battle for the Naveen Patnaik-led party and the Opposition BJP, as both are keen on increasing their tally in the House.

While the ruling party retained its position in the recently concluded poll by winning 112 of the 146 Assembly seats, five less than what it had won in 2014, the rival BJP this time increased its tally from 10 to 23.

In the Lok Sabha election too, the BJP managed to bag eight out of the 21 Lok Sabha seats, up from one in 2014, while the BJD secured 12 seats.

Counting of votes in the Assembly seat will be taken up on July 24
ELECTION COMMISSION

The BJP has fielded veteran leader Bijay Mohapatra, a well-known *bete-noire* of the Chief Minister. He would be taking on BJD greenhorn Sabitri Agarwal and Congress nominee Jayant Mohanty.

Reaching out to voters

With the Chief Minister visiting the famous Baladevjew temple in Kendrapara on the occasion of Snana Purnima last month, it seems that the BJD will be pulling out all stops to win the seat.

Meanwhile, the BJP's Mr. Mohapatra has also launched a voter outreach campaign. Newly elected Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi conducted a road-show in Patkura earlier this week.

Mr. Mohapatra, a founder member of the BJD, had joined the BJP before the 2014 election owing to his differences with Mr. Patnaik and other party leaders.

"I have complete faith on the people of Patkura. The BJD's poll tricks will fail to yield any result as voters are determined to strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They are not for sale," Mr. Mohapatra said.

Ms. Agarwal said that she was confident that people of Patkura will vote for the BJD again. Her husband, Bed Prakash Agarwal, had been representing the constituency since 2009.

"I am confident because I know that Patkura will never disappoint Naveen Patnaik. The people here will certainly vote for the BJD again," she said.

Odisha Congress unit chief Niranjan Patnaik said his party "would contest the election with all sincerity".

Counting of votes in the Assembly seat will be taken up on July 24, it added.

Odisha MLA embroiled in sit-ups controversy gets bail

Court directs BJD legislator to not threaten victim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Saroj Kumar Meher ▪

Biju Janata Dal MLA from Patnagarh, Saroj Kumar Meher, who was arrested for forcing a junior engineer from a tribal community to do sit-ups in public for the "poor quality" of road construction in Bolangir district, was granted bail on Saturday.

Bond, sureties

The court of the Additional Sessions Judge, Bhubaneswar, which granted bail to Mr. Meher, ordered that the MLA be released over furnishing a personal bond of ₹25,000 with two sureties of the same amount.

The court further directed the MLA to cooperate during the investigation in the case and not induce threat directly or indirectly to the victim, informants or any other prosecution witnesses.

Mr. Meher was in judicial custody since his arrest by Bolangir district police on June 24. He was initially lodged in a jail in Bolangir district and later shifted to the special jail in Bhubaneswar.

The incident took place on June 5. In a video clip that had gone viral on social media, Mr. Meher was seen forcing junior engineer Jayakanta Sabar to do sit-ups.

The police had registered a case against Mr. Meher under the IPC and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act on the basis of a complaint filed by Mr. Sabar's wife on June 6.

Expressed regret

Mr. Meher had expressed regret a day after the incident, saying he did it to "save the official" from being attacked by the villagers.

An association of the tribals in Bolangir had later threatened to picket the Assembly and demanded action against him.

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4. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission**: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgsytenders.gov.in the bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in .
5. **Submission of Original Documents**: The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provision of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer, 11th Circle, HP.PWD, Rampur Bsr Distt. Shimla HP-172001, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.
6. **Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering**: 01.08.2019 upto 1700 hours.
7. The site for the work is available.
8. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgsytenders.gov.in . The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 1100 hours on 03.08.2019 by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified, the bids will be opened online on the nest working day at the same time.
9. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated bases on his performance of maintenance activities.
10. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.
11. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.
12. Other detail can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the tender without declaring any reason.

Signature and Designation of the authority inviting bids
for and on behalf of Governor of H.P.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
11th Circle. HPPWD,
Rampur Bushahr
Distt. Shimla (HP).
Fax: 01782-233167
Tel: 01782-233044

HP/0859/19-20

IN BRIEF

C.F. Thomas to be KC(M) chairman, says Joseph

KOCHI

Kerala Congress (M) working chairman P.J. Joseph has said that senior party leader C.F. Thomas (on the right) will become the party chairman. "The announcement will be made after the verdict on the existing court case [plea against Jose K. Mani officiating as chairman] is delivered," he said. Jose K. Mani had been elected party chairman at a parallel meeting of the party's State committee on June 15.

Resolution to be passed against Alencherry today

KOCHI

A section of the faithful of the Syro-Malabar Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly will meet at the Renewal Centre, Kaloor, on Sunday to pass a resolution against the leadership of Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop. A spokesman from the Archdiocesan Movement for Transparency said it was taking the lead in organising the meeting while members of other entities like the Pastoral Council and the Kerala Catholic Youth Movement were participating in it.

Three drown in pit behind Telangana school

NIZAMABAD

Three students of the government Urdu school at Nagaram here in Telangana were found dead in a pit filled with rainwater behind the school on Saturday. The deceased were identified as Shaik Sohaib, 7, and Mohammed Asar, 7, studying in Class III and Shaik Arba, 9, of Class IV. The parents lodged a complaint when the children did not return from school on Friday. Their bodies were later retrieved from the pit that was dug for construction purposes.

Karnataka BJP looking at floor test

Party to wait till Speaker accepts resignation of MLAs; says more will follow

B.S. SATISH KUMAR
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the resignation of 12 MLAs from Karnataka's governing coalition, the opposition BJP is looking at a floor test to prove its majority in the Legislative Assembly.

The party, however, will have to wait till Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar accepts the resignations.

Senior BJP leaders are confident that Mr Ramesh will accept the resignations as he is known to go by procedures. A prominent BJP leader said the party was of the view that the "political turbulence" would continue for at least a week.

Though the governing coalition leaders feel the Speaker's decision to process the resignations only on Tuesday will give Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy an opportunity , to convince rebel MLAs to withdraw their resignations, BJP leaders asserted that there is not much scope to save the government now. Mr. Kumaraswamy is scheduled to return from a private visit to the U.S. on Sunday night.

"We are going to get some more ruling MLAs, especially prominent ones, to quit their seats by next week under the second phase of Operation Lotus," BJP sources said.

The main focus of the party is to ensure that any floor test should not become a cliffhanger, like the one in 2018 when its State president B.S. Yeddyurappa quit as Chief Minister after realising that he could not prove his majority. "We are mobilising adequate number of MLAs, much more than the required 15, to ensure that the floor test becomes a mere formality," a BJP leader said.

"We are also wooing more than the required number of MLAs to prevent recurrence of any political instability if they are wooed back," he added.

The BJP leaders believe that political instability was one of the main reasons that hampered the functioning of the Kumaraswamy government and do not want a repeat.

In turmoil: MLAs of the Congress and the JD(S) leaving the Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru after meeting Governor Vajubhai Vala on Saturday. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

Deve Gowda may ask CM to step down

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The resignation by three JD (S) MLAs, within 48 hours of the party getting a new State president, has come as a shock for the party as it had not "expected such an extreme rebellion".

Sources in the party told *The Hindu* that the JD(S) was contemplating asking Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to step down "before things further go out of hand".

The Chief Minister is expected to be back from the U.S. on Sunday.

"Before the party faces more humiliation, JD(S) national president Deve Gowda is likely to ask Mr. Kumaraswamy to resign. The situation has become difficult now," sources in the party said, and added that it could create sympathy in his favour.

SC pulls up Kerala for denying relief to endosulfan victims

₹5 lakh not paid despite 2017 order

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has ordered the Kerala government to pay ₹5 lakh compensation to four minors affected by the toxic pesticide endosulfan in the State within two months.

If the victims are not paid the money within the period, they are at liberty to revive the contempt action against the Kerala government, the court said.

The order came on a contempt petition filed by the four children – Archana, Afsal, Nisha and M. Badhavi – through their natural guardians. Represented by advocates Kaleeswaram Raj and Suvidutt M.S., the children had challenged the non-disbursement of ₹5 lakh by the Kerala government to endosulfan victims in violation of an order passed by the Supreme Court on January 10, 2017.

'Thousands affected'

"Thousands of children [have] already lost their lives due to the non-availability of proper medical care. The economic backwardness of the area prevents persons like the petitioners from giving proper care to their children on time," the contempt petition, which had arraigned State Chief Secretary K.M. Abraham, said.

The victims said even a list prepared by the State government of victims entitled to ₹5 lakh compensation has around 6,000 people.

The petition said unnamed, forgotten victims continue to live in dire straits despite the Supreme Court order of January 2017, which specifically directed the State government "to release the entire undisbursed payment of compensation, quantified as ₹5 lakh each, to all the affected persons within three months from today".

A file photo of a protest by endosulfan victims and their family members in Kerala.

State's claim

In January, the Kerala government had claimed it earmarked over ₹180 crore for payment of compensation to victims, some of whom were terminally-ill from the effects of the pesticide, which was aerially sprayed on cashew plantations adjoining habitations where the victims were located.

Responding to the contempt petition by the four children, the State, through Mr. Abraham, said the four victims were classified in the 'Other' category list and were not eligible for ₹5 lakh compensation. A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Indira Banerjee on July 3, however, found "no reason and justification for the government of Kerala to categorise these four individuals in the 'Other' category and to deny them payment of compensation".

BJP govt. certain in Telangana, says Amit Shah

Call to increase party membership two-fold

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party president Amit Shah, buoyed by the saffron party's electoral gains, gave a clarion call to increase party membership two-fold and forecast a BJP government in Telangana in the future.

The Union Home Minister was addressing party workers at a membership drive on Saturday, which corresponded with the birth anniversary of Bharatiya Jan Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee. He was flanked by party leaders including State president K. Laxman, Minister of State G. Kishan Reddy and the recently elected MPs from Telangana.

"In the capacity of BJP president, I congratulate you [people of Telangana] that you have laid a foundation of 19% vote. Based on this, a BJP government being formed here is certain," he said.

He said that in the past the party was successful in reaching 18 lakh members. Mr. Shah urged the workers to increase their membership target. "If you're unable to do it, let me know. I will go to each *zilla*," he said.

He said the BJP had secured over 50% vote share in 17 States and asked the party members to work towards replicating this success in Telangana.

He urged party workers to take up *swacchta abhiyan*, greenery augmentation and include people of all communities during the membership drive.

Attacks Congress

He described the BJP as a party of ideology and not of individuals or family. Taking a swipe at the Congress, he said the party had split after losses and the factions were named after several letters of the alphabet, including Congress(I). Mr. Shah criticised the Congress and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for reportedly mocking at the saffron party for having only two MPs then.

BJP chief Amit Shah and State unit president K. Laxman issuing a party membership card to Jatavat Sony Naik of the ST community in Ranga Reddy district, Telangana. ▪ G. RAMAKRISHNA

T.N. youth detained for bomb scare at Hyderabad airport

Police say drunk man triggered panic over failed affair

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Hours before the arrival of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday, the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here witnessed high drama after a bomb hoax by a drunk youth, who was allegedly upset about a failed love affair.

The police said K.V. Vishwanathan, 24, a sales executive in a private firm in Secunderabad, was at the airport drinking for over six hours since early on Saturday. He told a CISF officer that bombs had been placed on two Chennai-bound flights, belonging to IndiGo and TruJet airlines.

Acting on the information, security personnel sanitised the flights before declaring the threat a hoax and detained the man, who was later handed over to the RGI Airport police of Cyberabad.

Case registered

A case under 'Suppression of Unlawful Act Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act' (SUAASCAA) was registered against the accused and he was taken into custody.

Shamshabad Deputy Commissioner of Police N. Prakash Reddy said the accused, a native of Chennai, was depressed about a failed affair and was going home. He reached the airport around 1.30 a.m. on Saturday and was to board the IndiGo aircraft for Chennai at 6.20 a.m.

When quizzed by the police later, Vishwanathan claimed that while smoking a cigarette, he overheard "someone speaking about bombs" being planted on the flights. Officials said they had examined the video footage of cameras in the smoking room and found that a Kolkata-bound passenger was present with the accused.

CISF officials questioned that passenger after he landed at Kolkata airport and let him off after he was found to be innocent.

Planting hope

With the arrival of the monsoon, farming activities have picked up in Belagavi district of Karnataka. ▪ P.K. BADIGER

MLA seeks probe into Amaravati land deals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

Mangalagiri MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy of the YSRCP, who has been fighting against alleged encroachments in the Krishna, has now trained his guns on the real estate ventures in the Amaravati capital area in Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing the media here on Saturday, the MLA alleged that some real estate firms had wrongfully taken possession of land worth nearly ₹250 crore belonging to the government and village panchayats, and developed real estate ventures and townships.

Appeal to CM

The MLA said he would meet Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and ask for a vigilance inquiry into the transactions and operations of these real estate companies. He alleged that a real estate company had occupied 10 acres belonging to Dalits after "intimidating" them to gain possession of the land.

Another real estate firm was trying to promote a venture on the land that belonged to the village panchayat. He said a comprehensive probe should be conducted into all these irregularities.

The MLA charged the real estate firms with resorting to irregularities with the support of the erstwhile government.

Cautioning those planning to purchase land and houses in the three Assembly constituencies in the core of the capital area to ensure due diligence before buying, the MLA said those who had already purchased properties had been duped and were victims of such real estate scams.

Plant more coconut trees: Kerala CM

'Coconut and its value-added products have huge market potential'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan exhorted the people to plant more coconut saplings in their own land so as to increase coconut yield in the State.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Kerakeralam Samruddhakeralam project to revive coconut farming at the Urban Wholesale Agricultural Market at Vengeri here on Saturday.

Plan to give 2 cr. saplings

However, Mr. Vijayan maintained that the possibility of the government establishing coconut plantations was less. But the government had taken concerted efforts in alliance with several agencies to distribute coconut saplings to increase production.

The target was to distribute two crore saplings within 10 years. This would be achieved by distributing 75 saplings in each local body ward, he said.

In the first phase, due to shortage of quality saplings, the distribution will be done in 500 local bodies. Kerala depends on other States for the coconut husk required for industrial production.

Mr. Vijayan said that coconut and its value-added products had immense potential in the market.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the distribution by handing a sapling to a farmer, Kappally Gopalan Nair, of Nenmenda grama panchayat. He inaugurated a video programme and YouTube live streaming of Farm Information Bureau on the occasion.

Budget boost

In his address, Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar said the government hoped the Union Budget would help revive the agricultural sector, which was devastated after the floods last year.

Steps would be taken to bring coconut cultivation into the collective farming mission, similar to paddy cultivation, the Minister said.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan handing a coconut sapling to a farmer in Kozhikode on Saturday. ▪ K. RAGESH

Budget leaves solar boat operators high and dry

They are not in the list of electric vehicles eligible for sops

JOHN L. PAUL
KOCHI

The solar-powered e-boat sector is crying foul after being left out of the list of electric vehicles (EVs) eligible for sops in the Union Budget.

While lakhs of people rely on traditional ferries and other vessels for their daily commute mainly in Kerala, Goa and West Bengal, there is a move to induct newer electricity-powered boats.

"In 2017, entrepreneurs had demanded that NITI Aayog include water transport in the Centre's Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME-2) scheme, which aims to substantially increase the number of electric vehicles in commercial fleets. But little has happened and the omission of e-boats in Fridays budget is glaring," said Sandith Thandasherry who heads Navgathi, a design and construction firm that built Aditya – India's first solar-powered ferry. The vessel began operating in the Vaikom-Thavanakadavu route in 2017, for the Kerala State Water Transport Department (SWTD).

Non-polluting ferries

SWTD director Shaji V. Nair said the Central government had asked coastal States to emulate Kerala's example, since the solar ferry is non-polluting and has low operational cost. "The daily energy expense (to source electricity from the grid) is less than ₹300, since the ferry sources 80% of its energy needs from solar power. This is as compared to ₹8,000 that a diesel-run ferry would require."

Solar ferry Aditya can carry 75 passengers and can travel 75 km on a full charge. It is said to get more than 80% of its energy requirements from solar power.

The department is gearing up to introduce India's first solar cruise ferry, while a solar roll-on, roll-off (Ro-Ro) vessel – another national first – is in the pipeline.

Mr. Thandasherry said the government also continues to impose 10% duty and 18% GST on lithium batteries for use in electric boats. This pushes up the cost of already expensive batteries, he said.

Moreover, e-boats are also not covered by the additional income tax deduction of ₹1.5 lakh on interest paid on loans availed to purchase e-vehicles announced in Friday's budget.

Engineers to go on 'pen down' strike

To protest against Congress MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Congress MLA Nitish Rane, left, drew widespread criticism after his supporters attacked the engineer.

Thousands of engineers across the State will go on a 'pen down' strike on Monday to protest the attack on a deputy engineer by a group of Congress supporters led by Nitesh Rane, MLA, on the Mumbai-Goa highway earlier this week.

The Maharashtra Abhiyantriki Seva Mahasangh (MASS), an umbrella body of working engineers in the State, has written to Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Public Works Department (PWD), Manoj Kumar Saunik, informing him of the strike.

Under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, a pen down strike is defined as a "labour action" in which employees do not mark attendance or do any work while dropping their pens. The strike takes place in an office setting as opposed to an industrial setting, according to the law.

A video which went viral on Thursday showed Mr. Rane, MLA from Kankavali, shouting at a PWD deputy engineer Prakash Shedekar while his supporters poured buckets of muck on him. Mr. Rane, who had gone to inspect the progress of the Mumbai-Goa highway, was later arrested along with other supporters. The attack drew widespread criticism even from State Cabinet Ministers, including PWD minister Chandrakant Patil.

The MASS has urged the government to look for a wholistic solution and re-establish the trust of engineers in the law and order.

BJP ex-MP convicted for RTI activist murder

Six others also found guilty in 2010 killing of Amit Jethwa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Dinu Solanki

A special CBI court in Gujarat on Saturday found former MP Dinu Solanki of the BJP and six others guilty of murdering a Right to Information (RTI) activist Amit Jethwa in 2010.

In July 2010, Jethwa was killed outside the Gujarat High Court as he was fighting against illegal mining in and around Gir forest, the abode of Asiatic lions in Gujarat, where Solanki and his extended family have interests in limestone mining. Jethwa had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the HC, challenging the illegal mining in Gir.

"The court today has held seven people, including the mining mafia and former BJP parliamentarian Dinu Solanki, guilty in the murder of RTI activist Amit Jethwa," said noted lawyer Anand Yagnik, who fought the case on behalf of Bhikhabhai Jethwa, father of the murdered activist.

Arrested from Delhi

Solanki was subsequently arrested in 2013 from Delhi and later named as the main conspirator by the CBI in its chargesheet.

Special CBI judge K.M. Dave will pronounce the quantum of sentence on July 11. The case was prosecuted by the CBI after the Gujarat High Court intervened and ordered the central agency to probe it in the wake of the Gujarat police having given a clean chit to the then parliamentarian.

Besides Solanki, his nephew Shiva and five others, including the shooter Shailash Pandya, were pronounced guilty on charges of murder and criminal conspiracy under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

In May 2016, the court had framed charges against Solanki and others after the CBI chargesheeted them.

During the course of the trial, several witnesses turned hostile, prompting Bhikhabhai to move the High Court seeking fresh trial on the ground that 105 out of 195 witnesses had turned hostile.

Mr. Yagnik told the High Court that the witnesses had turned hostile due to pressure exerted on them by Solanki and others.

The High Court first stayed the trial and later ordered a fresh trial.

The court also directed that special judge Dinesh L. Pate, who was conducting the trial at the time, be replaced.

NEET: HC seeks Centre's response

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has directed the Union Home Secretary to file an affidavit in the court by July 16, disclosing the date on which the President reportedly rejected two Bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly on February 1, 2017 for obtaining exemption for the State from the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

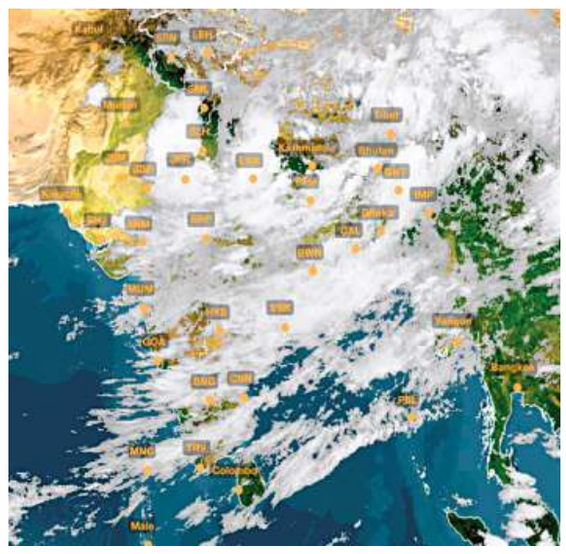
A Division Bench of Justices S. Manikumar and Subramonium Prasad issued the direction after senior Central government standing counsel A. Kumaraguru and T.V. Krishnamachari informed the court that the two Bills were received by the Centre on February 20, 2017; withheld by the President on September 18, 2017 and subsequently rejected.

During the hearing of a batch of four public interest litigation petitions filed in 2017, seeking a direction to the State government to obtain the President's assent at the earliest, the counsel told the court that an officer in the rank of Under Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs informed them that both the Bills had been rejected by the President.

Initially, the Centre amended the Indian Medical Council Act of 1956 and the Dentists Act of 1948 to introduce NEET, a national-level uniform entrance examination. The introduction of the test faced stiff resistance in the State, forcing the Assembly to pass the Tamil Nadu Admission to MBBS and BDS Courses Bill of 2017 and the Tamil Nadu Admission to Postgraduate Courses in Medicine and Dentistry Bill of 2017.

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 Sunday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Assam, Meghalaya, Konkan, Goa, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Kerala, Lakshadweep, coastal and south Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh and Bihar

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–....	31.0....	26.8	Kozhikode	2.5....	31.4....	26.5
Ahmedabad	12.2....	33.5....	26.4	Kurnool	1.1....	34.7....	26.2
Aizwal	–....	29.3....	21.1	Lucknow	44.2....	29.3....	24.9
Allahabad	126.1....	36.3....	23.8	Madurai	–....	37.4....	27.2
Bengaluru	0.2....	28.6....	20.7	Mangaluru	0.8....	30.5....	24.4
Bhopal	118.2....	26.1....	22.6	Mumbai	77.8....	29.8....	24.0
Bhubaneswar	0.1....	28.2....	24.2	Mysuru	–....	27.2....	20.8
Chandigarh	1.2....	36.2....	28.2	New Delhi	25.0....	37.0....	26.5
Chennai	–....	36.2....	30.2	Patna	1.6....	36.8....	28.4
Coimbatore	0.1....	32.4....	23.9	Port Blair	–....	30.4....	26.7
Dehradun	0.6....	32.7....	24.7	Puducherry	–....	38.0....	28.6
Gangtok	56.4....	21.2....	18.3	Pune	12.0....	26.9....	22.2
Goa	14.5....	31.4....	25.2	Raipur	21.3....	27.0....	24.0
Guwahati	15.9....	33.8....	26.6	Ranchi	20.4....	27.2....	23.5
Hubballi	–....	24.0....	22.0	Shillong	0.2....	22.9....	18.8
Hyderabad	1.7....	30.6....	24.1	Shimla	27.6....	23.7....	16.6
Imphal	1.1....	30.2....	22.9	Srinagar	–....	28.1....	16.5
Jaipur	–....	28.8....	25.8	Trivandrum	–....	31.9....	26.8
Kochi	11.4....	31.8....	24.8	Tiruchi	–....	38.3....	28.4
Kohima	–....	32.7....	18.3	Vijayawada	2.6....	36.0....	27.4
Kolkata	–....	31.9....	27.5	Visakhapatnam	–....	29.8....	26.8

(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	52	186	.76	83	.....–	....
Bengaluru	16	.70	.81	.....–	.107	....
Chennai	..3	.18	.32	51	.....–	....
Delhi	19	.37	.47	56	.207	....
Hyderabad	..5	.22	.40	33	.....–	....
Kolkata	..8	.44	.18	65	...68	....
Lucknow	..4	.53	.53	..105	.....–	....
Mumbai	30	.24	100	18	...65	....
Pune	63	...8	.30	21	...21	....
Vishakhapatnam	14	.51	.41	40	...75	....

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ballabgarh, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 223 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Guwahati, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

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

Drought-like situation in Manipur

IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM
IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said on Friday that the State government was taking all efforts to overcome the "drought-like situation" in the State. If there was no rain by the end of this month, the State would approach the Centre to declare Manipur drought-hit.

Mr. Biren presented 40 water-pump sets to farmers to help irrigate parched paddy fields.

The government had activated 157 lift irrigation schemes, he said.

The government has stopped tap water supply in most parts of the State as the rivers have dried up.

Accused in Jaipur rape case arrested

He was nabbed by the police from Kota when he went to meet an acquaintance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Police personnel tackling protesters during an agitation in the Shastri Nagar area of Jaipur on July 2. ▪ PTI

Five days after the alleged rape of a seven-year-old girl in the Shastri Nagar locality here, the accused -- stated to be a habitual offender -- was arrested in Kota on Saturday and brought here late in the night. The incident had led to tension and violent protests, during which a police station was surrounded and a large number of vehicles were vandalised.

Police nabbed the accused, Sikandar alias Jivanu, 35, when he went to meet an acquaintance -- a tea-stall owner -- in Bhimganj Mandi area of Kota after remaining untraceable for five days. One of the 12 police teams which had spread out to different areas in the State to search him found a clue about his presence in Kota, after which the policemen kept a watch and apprehended him.

Jaipur Police Commissioner Anand Srivastava said at a press conference that Sikandar was convicted of unnatural sex and murder of an 11-year-old boy in 2004 and awarded life imprisonment.

After his release from jail in 2015, Sikandar allegedly committed several crimes, including molestation of two minor girls in Bhatta Basti area here in 2017.

Mr. Srivastava said Sikandar was involved in as many as 10 crimes before and after his 2004 conviction, and that his interrogation would reveal if he was responsible for a similar incident of rape of a four-year-girl in the same locality on June 22.

Sikandar had allegedly abducted the girl on a motorcycle from her house on July 1 night and took her to a deserted place. He later dumped her near her house.

The condition of the victim, who was admitted to Sir Padampat Mother & Child Hospital here, has since improved. The State government has sanctioned a financial assistance of ₹5 lakh to her family.

Officials in M.P. to teach govt. school students

Will monitor and train teachers too

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Class 12 student Prakhar Shrivastav is eagerly awaiting the first class of the day on Monday to ask his role model – Bhopal Collector Tarun Kumar Pithode – a nagging question.

How do civil services aspirants keep calm despite gruelling study hours and pressure?

Not just him, nine others among the 48 science stream students are yearning, almost impatiently, for their weekly dose of motivation from 10-15 district officials to begin with.

The Deputy Collector and the Sub-Collector too have volunteered to teach English, science and mathematics to Classes 10 and 12 at five government schools in different zones of the district. Besides, they'll also monitor and train teachers.

"It's a win-win situation," says Mr. Pithode. "The extra classes for those facing board examinations will begin at 9 a.m. every day and end at 10.15. Students can attend regular classes from 10.30 a.m., when the school begins and officials can reach their offices by 10.30 a.m., when they open."

S.K. Reniwal, principal of the Model Higher Secondary School where the extra classes will begin on Monday, said several former students, inspired by interactions with civil servants at the school last year, had moved to New Delhi to prepare for the examination immediately after completing school.

For Prakhar's classmate at the school, Khyati Shastri, who planns to pursue engineering, the mere presence of the officials would motivate her to work harder to achieve her goals.

"I have tried the model earlier in Rajgarh, where results improved," said Mr. Pithode. He also said the aim was to compliment the efforts of the teachers and not replace them.

Govt. sets up SIT to probe Tiware dam breach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been set up by the Maharashtra government to probe the Tiware dam breach incident in Ratnagiri district.

The SIT, to be led by Avinash Surve, Secretary, Water Resources department, will have to submit its report within two months, an official statement said on Saturday.

The SIT will probe the loss of lives and properties caused by the dam breach on July 2 night due to torrential rain in the region.

Other members of the SIT include the Ratnagiri collector, the Superintendent of Police, and a Chief Engineer from the State's Water Conservation Department.

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No. TD/TM/GEN-221/17/1573 dtd. 02.07.19
Name of the work : **"Allotment of 01(One) no. of Manual Iron Ore Pellet Plot at PPT"** License Fees : **Rs. 6,84,09,792/-** Wharfage Fees : **Rs. 18,06,826/-** Last date & time of submission of bid **: 22.07.19 upto 13:00 Hrs.** Date & time of opening (technical bid**) : 24.07.2019 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Refer to website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
TRAFFIC MANAGER
PPT/PR/176/19-20 Dated: 06.07.2019

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF A.P. LIMITED
NOTIFICATION No.Addl.Secy./DS(L,IR,R,E&P)/AS(E&P) /PO(Estt)/J/543/2019, Dt:06.07.2019.
FILLING UP OF POSTS OF DIRECTORS IN APTRANSCO
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of posts of Director (Technical), Director (Grid Transmission and Management) and Director(Finance) on the Board of APTRANSCO, a company wholly owned by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The details of vacancies, eligibility criteria, other detailed instructions and prescribed format may be viewed at APTRANSCO website **www.aptransco.gov.in**.
Place : Vijayawada
Dated: 06.07.2019
RO No.: 09/19
Sd/- CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH
VACANCY OF
DIRECTOR GENERAL, CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN HOMEOPATHY
ADDENDUM
Reference is invited to advertisement published in the Employment News issue dated **25th May, 2019** and newspapers on **26th May, 2019.** The following is added in Para 3 of the said advertisement:
Method of Recruitment: By deputation / short-term contract for a tenure of 5 years or till the incumbent attains the age of superannuation, whichever is earlier.
For details log on to: **http://www.ayush.gov.in** or **http://www.ccrhindia.nic.in**
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH

नारियल विकास बोर्ड
(कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार) कोची, केरल, फोन: 0484-2377266, 67
Coconut Development Board
[MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA]
KOCHI, KERALA. PH : 0484-2377266, 67 Website:www.coconutboard.gov.in
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Coconut Development Board is an autonomous body under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India and working for the welfare of the farmers in improving productivity of coconut and also in bringing out nutritional products of coconut. The Board would like to empanel laboratories which are capable of testing pesticide residues and also the nutritional aspect of coconut products. The following conditions are to be fulfilled by the laboratories:
1. The Lab should have NABL Accreditation
2. It should be empanelled by FSSAI
3. The Laboratory should hold a good reputation at National level
4. It should have experience in testing of at least 200 food product samples in a year.
Preference will be given to organizations which have wide spread branches/laboratories across the country. The interested organizations (both private/public) can submit their quotations indicating the amount to be charged per sample for the following:
1. Pesticide residue in coconut products
2. Nutritional value of the coconut products
Any queries can be addressed to Technology Section, Coconut Development Board, Kera Bhavan, Kochi – 682 011 (Phone : 0484-2376265/2377267, Email : cdbtech@gmail.com).
Contact Person: - Shri. Sreekumar Poduval, Deputy Director, Technology Development & Entrepreneurship, Coconut Development Board, Vazhakulam, Aluva, Kochi, Kerala (0484 2679680, citaluva@gmail.com).
The quotations shall be submitted to CDB, HQ, Kochi within 15 days from the date of release of this advertisement.
(Secretary)
डाब - आपके स्वास्थ्य के लिए रोजाना खुराक Kisan Call Centre Toll Free Number : 1800-180-1551

सी.एस.आई.आर–संरचनात्मक अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान केन्द्र
CSIR-STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTRE
(वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)
सी.एस.आई.आर रोड CSIR Road, तरमणि TARAMANI, चेन्नई CHENNAI - 600 113.
Advertisement No. SE-1/2019
Opportunity beckons at CSIR-SERC for an exciting R&D Career in Structural Engineering
CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC), Chennai, is a premier National Laboratory under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The thrust areas of R & D of the Centre are: Structural health monitoring and Life extension, Disaster mitigation, Sustainable materials and structures and Special and Multi-functional Structures. The Centre has built up excellent facilities for testing of structures and structural models and also for mathematical modeling and simulation.
The Centre invites applications from highly qualified and motivated candidates for taking up R&D activities and also for providing engineering services to solve the problems of the industry and the society.
Applications are invited online from Indian Nationals for the following posts:

Post	No. of Posts	Reservation
Scientist / Sr. Scientist	10	UR-5, EWS-1, OBC-2, SC-1 & ST-1(Backlog)
Sr. Scientist (Lateral Entry)	09	UR-9

For further details, please visit our website http://www.serc.res.in and apply through the online application form available there or refer the Employment News issue dated 27.07.2019. The detailed advertisement, terms and conditions and instructions to the candidates are available on the website.
Date of commencement of online applications is : 10.07.2019 from 9.00 a.m.
The last date for receipt of online applications is : 09.09.2019 up to 5.30 p.m.
The last date for receipt of hard copy of applications is : 25.09.2019 up to 5.30 p.m.
Administrative Officer

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN RESEARCH CAREERS
KISHORE VAIGYANIK PROTSAHAN YOJANA
किशोर वैज्ञानिक प्रोत्साहन योजना
KVPY
An ongoing National Program of Fellowships in Basic Sciences to attract exceptionally motivated students to pursue research career in Basic Sciences.
Funded by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and implemented by the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru-12
*SELECTION IS OPEN TO INDIAN NATIONALS FOR STUDY IN INDIA**
KISHORE VAIGYANIK PROTSAHAN YOJANA (KVPY) FELLOWSHIP AWARD - 2019
APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PURSUING BASIC SCIENCE COURSES AND CAREER IN RESEARCH
The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, offers attractive fellowships (Rs.5,000/- Rs.7000/- p.m.) and contingency grants (equivalent to four months fellowship per annum) to students studying in 1st year program in basic science course such as B.Sc./B.S./B.Stat./B.Math./Int. M.Sc./ Int.M.S. Selection to the program takes into account the academic excellence and skills to take up research career in Basic Sciences.
- **Eligibility for Stream SA**: Students enrolled in XI Standard (Science Subjects) during the academic year 2019-20 and have secured a minimum of 75%(65% for SC/ST & PWD) marks in aggregate in **MATHEMATICS** and **SCIENCE** subjects in the X Board examination are eligible to appear for the Aptitude Test. The fellowship of the students selected under this stream will be activated only if they join for an undergraduate course in Basic Science (B. Sc./B.S./B.Stat./B.Math./ Int. M.Sc./ Int.M.S.) in the academic year 2021-22 after having secured a minimum of 60% (50% for SC/ST & PWD) marks in aggregate in Science Subjects in the XII Standard /(+2) Board Examination. During the interim period of one year they will be invited for National Science (Vijyoshi) Camp and their travel expenses and local hospitality will be met by KVPY.
- **Eligibility for Stream SX**: Students enrolled in XII Standard / (+2) (Science Subjects) during the academic year 2019–20 and aspiring to join undergraduate program in Basic Sciences (B.Sc./B.S./B.Stat./B.Math./ Int. M.Sc./ Int.M.S.) for the session 2020–21 and having secured a minimum of 75% (65% for SC/ST & PWD) marks in aggregate in **MATHEMATICS** and **SCIENCE** subjects in the X Standard Board Examination are eligible to appear for the Aptitude test. The fellowship of the students selected under this stream will be activated only if they join for an undergraduate course in Basic Science (B.Sc./B.S./B. Stat./B. Math./ Int. M.Sc./ Int. M.S.) in the academic year 2020–21 after having secured a minimum of 60% (50% for SC/ST & PWD) marks in aggregate in **SCIENCE** subjects in the XII standard/(+2) Board Examination.
- **Eligibility for Stream SB**: Students enrolled in the 1st year of B. Sc./B.S./B.Stat./B.Math./ Int. M.Sc./ Int.M.S. during the academic year 2019–20 and have secured a minimum of 60% (50% for SC/ST& PWD) marks in aggregate in **SCIENCE** subjects in the XII Standard / (+2) Board Examination are eligible to appear for the Aptitude Test.
- **Empowerment initiative in the KVPY Fellowship Program:**
  I **For students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe:** A certain number of fellowships exclusively for the meritorious SC/ST students under all the streams will be operated.
  II **Empowerment initiative for Persons With Disabilities:** A certain number of fellowships under various streams as stated above will be operated for deserving Persons With Disabilities- Physically and Visually challenged students.

GENERAL INFORMATION:
- *Applications are invited from Indian Nationals. However, as per the interim order (Final Order awaited) of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka OCI/PIO Students will be allowed to write the KVPY Aptitude Test 2019.
- The KVPY fellowship is available to the students who have enrolled as a regular student of UG Program in Basic Science course in any College/Institution of a University recognized in India.
- Students may apply Online clearly indicating the stream (i.e.SA/SX/SB). *(**http://www.kvpy.iisc.ernet.in**).
- **APPLICATION FEE**: For General category Rs.1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) and for Students belonging to SC/ST/Persons With Disabilities (Physically and Visually challenged students) Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred only).
- A computer based online Aptitude Test will be conducted at all the selected cities.
- For the benefit of students a Mock Test of KVPY Aptitude Test is also available. For details visit KVPY Website (**http://www.kvpy.iisc.ernet.in**).

IMPORTANT DATES

01	Opening of Application Portal	08th July 2019
02	Last date for submission of online Application	20st August 2019
03	KVPY Aptitude Test	3rd November 2019

Please follow the instructions and submit all the documents through the website.
- Caste certificate issued and duly signed by the competent authority (GOI) in the prescribed proforma in the case of students belonging to SC/ST.
- Medical certificate from the prescribed authority (GOI) in the case of physically and visually challenged students certifying the percentage of disability.
- Scanned photo & signature.

All correspondence should be addressed to :
The Convener, Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY),
Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru – 560 012
Phone : 080-2293 2975 / 76 / 3537, 2360 1008 Fax : 080 – 2360 1215
Email: applications.kvpy@iisc.ac.in
For more details visit : http://www.kvpy.iisc.ernet.in
APTITUDE TEST WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2019 AT VARIOUS CENTRES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
ANY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT OF ANY MATTER OF CLAIM OR DISPUTE ARISING OUT OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT AND / OR APPLICATION IN RESPONSE THERE TO CAN BE LODGED ONLY IN BENGALURU AND COURTS/TRIBUNALS/FORUMS AT BENGALURU ONLY SHALL HAVE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION TO TRY ANY CASE/DISPUTE.

FROM PAGE ONE

Govt. gives itself room for fuel price hikes

The Finance Bill, which converts the Budget announcements into law, specified a higher increase in both the SAD and the Road and Infrastructure Cess, Mr. Pandey indicated to *The Hindu*.

According to the Budget announcement, the SAD would increase to ₹8 per litre for petrol and ₹2 per litre for diesel. The cess would increase to ₹9 per litre for both fuels.

However, Clause 185 of the Finance Bill, seeks to increase the rate of special additional duty of excise on motor spirit, commonly known as petrol, from ₹7 per litre to ₹10 per litre [and] increase the rate of special additional duty of excise on high speed diesel oil from ₹1 per litre to ₹4 per litre. Similarly, Clause 201 of the Bill seeks to "increase the rate of road and infrastructure cess on motor spirit commonly known as petrol and high speed diesel oil, from ₹8 per litre to ₹10 per litre".

Taken together, this would amount to a ₹5 per litre increase in the levies on the two fuels. While oil marketing companies have been instructed to only incorporate a total hike of ₹2 per litre for the moment, the wording in the Bill gives the government room to increase up to ₹ 5 per litre whenever it wants.

"The ceiling has been increased," Mr. Pandey said. "Only the ceiling has been increased because you cannot go on changing the ceiling every time. Depending on the requirement, the decision can be taken to either bring down the taxes or for them to go up."

Mr. Pandey added that the government expects to earn ₹30,000 crore in a year due to the increase in levies on fuel.

Budget does not ignore middle class: Nirmala

"If you use the fuel tax hike and say I am hitting at the middle class, I would say I am investing in better metros, better public transport and so I expect there would be a behavioural shift towards more public transport usage," she said.

The Finance Minister said the announcement of deductions for affordable housing was not aimed at the super-rich but at the middle class.

She also made the point that consumption was not ignored since investment in public infrastructure would put money in the people's hands, as would the minimum wage legislation the government was trying to pass. Ms. Sitharaman defended her announcement of a 10% import duty on newsprint and a 5% duty on imported books, saying it was aimed at encouraging domestic industry.

"I think there is enough number of publishing houses in India and also printers who have been voicing a concern saying we are being flooded by cheap books being printed outside," she said. "Why should the capacities which have been invested in India lie idle just because books coming in from outside are cheap?"

"I think there is enough newsprint in India which should first be utilised," Ms Sitharaman said. India's newsprint demand was estimated to be about 2.7 million tonnes in 2018-19, according to Care Ratings. The industry estimates put the domestic capacity at only 15-20% of it.

"We have been asked if the government is becoming protectionist. Not at all," the Minister said. "We wanted to support Make in India, and therefore, where capacities exist within India for products that can be usefully bought by Indian procurers, we want to extend that help by deterring imports."

'Jai Shri Ram' a pretext to beat up people: Sen

Earlier, at a seminar on the advancement of education through teachers' capabilities, he said, "When someone is asked to alight from a rickshaw, told to repeat a particular phrase (and then) hit if the person refused to say so, then I am alarmed."

After the recent election, a dozen cases have been reported of minorities being assaulted in the State and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram', with some beaten even after complying with the demand. On Wednesday, an 11-year-old boy was thrashed in Hooghly, allegedly for refusing to repeat the slogan.

Professor Sen, however, did not mention any particular incident, but indicated that the number of such incidents was increasing. "We do not want to discriminate between various castes, religion or communities, but it is increasing," he said at the seminar.

At Jadavpur University, where he participated in a discussion with social scientist Partha Chatterjee, Prof. Sen reiterated the issue of discrimination.

"These days, when I hear that members of a particular community are scared and going out of their houses in this city with an element of fear, then I fail to recognise this city...the city of my pride. We need to ask questions now," he said.

Professor Sen was interacting with Professor Chatterjee on 'Kolkata after Independence: A personal memoir' which is possibly part of his forthcoming autobiography. During the question and answer session that followed the discussion, Prof. Sen said Bengalis were not connected to "the culture" of 'Jai Shri Ram' or Ram Navmi, but this new culture was imported to promote divisive politics in the State. He argued that the Hindu Mahasabha once introduced a similar culture in the State to create an atmosphere of divisive politics. "For the same reason, this 'Jai Shri Ram' slogan is introduced," he said.

Gandhi Bhavan, the main auditorium of Jadavpur University, was chock-a-block with many visitors being turned away.

BJP State president Dilip Ghosh, however, said, "Nobody is listening to intellectuals like Amartya Sen."

Karnataka govt. teeters as 12 lawmakers resign

Shivaram Hebbar (Yellapur), Mahesh Kamatahalli (Athani), B.C. Patil (Hirekerur), Pratap Gouda Patil (Maski), Ramalinga Reddy (BTM Layout), S.T. Somashekar (Yashwanthpur), Munirathna (R.R. Nagar) Byrathi Basavaraj (K.R. Puram) and Ramesh Jarkiholi (Gokak) of the Congress. While Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar said 11 MLAs had submitted resignations to his office, Mr. Vishwanath, who led the group to the Raj Bhavan and spoke to the media, put the number at 14. Mr. Vishwanath had included Somwya Reddy, daughter of Congress MLA Ramalinga Reddy, who may resign on Monday.

BJP into horse trading: Cong.

'MODI stands for mischievously orchestrated defections in India'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Accusing the BJP of trying to bring down its coalition government in Karnataka by 'purchasing' their MLAs, the Congress on Saturday said political defections had now a new acronym "MODI – mischievously orchestrated defections in India".

The sharp response came after its senior leaders held an emergency meeting in the war room to discuss the fluid political situation after 13 lawmakers of the ruling Congress-JD(S) alliance had submitted their resignation to the Speaker.

Senior leaders including Mallikarjuna Kharge, A.K. Antony, Ahmed Patel, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Mukul Wasnik, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Deependra Hooda and Randeep Surjewala discussed the situation.

The Congress already dispatched general secretary in charge of Karnataka, KC Venugopal, to Bengaluru to contain the crisis. In the 224-member Assembly, the ruling coalition has 118 members while the BJP has 105.

"The new word for *aaya ram gaya ram* [an expression for frequent defections] is MODI – mischievously orchestrated defections in India," said communication chief Randeep Surjewala.

"The Karnataka government which is a joint government having complete majority under our democratic set up is now being sought to be pulled down by a spate of defections and resignations. MLAs are being bought in broad daylight," he said.

"Democracy is being denigrated in broad daylight. Constitution is being trampled in broad daylight by the ruling BJP government at the Centre." Aiming at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, he said if public offices that were meant to uphold the Constitution "abdicate" their duty, then there would be no democracy.

"If the Prime Minister and the government of the day are going to encourage defections to bring down elected governments who will protect the Constitution and democracy," he asked and accused the BJP of doing it in 12 States in the past five years.

"We want to tell them [the BJP] that no effort of yours will ever succeed in denigrating India's democracy or its laudable Constitution ...Constitution and democracy are above you," he said.

Mr. Surjewala later tweeted, "Trampling of Constitution & Denigration of Democracy by BJP to topple elected govt of Karnataka by defections is their definition of 'New India'."

'No hand in resignations'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka BJP chief B.S. Yeddyurappa on Saturday denied any role in the resignation of coalition MLAs.

"I and my party have nothing to do with the developments in other rival parties," he said, adding, "I have heard through media that Congress and JD(S) legislators have resigned from their Assembly seats."

Hinting that the BJP might stake claim to form the government eventually, he said, "One thing I can say is that people are not ready for elections... "

While the BJP has officially distanced itself from the developments, party leader C.P. Yogeshwar was seen at the Raj Bhavan when the 12 MLAs of the ruling coalition went to meet the Governor and submit their resignations; party MLA Ashwanth Narayan was seen at HAL airport from where the MLAs flew out to Mumbai later on Saturday. Both are known to be key players in "Operation Lotus."

B.S. Yeddyurappa

There were last ditch efforts by the Congress, which seemed to be in denial till very late, to salvage the situation.

Soon after the MLAs trooped into the Speaker's chamber to submit their resignations, Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar rushed in and appealed to the MLAs to rescind their decision. He is learnt to have even torn up the resignation letter of Mr. Muniratna, who however, later submitted the letter again.

Rahul Gandhi granted bail in 'Modi jibe' case

He says voice of India being throttled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday was granted bail by a court in Patna on two sureties of ₹10,000 each. While coming out of the court, he said the voice of India was being throttled and he would continue to fight to protect the Constitution and the rights of farmers, labourers and poor people.

Mr. Gandhi appeared before the court of judge Kumar Gunjan in the Patna civil court in connection with a defamation case filed against him by senior Bihar BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi over Mr. Gandhi's "Modi" surname jibe made during the Lok Sabha election campaign in Kolar, Karnataka, on April 13.

Mr. Modi found Mr. Gandhi's statement "offensive and derogatory", and filed the case under Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code on April 18. He also sought an apology from Mr. Gandhi.

Outside the court, Mr. Gandhi told presspersons that those who contested the ideologies of the RSS and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have to face such court cases. "My fight is against the ideologies of the RSS and the BJP, and those who stand up against them are attacked with such court cases. But my fight will continue ... I would keep appearing before courts," he said.

Rahul Gandhi

Asked about his resignation as party president, he said, "I've already explained my position on this".

Earlier, hours before the court proceedings began, Mr. Gandhi tweeted, "I will appear in person at the Civil Court in Patna today at 2 p.m., in yet another case filed against me by my political opponents in the RSS/BJP to harass & intimidate me". During the campaign, Mr. Gandhi said in Kolar: "Be it Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi or Narendra Modi. All have a common surname...why all thieves have a common surname?".

New India is racing ahead, says Modi

Prime Minister says those who cast doubts on $5 trillion economy are 'professional pessimists'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the BJP's membership drive from his Lok Sabha constituency, Varanasi.

Addressing a gathering, he said it would further connect people from all walks of life with the party. He also talked about the Union Budget 2019-20 and his thoughts on India's growth trajectory in the coming years.

"From the soil of Kashi, I greet each dedicated worker of the party. Today, I got an opportunity to launch the BJP's membership campaign from Kashi," he said.

The launch of the membership drive coincided with the 118th birth anniversary of the party's founder, Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Referring to the provisions in the Union Budget, Mr. Modi said a "new India" was on the threshold of racing ahead.

"It is important to know about the $5 trillion economy because some people were casting doubts over the competency of Indians, saying that achieving the target is very difficult. These people are professional pessimists," he said.

Rain or shine: Narendra Modi during a visit to Varanasi to launch the BJP's membership drive on Saturday. ▪ PTI

Earlier, soon after his arrival on a day-long visit, Mr. Modi unveiled a statue of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at the airport.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP working president J.P. Nadda and the party's State unit chief, Mahendra Nath Pandey.

Anil Shastri and Sunil Shastri, sons of late Lal Bahadur Shastri, were present at the venue as also Uttar Pradesh Minister Siddharth Nath Singh, a kin of the former Prime Minister.

This is Mr. Modi's second visit to his constituency after winning the parliamentary polls. He visited Varanasi on May 27 to thank the voters.

After unveiling the statue of Shastri, the Prime Minister proceeded to launch a tree-plantation campaign – "Anand Kanan" – in the temple city.

He paid tributes to Mookerjee, Jana Sangh founder, on his 118th birth anniversary, saying his contribution to national integration would always be remembered.

In a tweet, Mr. Modi described Mookerjee as a great educationist and a bright nationalist thinker.

IN BRIEF

Aadhaar can be used for cash and other dealings

NEW DELHI

The Aadhaar number can now be quoted for cash transactions of more than ₹50,000 and for all other purposes where traditionally the income tax PAN number was mandatory, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said on Saturday. Banks will make upgrades to allow acceptance of Aadhaar, Mr. Pandey said. This follows the Budget allowing interchange of PAN and Aadhaar for filing taxes. PTI

Nirav, aides told to pay over ₹7,200 cr to banks

PUNE

The Pune Bench of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) on Saturday directed diamond merchant Nirav Modi and his aides to pay over ₹7,200 crore with interest to the Punjab National Bank (PNB) and others. Nirav Modi is now in a London prison. In both the suits, the judge granted liberty to applicants to publish the names of the defendants as per rule 15 (A) of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules. PTI

Pick a young leader: Amarinder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has called for a young leader to galvanise the Congress in the wake of Rahul Gandhi's resignation as party president. Pointing to the large and growing population of youth in the country, Capt. Singh on Saturday urged the Congress Working Committee (CWC) to look for a charismatic "Gen-Next" leader, who can enthuse the people with his pan-India appeal and grassroots presence.

With India leading the world in terms of the largest youth population, it was natural that a young leader would understand and relate to the desires and aspirations of the people more effectively, Capt. Singh said in a statement, adding that Mr. Gandhi's decision was a setback.

"Any change in the party leadership must reflect India's societal reality, with 65% of its population under 35," he said.

It's not cricket, says ICC on 'Kashmir banner'

It expresses disappointment with the local police for allowing plane to tow banner over Headingley

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LEEDS

Sport and politics may be strange bedfellows but the twain do meet awkwardly at times. Just as the Indian bowlers were gaining a stranglehold over the Sri Lankan batsmen in a World Cup game at Headingley here on Saturday morning, there was a rumble in the skies.

The third over was in progress when a small aircraft flew over the ground towing a banner that read "Justice for Kashmir".

As the import of the political message sunk in, a lull ensued before the match continued with its own innate rhythm.

While the aerial propaganda was being considered a one-off incident, and Sri Lanka struggled following the fall of the fourth wicket, the plane reappeared and did two sorties circling the ground. The 17th over was being bowled and this time the slogan was more strident: "India stop genocide, free Kashmir".

Much later, while Indian openers Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul cruised, the plane returned and the banner read: "Help end mob lynching in India".

Breaching the code: An aircraft displaying a banner with the words 'India Stop Genocide & Free Kashmir" during the India-Sri Lanka match at Headingley in Britain. ▪ AFP

'No political messages'

The International Cricket Council promptly issued a statement: "We are incredibly disappointed this has happened again. We do not condone any sort of political messages at the ICC men's cricket World Cup.

Throughout the tournament we have worked with local police forces around the country to prevent this type of protest occurring.

After the previous incident we were assured by West Yorkshire Police there would not be repeat of this issue, so we are very dissatisfied it has happened again."

A similar intrusion through the clouds had happened at the same venue on June 29.

Pakistan and Afghanistan were locked in a contest that the former eventually won but the face-off is being remembered more for what happened off the field.

Earlier scuffle

There was a scuffle between Pakistani and Afghan fans and incidentally a plane then had flown with the following message: "Justice for Balochistan".

Back then the ICC declared: "We work with local police forces around the country to prevent this type of incident occurring and were assured that given Headingley is under the flight path for the Leeds Bradford Airport it would not be an issue. We do not condone any sort of political messages at the ICC men's cricket World Cup and will work with West Yorkshire police to deal with and understand why this has happened and to ensure it does not happen again."

Obviously, the precautionary measures failed and a tournament known for pure sport has been dragged into an avoidable political game of smoke and mirrors on the periphery.

CRPF to plug Maoists' escape routes

7,000 personnel to be deployed in inaccessible areas of Abujhmad in south Chhattisgarh, says official

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Nearly 7,000 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel are to be deployed in the inaccessible areas of Abujhmad in south Chhattisgarh to fill the "security vacuum" and plug the gaps through which Maoists escape when operations are launched, a senior government official said.

The Union Home Ministry has asked the States to continue the offensive against "urban activities of CPI (Maoists) and its front organisations", according to a note accessed by *The Hindu*.

Last year, 10 persons, including human rights lawyer Sudha Bhardwaj, were arrested by the Maharashtra police for allegedly being associated with Maoists, a charge denied by them.

This year, 60 operations have been conducted, in which 34 Maoists and 17 security personnel were killed in Chhattisgarh, the worst-affected State. Since 2016, as many as 635 operations have been launched in the State, where 370 Maoists and 179 security personnel were killed.

Exchanging fire

Since 2016, as many as 370 Maoists and 179 security personnel have been killed in Chhattisgarh

Year	Operations	Security forces killed	Maoists killed
2016	211	42	135
2017	198	62	77
2018	166	58	124
2019	60	17	34

The Abujhmad forests are not on the revenue map and the dense jungles are used by Maoists as their hideouts. It was here in February 2017 that the Central Committee, the top decision-making body of the Maoists, met and decided to pick a new leader, Basavaraju, replacing Muppala Lakshman Rao, alias Ganapathi.

Review meeting

Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba convened a meeting of the States affected by Left-wing extremism (LWE) last week where the redeployment of CRPF personnel and other issues were discussed. This was the first such review done after Amit Shah took charge as Home Minister in the second term of the Narendra Modi government. The extra personnel would be deployed in the interior of Bijapur and Sukma districts also. At present, around 44,000 Central forces are deployed in the State other than the State police.

The official said the Home Ministry had given the clearance to deploy the extra seven CRPF battalions (each battalion comprises around 1,000 personnel) last year. "They couldn't be deployed last year and it has been decided to move them to Chhattisgarh on an immediate basis. Most were on election duty. As they set up camps in the interior pockets and increase their presence, it will be difficult for Maoists to escape using these routes," he said.

The action by security forces at the Madhya Pradesh-Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh trijunction, where Maoists were trying to raise a new armed group, was also discussed at the meeting.

Four Naxals killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAIPUR

Four Naxals, including three women, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Dhamtari district on Saturday, the police said.

"The encounter broke out when a patrolling team was advancing through Sendbahra forests. During a search, bodies of four ultras, including three uniform-clad women, were recovered," DGP D.M. Awasthi said, adding that "a .303 rifle, five 12-bore guns and a country-made revolver were recovered".

3 youth thrashed in Ranchi, 'forced' to say '*Jai Shri Ram*'

Community members demand immediate arrest of culprits

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Tension prevailed on the Mahatma Gandhi Marg in Jharkhand capital Ranchi on Friday after three young men of a minority community were thrashed and allegedly forced to chant "*Jai Shri Ram*" by a group of people.

The youths were treated in a hospital and later discharged.

Protests held

Enraged community members blocked the road near Church Complex, demanding the immediate arrest of the culprits.

The police rushed to the spot to control the situation. The community leaders continued to demonstrate till late in the evening.

"We have deployed police along M.G. Marg to prevent further escalation. Now the area is peaceful. We are keeping a close watch on the situation," Senior Superintendent of Police Anish Gupta said over the phone on Saturday.

> **We have deployed police along M.G. Marg to prevent further escalation. Now the area is peaceful. We are keeping a close watch on the situation**
>
> ANISH GUPTA
> Senior Superintendent of Police

'Went to take photos'

Aamir Wasim, who lodged a complaint at the Doranda police station, said he and his friends Altaf Ali and Ali Ahmed had gone to the airport area to take photographs.

"We were riding our two-wheelers and were in *kurta pajama* when some people besieged us. Without any provocation, they beat us up and told us to chant '*Jai Shri Ram*'. As the crowd got bigger, we fled from the spot," said Mr. Wasim, adding that security personnel near the Birsa Munda Airport rescued them.

18 cases of mob lynching

Tabrez Ansari, a 24-year-old youth, was beaten to death by a mob in Saraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand last month. According to the State Congress, as many as 18 cases of mob lynchings had taken place in the State since 2016.

On Friday, Muslims took out an 'Akrosh' rally to protest against attacks on their community members in Ranchi.

IN BRIEF

Over 14,000 pilgrims visit Amarnath shrine

SRINAGAR

More than 14,000 pilgrims paid obeisance at the cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir on Saturday. On the sixth day of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, 14,402 yatris paid obeisance at the cave, an official spokesperson said. He said 5,155 yatris left from Baltal and 6,075 from the Pahalgam route for the shrine. PTI

Israeli firm recalls controversial bottle

NEW DELHI

An Israeli company that put Mahatma Gandhi's image on liquor bottles has stopped its production and is making all efforts to withdraw it from the market, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said. In a letter to Sanjay Singh, AAP MP who raised the issue in Parliament, he said, "Our embassy has raised the issue with the company." PTI

Need an innovation movement: Venkaiah

NEW DELHI

Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday called for creating a national innovation movement to improve living conditions of people and generate wealth. Speaking at the Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Awards, organised by the Department of Biotechnology here, he stressed on the need to tap the huge talent present in every section of society across the country to build a new and inclusive India. PTI

The importance of being Thimpu

Budget outlay points to strategic focus

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India-Bhutan relations received a big boost with the allocation of the lion's share of the foreign affairs outlay in the Union Budget presented in Parliament on Saturday.

That the budgetary allocation has been hiked successively over two years shows that following the 2017 Doklam crisis, India is according highest priority to the Himalayan country.

Bhutan PM Dr. Lotay Tshering with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bhutan received ₹2,802 crore, out of the total allocations for foreign affairs commitments. This move has indicated that India is going to firm up its development commitments with the Himalayan country in the coming year which will also be crucial for ties with Beijing, with a new bilateral India-China summit being planned here.

High-profile visit

Ties with Bhutan will receive the highest level of attention with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit which is expected shortly. Though the External Affairs Ministry is yet to announce the date, it is understood that Bhutan will be the third South Asian destination of the Prime Minister after his re-election following his June visit to the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Bhutan's premier Lotay Tshering was one of the heads of government at the swearing-in of Mr. Modi for the second term. It is expected that top-level projects such as the Manghdechhu hydropower project and a multi-speciality hospital backed by India will be on the agenda during Mr. Modi's visit.

The Mangdechhu project is in its final stages and it is expected that the visit of the Indian PM could coincide with the inauguration of the high-capacity power project.

Another high-profile project between the two countries is the South Asia Satellite programme. Dr. Tshering had told *The Hindu* that he expected more bilateral hydropower projects to take off.

Ahead of Mr. Modi's visit to Thimphu, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale paid a two-day visit to the Himalayan nation's capital last week and held discussions with senior officials.

Foreign Minister Lyonpo Tandi Dorji hosted a dinner in the honour of the Indian Foreign Secretary.

Railway infrastructure grew by only 30% in 65 years: Goyal

Eyeing ₹50 lakh crore investment by 2030, says Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

Union Railways Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said the government was eyeing investment of ₹50 lakh crore in Railways by the year 2030 to make it the best in the world.

The Minister also said that the rail infrastructure in the country increased by a mere 30% in the past 65 years due to the lack of adequate investment.

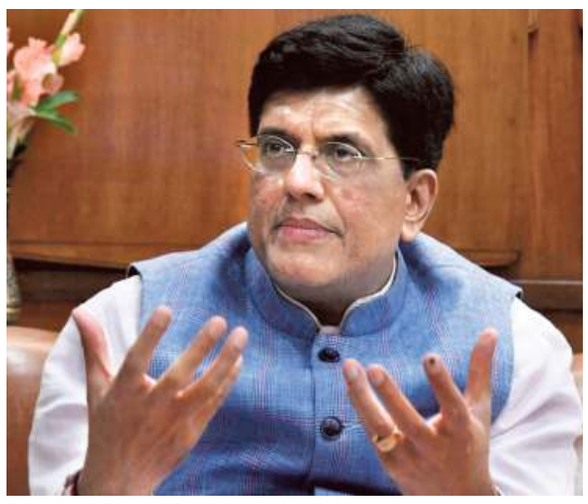
"The government envisages investment of ₹50 lakh crore by the year 2030 in Railways to make it the world's best railway which will include safety of passengers, expansion of network, and increase in freight share," Mr. Goyal said, while commenting on the Union Budget, which was presented in Parliament on Friday.

"In the past 65 years, the investment had been less in Railways due to which the infrastructure increased by 30% while freight and passenger traffic increased by 1,500%," the Minister said, adding that these factors resulted in passengers facing several problems.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of launching of a membership drive for the BJP here.

Electrification drive

Mr. Goyal announced that the entire Konkan Railway Corporation (KRCL) route from Mumbai to Mangalore via Goa would be electrified in the next year and a half.



Free flow: Piyush Goyal said his Ministry will have a capital investment of ₹1.60 lakh crore for the current year against the mere ₹45,000 crore invested during 2013-14.

> **Running the entire [Konkan Railway] route on electricity will save the environment and increase speed**
>
> PIYUSH GOYAL
> Railway Minister

Electrification work has been undertaken by the Ministry of Railways at a cost of ₹11,000 crore, which has been sanctioned.

"Running the entire route on electricity will save the environment and increase speed. Besides, trains will run on clean fuel," Mr. Goyal said.

The Minister also said that different measures are being initiated to increase the capacity of the KRCL without going for doubling of the tracks. He said his Ministry will have a capital investment of ₹1.60 lakh crore for the current year against the mere ₹45,000 crore invested during 2013-14.

Goa mining

He also said the mining issue in Goa will have to be resolved within the ambit of law in the wake of last year's Supreme Court verdict, which halted mining operations in the State. "We are committed to solving the mining issue. The Chief Minister had held several meetings with our leadership in Delhi. He had also met the Prime Minister several times on this issue," Mr. Goyal told reporters in the presence of the Chief Minister.

Bengal man's death sparks political row

Targeted for being a supporter: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday alleged that a 28-year-old man was killed by Trinamool activists at Swarupganj in Nabadwip block in West Bengal's Nadia district for being a supporter of the BJP.

"A youngster named Krishna Debnath was brutally murdered by Trinamool goons for supporting BJP and chanting '*Jai Shri Ram*'. [Chief Minister] Mamata Banerjee's bloodthirsty politics will soon see its end," BJP MP and Union Minister for State Babul Supriyo tweeted.

The Trinamool said the death had nothing to do with politics. "Trinamool has no connection with the incident," said gram panchayat chief Sirajul Sheikh.

He said the man was drunk and he reportedly misbehaved with a woman, prompting some residents to beat him up.

MP's guards accused of assaulting toll plaza staff

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AGRA

Security men accompanying BJP MP and Scheduled Castes Commission chairman Ram Shankar Katheria opened fire in the air and allegedly thrashed employees at a toll post here on Saturday, the police said.

The police have registered an FIR against Mr. Katheria and another person after the early morning fracas on the inner ring road. An aide to the MP claimed that the security guards opened fire in self-defence when they were attacked at the toll plaza.

Toll plaza in-charge Anupam Singh said the altercation began when the staff insisted on letting the vehicles in Mr. Katheria's convoy pass through only one at a time, according to the complaint.

Bhopal gas tragedy: M.P. to go into funds received by NGOs

Minister directs Finance Dept. to investigate FCRA violations

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Minister for Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Arif Aqeel has directed the Finance Department to investigate alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) by NGOs working for the victims of the tragedy in 1984.

"Those leading these NGOs have won international awards, held press conferences abroad and amassed wealth for themselves without caring for the victims. They should be transparent about the source and spending of their funds. After all, they seek funds in the name of the victims," he told *The Hindu* on phone.

Without naming the NGOs, he said, "They could declare their sources to the District Collector, after which no questions would be asked. Despite my appeals for transparency, they have not responded or met me. Moreover, the Centre has not been supporting us in rehabilitating the victims."

Children affected by the Bhopal gas tragedy at a rally.

The Sambhavna Trust's founder Satinath Sarangi said it accepted funds from only ordinary people and rejected corporate support. "As medical intervention is a political affair, if we accept funds from governments or funding agencies, there are chances of manipulation. When the Trust was set up in 1996, we decided not to take money from governments, corporates and funding agencies. We had advertised in *The Guardian* for funds and several individuals came out in support."

The Sambhavna and the Chingari trusts received foreign funds through the Bhopal Medical Appeal, a charity registered in the U.K. So far, more than 25,000 individuals from 45 countries had donated an average of £28.09 to the Trust. More than 6,000 individuals had donated more than once in the past five years, Mr. Sarangi said. "During our annual exhibition, we put out expenditure statements to the public."

Rachna Dhingra, coordinator, International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal, said Mr. Aqeel was reacting to a letter the NGOs wrote to the Chief Minister in March stating he was "unfit to be a Minister" as he didn't stand by the victims after the election.

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SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER-III
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Adv. No. 12/SE-IV/TTD/TPT/ 2019-20 Dated: ... 07.2019

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Name of work	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs & Time for Completion	Tender Schedule download Start Date	Tender Schedule download end date & Last Date for bid submission
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER-III, TIRUPATI					
1.	35/SE-IV/ TTD/TPT/ 2019-20	Construction of Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple at G.N.Chetty street, Chennai, Tamilnadu State	575.00 24 Months	10.07.2019 5.00 PM	26.07.2019 @ 1.00 PM & 26.07.2019 @ 3.00 PM

Note : For details please log on to the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/ or http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in/

Roc. No.PR4/13908/Adv.No.156/PRO/2019,Dt:06.07.2019 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
'JALA BHAVAN', No. 5 & 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
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Ph: 080 - 41106504, e-mail: cekwbbng@gmail.com, Website: www.kuwsdb.org

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Electronic Procurement portal only)

Item Rate Tender for the following work is invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement from eligible Agency/Contractors as detailed below:

No. KUWSDB/DCE-I/TA-2/AE-1/OHT GBR-NAGAR/649 Dt: 04.07.2019

Name of work: Construction of 2 Nos RCC shaft type over head tank of 5 Lakh Liters capacity on 12m staging in Gowribidanur City under Nagarothana Grants-3 of DC works. **(KUWSDB/2019-20/ WS WORK_INDENT2476 Dt: 04.07.2019, As per e-Procurement Portal)**

Approximate value of work (Rs.) : **Rs.1,52,97,848/-**
Earnest Money Deposit : **Rs. 2,30,000/-**
Tender Processing Fee : **As per e-Procurement portal**
Period of completion including monsoon: **11 (Eleven) months.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1.	Document will be available from	**08.07.2019 from 10.30 hours**
2.	Last Date and Time for queries / Clarifications	**22.07.2019 upto 11.00 hours**
3.	Last date and time for receipt of Tenders	**07-08-2019 upto 17.30 hours**
4.	Date and time for opening of Technical tenders	**13-08-2019 after 11.00 hours**
5.	Date and time for opening of Financial tender	**19-08-2019 after 11.00 hours**

For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer (B), KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru, may please be contacted or website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or e-Procurement helpdesk **91 80 2237 1090, 2237 3788**, email support: **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (B),
KUWS&D Board, Bengaluru

Andaman & Nicobar Administration
DR. B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Port Blair

TENDER NOTICE NO: BRAIT/TEQIP-III/1-33(13)/

Dr B.R Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Port Blair invites e-Tender from OEM's/Authorized Representatives/Channel partners/Dealers in the form of Two Bid systems viz. Pre-qualification-cum-Technical Bid and Price Bid for Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Training of Electronics and Communication Lab Equipments, with comprehensive onsite warranty for five years.
The interested eligible bidders may submit the bids through e-procurement portal using url **https://eproc.andaman.gov.in** as per the given schedule.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Tender Publishing, Document download start Date & Time	06/07/2019 from 1400 hrs.
Bid Submission Start Date & Time	06/07/2019 from 1430 hrs.
Bid Documents to be downloaded from	https://eproc.andaman.gov.in/
Earnest Money Deposit (Bid Security)	Rs 3,75,000.00
Last date of receiving Pre Bid Query	16/07/2019 at 1500 hrs
Pre bid Conference	16/07/2019 at 1500 hrs at DBRAIT, Port Blair
Last date DBRAIT response to pre Bid Queries	26/07/2019
Bid Submission Closing Date & Time	09/08/2019 up to 1530 hrs.
Technical Bid Opening Date and Time	09/08/2019 at 1600 hrs.
Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Will be Communicated to the technically qualified bidders through https://eproc.andaman.gov.in/
Purchaser Contact Details	Principal, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Pahargaon, Port Blair-744103 Telephone: 03192-250587, Email: dbrgpt.and@gmail.com Email: andamanteqip3@gmail.com Website: http://dbragpt.and.nic.in

The tenderers, who have not registered in e-procurement portal may visit https://eproc.andaman.gov.in/ for obtaining registration details.

TEQIP Coordinator

ELSEWHERE

Sirisena vows to veto military deal with U.S.

COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Saturday announced that he will not allow his government to conclude a proposed military deal that would allow U.S. troops free access to the island's ports. Mr. Sirisena said he was opposed to the draft Status of Forces Agreement that the two countries are negotiating to further strengthen their military ties. AFP

Indian-origin officer sues Scotland Yard

LONDON

One of Britain's senior-most Indian-origin women police officers Parm Sandhu is taking legal action against Scotland Yard over allegations of racial and gender discrimination within the U.K.'s largest police force. Ms. Sandhu claimed that she was denied promotions and opportunities at work due to her race and gender. PTI

North Korea accuses Australian student Alek Sigley of spying

He was detained for promoting propaganda against the country, says Pyongyang

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL

An Australian student who was released after being held in North Korea had been "spying" in the reclusive country, state media said on Saturday. Alek Sigley, 29, disappeared around two weeks ago prompting deep concern about his fate, but was freed and flew to Japan on Thursday.

Official North Korean news agency KCNA said Mr. Sigley had admitted that "he had been spying by collecting our internal information and sharing with others and repeatedly asked for our forgiveness for infringing on our sovereignty".

Freed from detention: Alek Sigley at the Beijing International Airport following his release on Thursday. ▪ AP

Detained on June 25

It said Mr. Sigley – one of just a handful of Westerners living and studying in North Korea – had been detained on June 25 for promoting propaganda against the country online, including on specialist website NK News, which rejected the accusations.

"Sigley, upon request by anti-DPRK news outlets such as NK News, on numerous occasions transferred information that he gathered while travelling to every corner of Pyongyang using his status as an international student, including photographs and analysis," it said. "The government of DPRK has exercised humanitarian forbearance and deported him... on July 4."

Mr. Sigley's detention came just days before a G20 summit and a landmark meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

Mr. Sigley organised tours to North Korea, and ran a number of social media sites, which usually had a stream of apolitical content about life in the country.

Returning to normal life

On Friday, Mr. Sigley said he was planning to "return to normal life" but offered no details of his detention, adding he would not be conducting any interviews or holding a press conference.

"I just want everyone to know I am OK, and to thank them for their concern for my well-being and their support for my family over the past week," he said in a statement.

However Mr. Sigley gave no indication of why he was held, how he was treated or why he was released. It said he would not make any further comment "at this time or later".

Also on Friday, Australia's Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton cautioned Mr. Sigley against returning to Pyongyang.

China cites India's role in reviving economic corridor

Xi, Hasina seek to 'work together' with India to spur BCIM

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

After flagging last month the revival of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) during talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kyrgyzstan's capital of Bishkek, Chinese President Xi Jinping joined visiting Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina to accelerate the project with New Delhi's support.

A statement on the Chinese Foreign Ministry's website on Ms. Hasina's talks with President Xi on Friday said the Prime Minister pledged to "promote the construction" of the BCIM Economic Corridor.

On Thursday, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang advocated that Beijing and Dhaka should "work together to build the BCIM- EC, in a bid to connect the market covering nearly 3 billion people..."

Joint approach: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. ▪ REUTERS

SCO meet with Modi

The revival of Chinese interest in the BCIM-EC in coordination with India was evident when Mr. Xi singled out the project as an example of expanding the India-China ties following last month's talks with Mr. Modi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek.

In tune with China's intent to engage with India to spur the BCIM-EC, President Xi and Prime Minister Hasina acknowledged that "the initiative would have to be revived working together with India", the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) reported.

After the Wuhan summit last year, China has been advocating "China-India Plus" cooperation, aimed at adopting a joint approach towards some of the major issues in the region, including the Rohingya refugee crisis and possible initiatives in Nepal, Afghanistan and Iran.

During talks with Ms. Hasina, the Chinese side appeared to demonstrate an urgency to tackle the Rohingya crisis on Dhaka's request.

"We'll contact Myanmar political leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, to solve the Rohingya problem amicably and so that the repatriation of the first batch of the Rohingya starts as soon as possible," the UNB quoted Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC), as saying, following his meeting with Ms. Hasina.

Financing of projects

China's decision to adopt a consultative approach with its BRI partners, including on the financing of specific projects, as announced during this year's Belt and Road Forum (BRF), echoed in Ms. Hasina's talks with the Chinese leadership.

According to media reports from Bangladesh, Ms. Hasina requested Mr. Xi to ease the terms and condition of loan agreements, which were signed during his visit to Dhaka in 2016.

Dhaka's concerns

Ms. Hasina also sought Chinese investments, with buyback arrangements, in the 100 economic zones that were slated to be opened up in the country, along with addressing the issue of trade imbalance between Bangladesh and the world's second largest economy.

Mr. Xi promised to take concrete steps to assuage Dhaka's concerns, echoing his remarks at the BRF that the financial model for funding BRI projects had been revamped, countering criticism that its mega-connectivity undertaking was opening "debt traps" for enhancing its geopolitical influence.

The Chinese President also sought Bangladesh's support for building a "digital silk road".

14 civilians killed as mortar shells hit Afghan market

Taliban hand suspected; official says militants were trying to hit Army checkpoint in Khwaja Sabz Posh

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

At least 14 people were killed and dozens more wounded when a busy market in northern Afghanistan was hit by mortar fire, officials said on Saturday.

Several Taliban shells hit the market on Friday morning in the Khwaja Sabz Posh district of Faryab province, according to Hanif Rezaee, an Afghan Army spokesman. "Fourteen civilians were killed and 40 – including women and children – were wounded," said Mr. Rezaee. He said the Taliban had been trying to hit an Army checkpoint near the market. The insurgent group did not immediately comment. Naem Musamim, Faryab's health director, said 14 bodies and 39 wounded people, including four children, had been taken to local hospitals.

Also on Friday, a bomb detonated inside a Shia mosque in Ghazni city in central Afghanistan, killing two worshippers and wounding 20 more, according to Ghazni Governor spokesman Aref Noori. On Twitter, the Taliban denied involvement in the attack. The Islamic State group's Afghan affiliate has conducted frequent prior attacks on Shia targets.

'Talks were productive'

Meanwhile, special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad said on Saturday that the seventh round of peace talks between the and Taliban that are ongoing in Qatar are the "most productive" so far. "[W]e made progress on all the issues that we have been discussing," he said. Suhail Shaheen, the spokesman for the Taliban's office in Qatar, said they were pleased with the discussions. "We are happy with progress and hope the rest of the work is also done. We have not faced any obstacles yet," he tweeted.

But the talks are set to be paused for two days while another summit with Afghan representatives takes place in Qatar's capital. "Tomorrow and the day after, because of the intra-Afghan conference, no talks will take place," Mr. Shaheen said.

About 60 Afghan delegates are expected to attend Sunday's intra-Afghan dialogue.

The Taliban, who have steadfastly refused to negotiate with the government, have stressed that those attending the talks will only do so in a "personal capacity".

Multiple buildings damaged as powerful quake hits California

U.S. State records its most powerful earthquake since 1999

REUTERS
LOS ANGELES

A magnitude 7.1 earthquake shook Southern California on Friday, triggering fires, buckling part of a highway, damaging buildings but causing few reported injuries despite striking with eight times more force than the initial quake in the same area a day earlier.

The quake struck at about 8.20 p.m. near the town of Ridgecrest south of Death Valley National Park, about 202 km northeast of Los Angeles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Shaken and rattled: One of the mobile homes affected by Friday's earthquake in Ridgecrest, California. ▪ AP

16 aftershocks

It was followed by at least 16 aftershocks of magnitude four or above, the USGS said, which also warned of a 50% or better chance of another magnitude 6 quake in the days ahead. "We've got fires, we've got gas leaks, we've got injuries, we've got people without power," said Ridgecrest Mayor Peggy Breeden. "We're dealing with it as best we can."

Ridgecrest Police chief Jed McLaughlin said so far only minor injuries had been reported.

Friday's quake was the most powerful to hit Southern California since another 7.1 trembler struck the Mojave Desert near the Twenty-nine Palms Marine Corps Base in 1999, said Lucy Jones, a seismologist for the California Institute of Technology.

California Governor Gavin Newsom has requested federal assistance and has put the Office of Emergency Services on highest alert.

A swarm of aftershocks have jolted the high desert region of Southern California since a 6.4 quake on Thursday morning near Ridgecrest.

Mr. Jones said that quake turned out to be a foreshock to Friday's 7.1 tremor.

Erdoğan sacks central bank Governor

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ANKARA

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has sacked the Governor of Turkey's central bank and replaced him with his Deputy, a presidential decree said on Saturday, after months of tension with the government over high interest rates.

Murat Çetinkaya, who was appointed to the role in April 2016, has been replaced by Murat Uysal, according to the decree published in the official gazette, which gave no official reason for the change. There had been recent speculation that Mr. Çetinkaya could be replaced amid disagreements with the government on cutting interest rates.

Turkey's main interest rate is 24% after the bank under Mr. Çetinkaya made an aggressive rate hike of 625 basis points last September following a currency crisis in August.

Yangon sees protests over rape of toddler

A man was charged earlier this month

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YANGON

Thousands of protesters marched in Yangon on Saturday as outrage over the rape of a two-year-old spilled onto the streets following a viral online campaign in a case that has left Myanmar society reeling.

The assault took place in May in Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw but a public campaign escalated last week after the girl's father spoke to local media, venting his anger about the inquiry's progress. On Saturday in Yangon, demonstrators descended on the police's Criminal Investigation Department.

A protest in Yangon on Saturday demanding justice for the girl. ▪ AP

One man was arrested on Wednesday and charged with the attack, although there is public scepticism over whether the authorities have the right person.

Child rights experts at NGO Terre des Hommes said child rape is "very common" in Myanmar.

Iran hints that it could enrich uranium to 5%

The nuclear deal caps it at 3.67%

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

A top adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader has hinted that Tehran could boost its uranium enrichment to 5% for "peaceful" aims, ahead of deadline it set for world powers to save a landmark 2015 nuclear deal.

Iran is acting on its May 8 threat to suspend parts of the agreement in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's re-imposition of sanctions. The accord capped Iran's enrichment maximum at 3.67%.

Uranium enrichment "will increase as much as needed for our peaceful activities," Ali Akbar Velayati, international affairs adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said on Friday. "For Bushehr nuclear reactor, we need 5% enrichment and it is a completely peaceful goal," he added. Bushehr is Iran's only nuclear power station and is currently running on imported fuel from Russia that is closely monitored by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency.

On May 8, Iran announced it would no longer respect the limits set on the size of its stockpiles of enriched uranium and heavy water, and threatened to abandon further commitments, including exceeding the agreed uranium enrichment maximum from July 7.

No hike in allocation for textile and clothing sector

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA
COIMBATORE

The 2019-2020 Budget has not increased allocations for key schemes expected to encourage investments in the textile and clothing sector – the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and textile infrastructure programmes.

The Budgetary allocation for the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is ₹700 crore as against the revised allocation of ₹622.63 crore for the last financial year.

The total allocation for textile infrastructure schemes for 2019-2020 is ₹58.55 crore against ₹3,729.83 crore last fiscal.

Pending payments

The total pending payments for Technology Upgradation Scheme is almost ₹10,000 crore.

The government has revised the guidelines and payments are made only after joint inspections.

"We were hoping for a higher allocation for the scheme," said Sanjay K. Jain, chairman of Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

Only about ₹20 crore was disbursed in the last three years under the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, according to P. Nataraj, chairman of Southern India Mills' Association.

"We hope there will be more funds made available later in the year."

Mr. Jain added that textile exports were flat and imports on the rise.

"There is nothing [in the Budget] to stop imports and boost exports," said Mr. Jain.

PNB reports over ₹3,800 crore fraud by Bhushan Power & Steel

'Firm fudged books of accounts to raise funds from consortium lender banks'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Public sector lender Punjab National Bank said on Saturday it had detected a fraud worth more than ₹3,800 crore by Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd. (BPSL), and has reported it to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

PNB said Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd. misappropriated bank funds and manipulated its books of accounts to raise funds from consortium lender banks. "On the basis of forensic audit investigation findings and CBI filing FIR, on suo moto basis, against the company and its directors, alleging diversion of funds from banking system, a fraud of ₹3,805.15 crore is being reported by the bank to the RBI," the bank said in a regulatory filing.

The bank said the case at NCLT was at an advanced stage and that it expected 'good recovery' in the account. ▪ AFP

"It has been observed that the company has misappropriated bank funds, manipulated books of accounts to raise funds from consortium lender banks. At present, the case is at NCLT, which is in an advanced stage and the bank expects good recovery in the account," it added.

The bank had made provisions amounting to ₹1,932.47 crore, as per prescribed prudential norms, for the BPSL account. PNB said its domestic exposure to Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd. (BPSL) stood at ₹3,191.51 crore and overseas exposure of $49.71 million (approx ₹345.74 crore) at the Dubai branch and $38.51 million (approximately ₹267.90 crore) at the Hong Kong branch.

Directive to Nirav Modi

Separately, the Debt Recovery Tribunal in Pune has directed fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, currently in a London prison, and his aides to pay more than ₹7,200 crore with interest to the defrauded PNB. Mr. Modi is wanted in India as the main accused in the $2-billion PNB fraud and money laundering case.

'TDS on cash withdrawal to hurt tea sector'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The tea industry has sought exemption from the proposed move to impose 2% tax deducted at source on cash withdrawals from banks exceeding ₹1 crore annually for businesses, saying that in absence of banking infrastructure, cash payouts were the only option.

Arijit Raha, secretary general of the apex industry body, Indian Tea Association, said that the issue of inadequacy of banking infrastructure in the remote tea gardens has been flagged to the government. The industry first faced this problem during demonetisation. "The TDS on cash withdrawal will impose an additional burden on industry," he said in a release.

'Delinking calculation, justification of share premium is welcome'

Start-ups heave sigh of relief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The Budget proposal to address the thorny 'angel' tax issue comes as a major respite to start-ups and investors alike.

K. Ganesh, a Bangalore-based serial entrepreneur and partner, GrowthStory, said, "The draconian devil tax has been comprehensively addressed including some relief for pending cases that were causing lot of angst. One of the best moves is the delinking of calculation and the justification of share premium since deciding a premium is not an exact science, and it is impossible to justify."

"Now, only the identity of the investor and source of income needs to be proven. This is fair and a straight-forward process. It will reduce arbitrariness and prevent unwanted harassment," he added.

'Angel' tax is levied at 30%, when a privately-held company raises funds at a rate higher than its 'fair valuation' It was initially introduced in 2012 in a bid to curb money laundering via SMEs. Under the IT Act, Section 56 (2) (viib), money invested by angels in a company was treated as income from other sources.

The issue of establishing the identity of the investor and source of his funds would be resolved by putting in place a mechanism of e-verification. With this, funds raised by start-ups would not require any kind of scrutiny from the Income Tax Department, said the Finance Minister in her Budget speech.

She added that CBDT would set up a mechanism to alleviate issues with pending cases regarding 'angel' tax.

Manish Lunia, Co-Founder, FlexiLoans, a digital lending platform, said "Easing angel tax will further strengthen the start-up financing ecosystem and remove ambiguities."

The strong message on the scrutiny of 'angel' tax will open up capital sources for early-stage ventures, said Deena Jacob,co-founder, Open, which provides banking services to start-ups and SMEs.

'Implementation is key'

"However, the implementation, including the details of the verification mechanism will be the key to its effectiveness," she added.

In February 2019, the government had exempted investments of up to ₹25 crore in eligible firms from the tax, as well as the scrutiny.

Welcoming the move, Kamal Bali, president and MD, Volvo Group India, said, "Finding a way to resolve the issue of angel tax for start-ups is a step in the right direction and it confirms the government's commitment to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship."

'Hike in gold duty will make businesses shift to other nations'

Sector facing declining exports, job losses, says GJEPC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Gem and jewellery exporters on Saturday expressed disappointment over the significant increase in import duty on gold and other precious metals, saying the move would result in shifting of businesses to neighbouring countries.

Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) chairman Pramod Agrawal said: "We, as an industry, are greatly disappointed with the increase of import duty on precious metals, gold and silver."

The sector was already going through very tough times with decline in exports and job losses, he added. According to industry experts, the decision could lead to an increase in smuggling of the yellow metal in the country.

In the Budget 2019-20, the government proposed to raise the import duty on gold and other precious metals from 10% at the present to 12.5%. Mr. Agrawal said they had urged the government to cut the import duty as they were important raw materials for the sector.

The government's move "will result in growth of business in the neighbouring countries as foreign tourists will stop buying jewellery from here and processing of larger diamonds will shift to competing countries like China, Vietnam," he said..

Gems and jewellery exports declined 5.32% to $30.6 billion in 2018-19.

Budget disappointing for planters, says UPASI

'Failed to address needs of the sector'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The Union Budget has failed to address the needs of the plantation sector – tea, coffee, rubber and spices – that are in a crisis, according to the United Planters' Association of Southern India (UPASI).

The Association had sought measures to safeguard the rubber growers from the surge in imports.

Higher allocation

It had also asked for higher allocation for the commodity boards. Both the demands were not met. The import duty on natural rubber was now 25% and the association had demanded a safeguard duty. But that had not been addressed and there was no higher allocation for the boards.

Another main issue raised by the planters was the need to abolish Rule 7B (1) of the Income Tax Rules so that coffee growers, most of whom were small-scale, can sell the coffee directly after curing. By doing so, they can move up the value chain.

The proposal of tax deducted at source for cash withdrawals of more than a ₹1 crore a year will lead to liquidity issues in the plantation sector, according to the UPASI.

INTERVIEW | PRAKARSH GAGDANI

'Discount broking taking equity culture across the country'

We handhold our customers, says the CEO of 5paisa.com

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

Discount broking firms are helping in spreading the equity culture in the country with most first-time investors, especially millennials opting for such technology-based platforms, says **Prakarsh Gagdani**, *chief executive officer, 5paisa.com. Excerpts from an interview:*

How do discount brokerages make money when they charge negligible fees?

■ Discount broking companies generate profits by keeping their cost low and scaling up in terms of customers. Our maximum cost is on acquiring new customers. We do not have relationship managers. Everything is available for the customers on the app. We do 99.9% of the work on the app while the rest 0.1% of the work is that which necessarily needs human intervention. So, we are on the extremely low cost model and that's how our working model will be.

Plus, scalability is infinite. We have gained more customers organically than any dedicated campaign as such because people use, share it and then they ask their friend to do the same.

How easy is the on-boarding exercise for investors?

■ The customer just needs to download and open our app and the first thing is account opening. We do not take any physical documents as we accept the pictures of the documents of the customer. For KYC, we take PAN card and Aadhaar card. We have made the processes smooth; we only require the pictures and no bank proof. If the customer has all the documents in place, he can start trading within 45 minutes of the on-boarding process.

Ours is an extremely low-cost model and that is how our working model will remain

Is it true that most new investors prefer discount broking compared with full service entities?

■ While we have seasoned traders as well as our clients, 80% of our customer base is young and less than 35 years in age. There has been a change in investor behaviour as well. The old customers would expect the broking company to call them many times during the day to give an update on the stocks. But now, people don't prefer getting such calls. They just open the app and get the information.

Do you mean that discount broking firms are spreading the equity culture across the country?

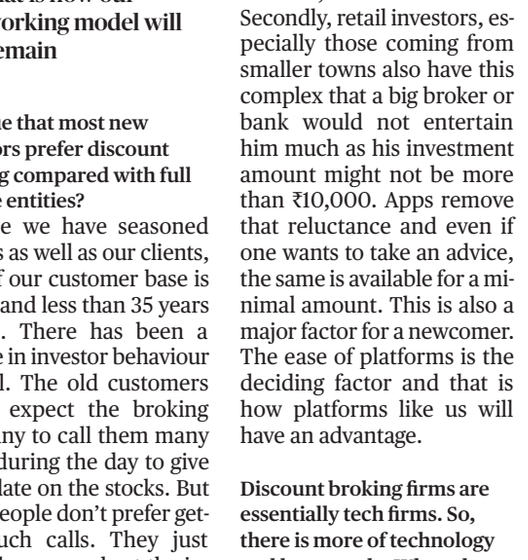
■ Absolutely. We are expanding the market. Initially, stock broking was concentrated in Mumbai, Gujarat, Delhi, Bangalore, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, but now we have acquired customers from almost every corner of the country. Rather, we don't focus on these markets because they are over saturated.

It is often said that discount broking is for seasoned traders and not the investor who might occasionally put in a trade or two.

■ I think that is a myth to bust. It's a no-brainer for a high ticket trader that he will save tons of money but even for a small investor, cost remains cost. Secondly, retail investors, especially those coming from smaller towns also have this complex that a big broker or bank would not entertain him much as his investment amount might not be more than ₹10,000. Apps remove that reluctance and even if one wants to take an advice, the same is available for a minimal amount. This is also a major factor for a newcomer. The ease of platforms is the deciding factor and that is how platforms like us will have an advantage.

Discount broking firms are essentially tech firms. So, there is more of technology and less people. What, then is the grievance redressal mechanism for investors?

■ We have a call centre. It is a typical inbound customer support where you can raise the complaint and send a mail and that will be addressed within 24 hours. We have employees who receive tons of calls. A person may be sitting in Moradabad, transferring money and if he doesn't see the credit, he calls. We get cases like that but then it's a habit; like the first time you do an online purchase you are skeptical about the delivery but after that you get used to it.



'Tata Motors committed to e-mobility'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Tata Motors was committed to leading the transition towards electric mobility in the country and would closely work with other group entities to create a viable environment for green vehicles, group chairman N. Chandrasekaran said.

Mr. Chandrasekaran, in the Tata Motors' Annual Report for 2018-19, said that electric vehicles were necessary.

He, however, cautioned that this transition had to be well-planned with the Centre and the industry working together to ensure that ecosystem was developed, incentives provided to boost demand and sustainability goals achieved by implementing emission norms across value chain.

'Little impact on inflation from fuel hike'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg on Saturday said the increase in petrol and diesel prices after the duty hike would have "very marginal impact" on inflation and any worry on that front was immaterial.

He also said the government expected ₹90,000 crore from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as dividend in the current fiscal.

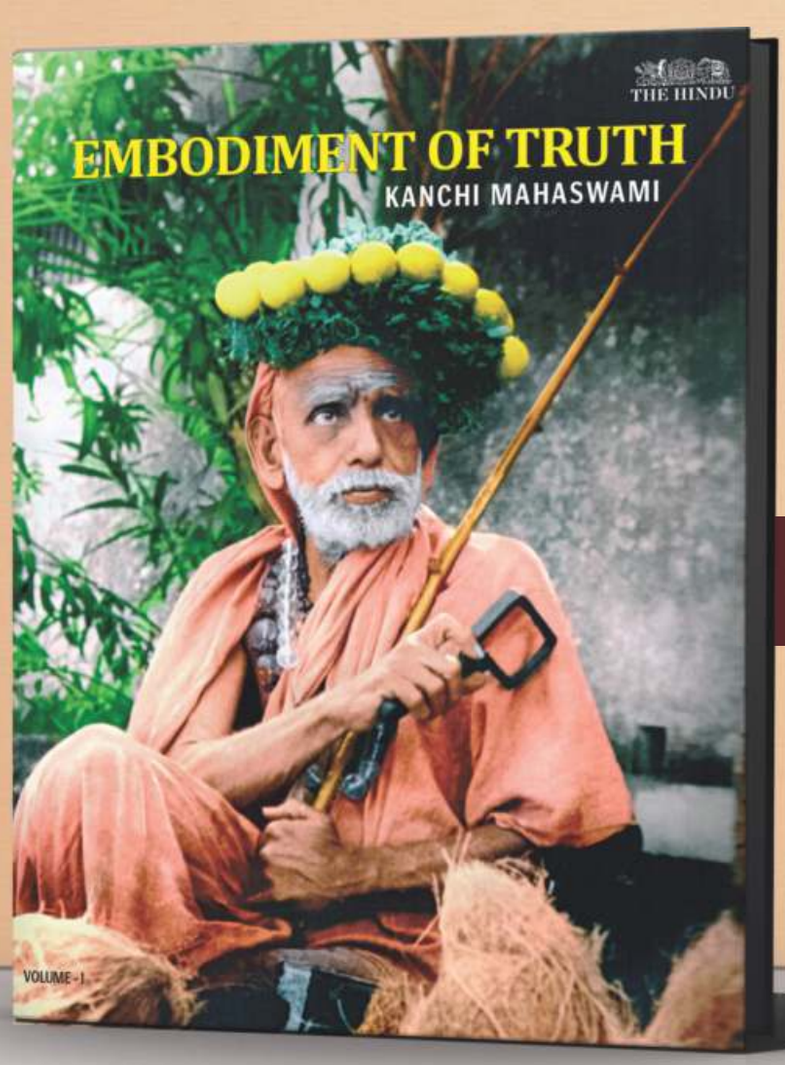
Post the rise in fuel taxes announced in the Budget , petrol and diesel prices rose by at least ₹2.4 and ₹2.36 a litre respectively across metro cities.

"Any increase in tax does have some implications for inflation but we are currently at such a low rate, it will have no impact or very marginal impact," Mr. Garg said.

THE HINDU GROUP

TRANSCENDING TIME

The journey of an Inimitable Sage traced through lens and letters



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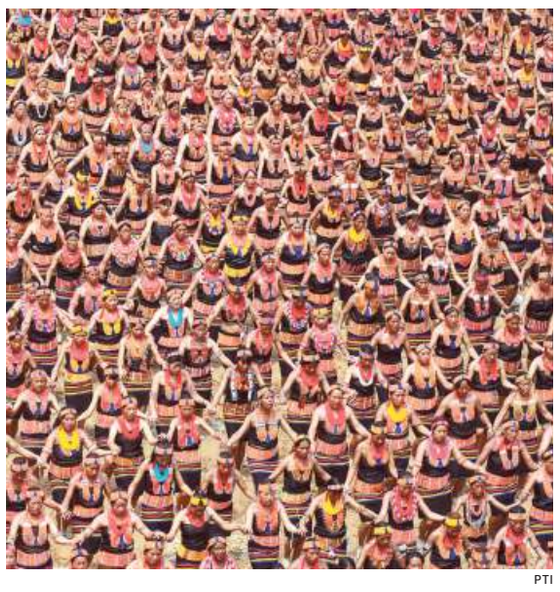


PTI

A register in Nagaland

Why does the State want to draw up a list of all indigenous inhabitants? How will the process evolve?

RAHUL KARMAKAR

The story so far: The Nagaland government is initiating an exercise to prepare a master list of all indigenous inhabitants of the State. This list, called the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN), is seen as a localised version of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) that Assam began updating four years ago and is scheduled to complete by July 31.

What is RIIN? How will it be prepared?
Civil society groups in Nagaland have often conducted house-to-house surveys for listing non-Naga and IBIs (Illegal Bangladeshi Immigrants). The RIIN will be the first official master list of Nagaland's indigenous inhabitants. Its objective, as stated in the Nagaland government's June 29 notification, is to prevent people from acquiring fake indigenous inhabitants' certificates. The list will be based on an extensive survey besides digging into official records of indigenous residents from villages and urban wards. The entire process under the supervision of the district administration would be completed within 60 days from the start on July 10. The notification also said designated teams of surveyors would be formed within a week from the date of its publication. These team comprising sub-divisional officers, block development officers, school headmasters and other nominated members, would visit every village and ward to make the list. Apart from Nagaland's Chief Secretary and Home Commissioner, nodal officers of the rank of a Secretary will monitor the implementation without involvement in the adjudication process. The nodal officers are required to submit monthly updates to a permanent committee set up under the Home Department.

What are the steps of this exercise?
The survey teams have been tasked with noting each family's original residence, current residence and documents such as Aadhar. Hard copies of the provisional list thus prepared will be provided to all villages and wards, and published on government websites by September 11. Claims and objections – a page taken from the NRC book – will be entertained till October 30. Based on official records and evidence produced, a district's Deputy Commissioner will adjudicate on the claims and objections from respondents. The deadline for this process is December 10. Post-verification, the RIIN will be finalised and hard copies placed in all villages and wards while electronic copies will be stored in the State Data Centre. Everyone figuring in RIIN will be issued a barcoded and numbered Indigenous Inhabitant Certificate (IIC). The process will be dovetailed with the online system of Inner Line Permit (ILP). No IIC will be issued after RIIN is finalised except to babies born to indigenous inhabitants of Nagaland.

> The Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland will be the first official master list of the State's indigenous inhabitants. It has 16 recognised tribes

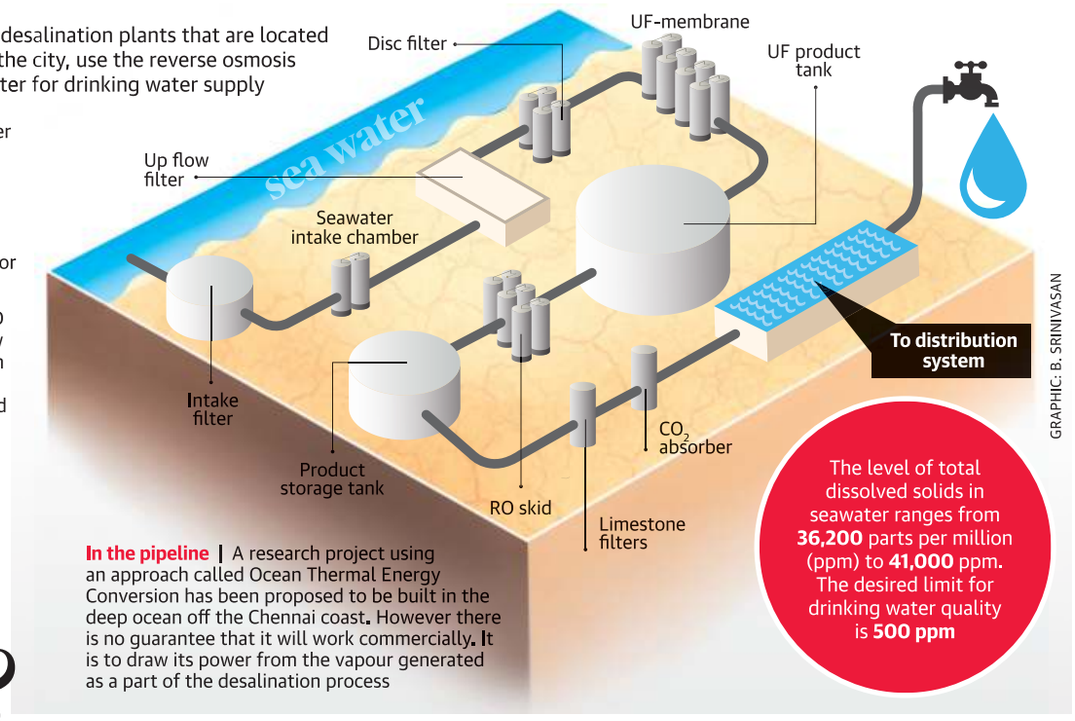
What is this permit?
The ILP is a temporary travel document an Indian citizen has to possess to enter 'protected' areas of the Northeast. The Central government issues the ILP under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, which restricted the entry of 'British subjects' or Indians into these areas primarily to protect the British interest in tea and oil. The restriction continued for 'Citizens of India' after Independence to protect tribal cultures in the northeastern region and to regulate movement to certain areas near the international border. Apart from the entire State of Nagaland barring its commercial hub Dimapur, the ILP is applicable in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

Who is an indigenous inhabitant?
Nagaland has 16 recognised tribes – Angami, Ao, Chakhesang, Chang, Dimasa Kachari, Khiamniungan, Konyak, Kuki, Lotha, Phom, Pochury, Rengma, Sangtam, Sumi, Yimchungrü and Zeliang. The Kachari and Kuki are non-Naga tribes while the Zeliang comprises two Naga communities – Zeme and Liangmai. Entry in RIIN is virtually guaranteed for people belonging to these communities. Others such as the Gurkhas living in Nagaland prior to statehood (on December 1, 1963) have been recognised as indigenous. But the definition of 'indigenous inhabitant' has been elusive because of issues beyond the tribal-non-tribal divide. There have been concerns over Nagas from other areas such as Manipur getting jobs by claiming to be indigenous besides IBIs (Illegal Bangladeshi Immigrants) "taking over" large swathes of agricultural lands. Another worry is the Naga custom of adopting new communities such as Sumiya - children of Muslim men and Sumi Naga women - who own cultivable land. Organisations such as the Naga Students' Federation have called for accommodating 'Nagas by blood and not by adoption'. Some political parties have asked whether or not the "adopted non-Nagas" will be given indigenous rights. A pressure group called the Joint Committee on Prevention of Illegal Immigrants sought to end confusion and "prevent inconsistent enumeration" by suggesting December 1, 1963 as the cut-off date for considering people other than the recognised tribes of Nagaland as indigenous inhabitants.

Sea as source

In water-starved Chennai, desalination plants that are located to the north and south of the city, use the reverse osmosis technology to treat seawater for drinking water supply

- At the Nemmeli plant in the city's south, which is of 100 million litres a day (MLD) capacity, seawater is drawn daily through a 1,100-m-long-pipeline buried a few metres below the sea bed
- As seawater has Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) close to 35,000 parts per million (a measure of salinity), the water is first treated to remove the high amount of suspended solids
- The water then flows through disc filters and ultra-filtration membranes to remove sediments and finer sand particles
- The seawater is sent through reverse osmosis membranes that remove salinity and reduce the TDS level to 500 ppm. The brine is then disposed of into the sea
- The treated seawater is sent to units for re-mineralising, with carbon dioxide and lime to make it fit for consumption. It is conveyed to a sump for distribution
- In the new 150-MLD Nemmeli plant, a new pre-treatment system called dissolved air floatation will be used to remove algae and plankton from the seawater



GRAPHIC: B. SRINIVASAN

In the pipeline | A research project using an approach called Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion has been proposed to be built in the deep ocean off the Chennai coast. However there is no guarantee that it will work commercially. It is to draw its power from the vapour generated as a part of the desalination process

Is seawater the ultimate answer?

Does desalination realistically help in harnessing potable water from the sea? What are the hurdles? Are the costs prohibitive?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: With warnings from India's top policy-makers and reports of major cities in India struggling to stave off a water crisis, there's talk about exploring technologies to harness fresh water. The one idea that's been around for a while is desalination, or obtaining freshwater from salt water. Desalination technology is not an esoteric idea – the city of Chennai already uses desalinated water. However, it only has a limited application, given the operation costs.

What is desalination technology?
To convert salt water into freshwater, the most prevalent technology in the world is reverse osmosis (RO). A plant pumps in salty or brackish water, filters separate the salt from the water, and the salty water is returned to the sea. Fresh water is sent to households.

RO desalination came about in the late 1950s. While the principle is simple, engineering such plants has to factor in various constraints, for instance, salt levels in the source water that is to be treated, the energy required for the treatment and disposing of the salt back into the sea.

Osmosis involves 'a solvent (such as water) naturally moving from an area of low solute concentration, through a membrane, to an area of high solute concentration. A reverse osmosis system applies an external pressure to reverse the natural flow of solvent and so seawater or brackish water is pressurised against one surface of the membrane, causing salt-depleted water to move across the membrane, releasing clean water from the low-pressure side'. Seawater has Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) – a measure of salinity – close to 35,000 parts per million (ppm), or equivalent to 35 g of salt per one litre/kg of water. An effective network of RO plants reduce this down to about 200-500 ppm. There are about 18,000 desalination plants in the world across 150 countries and nearly half of Israel's water is sourced through desalination.

How popular is it in India?
Years of water crises in Chennai saw the government set up two desalination plants between 2010 and 2013. These were at Minjur, around 30 km north of Chennai, in 2010, and Nemmeli, 50 km south of Chennai, in 2013. Each supplies 100 million litres a day (MLD); together they meet little under a fourth of the city's water requirement of 830 MLD. Buoyed by the success of these plants, the city's water authorities are planning to install two more plants with capacities of 150 MLD (to be operational by 2021) and 400 MLD, at a cost of around ₹1,260 crore (funded by the German agency, KfW) and ₹4,000 crore (funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency), respectively.

Last November, Gujarat Chief Minister, Vijay Rupani, announced plans of setting up a 100 MLD RO plant at the Jodiya coast in Jamnagar district. This would go a long way in 'solving' the water availability problems in the drought-prone Saurashtra region. Other plants of a similar size are expected to come up in Dwarka, Kutch, Dahej, Somnath, Bhavnagar and Pipavav, which are all coastal places in Gujarat. There are also a slew of desalination plants that cater to industrial purposes. For now, India's real-world experience with desalination plants is restricted to Chennai.

What are the problems with RO plants?
Because RO plants convert seawater to fresh water, the major environmental challenge they pose is the deposition of brine (highly concentrated salt water) along the shores. Ever since the Chennai plants have started to function, fishermen have complained that the brine being deposited along the seashore is triggering changes along the coastline and reducing the availability of prawn, sardine and mackerel. Environmentalists second this saying that hyper salinity along the shore affects plankton, which is the main food for several of these fish species. Moreover, the high pressure motors needed to draw in the seawater end up sucking in small fish and life forms, thereby crushing and killing them – again a loss of marine resource.

> As Reverse Osmosis plants convert seawater to fresh water, the major environmental challenge they pose is the deposition of brine or highly concentrated salt water along the shores

Another unexpected problem, an environmentalist group has alleged, was that the construction of the RO plants required troves of groundwater. This was freshwater that was sucked out and has since been replaced by salt water, rendering it unfit for the residents around the desalination plants.

On an average, it costs about ₹900 crore to build a 100 MLD-plant and, as the Chennai experience has shown, about five years for a plant to be set up. To remove the salt required, there has to be a source of electricity, either a power plant or a diesel or battery source. Estimates have put this at about 4 units of electricity per 1,000 litres of water. Therefore, each of the Chennai plants needs about 400,000 units of electricity. It is estimated that it cost ₹3 to produce 100 litres of potable water.

Is RO water healthy?
In the early days of RO technology, there were concerns that desalinated water was shorn of vital minerals such as calcium, magnesium, zinc, sodium, potassium and carbonates. They are collectively referred to as TDS. Higher quantities of these salts in desalination plants tend to corrode the membranes and filtration system in these plants. So ideally, a treatment plant would try to keep the TDS as low as possible. Highly desalinated water has a TDS of less than 50 milligrams per litre, is pure, but does not taste like water. Anything from 100 mg/l to 600 mg/l is considered as good quality potable water.

Most RO plants, including the ones in Chennai, put the water through a 'post-treatment' process whereby salts are added to make TDS around 300 mg/l. Several of the home-RO systems that are common in affluent Indian homes, too employ post-treatment and add salts to water.

Are there technological alternatives?
The alternative desalination technology used is thermal energy sourced from the ocean. There is a low-temperature thermal desalination (LTTD) technique for instance which works on the principle that water in the ocean 1,000 or 2,000 feet below is about 4° C to 8° C colder than surface water. So, salty surface water is collected in a tank and subject to high pressure (via an external power source). This pressured water vapourises and this is trapped in tubes or a chamber. Cold water plumbed from the ocean depths is passed over these tubes and the vapour condenses into fresh water and the resulting salt diverted away.

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), a research organisation based in Chennai, has been working on this technology for decades. In 2005, it set up a 100,000 litre-a-day plant in Kavaratti, Lakshwadeep islands and this has been providing water to about 10,000 residents.

Other than the plant at Kavaratti, there are plants of similar capacity proposed at Minicoy and Agatti islands. There are also 1.5 lakh litres a day plants proposed at Amini, Androth, Chetlat, Kadamat, Kalpeni and Kiltan islands.

However, the most ambitious research project is a 10 million litre a day plant that is proposed to be built in the deep ocean, 50 kilometres away from the Chennai coast. This exploits an approach called Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion.

While the LTTD technique draws power from diesel sets, this massive new plant will draw power from the vapour generated as a part of the desalination process. This vapour will run a turbine and thereby will be independent of an external power source. While great in theory, there is no guarantee it will work commercially. For one, this ocean-based plant requires a pipe that needs to travel 50 kilometres underground in the sea before it reaches the mainland. The NIOT has in the past had significant problems in managing such a pipe. Then, RO is commercially proven and the dominant technology and therefore it could be hard to convince private players to invest in such a technology.

Is the Iran nuclear deal dead?

Why has Tehran breached the limit set in 2015 on its enriched uranium stockpile? How real is a nuclear bomb?

STANLY JOHNY

The story so far: Iran announced on Monday that it had breached the limits for stockpiling low-enriched uranium set by the 2015 nuclear deal. This was the first time the Islamic Republic was violating the terms of the multilateral agreement, which had set a 300-kg cap for Iran's enriched uranium stock. A few days later, Iran announced that it would breach another crucial term of the deal: the enrichment limit. For now, Iran is allowed to enrich uranium to 3.67% purity. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has said that from July 7, Iran will enrich uranium "in any amount that we want". These steps have angered the U.S., with U.S. President Donald Trump issuing fresh threats. Other signatories to the deal, including Russia, China and the European powers, have also expressed concern over Iran's move, which endangers the survival of the very agreement in question.

Why is Iran breaching the terms of the deal?
The current crisis was set off by Mr. Trump when, in May 2018, he unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions on Iran. The deal had promised to lift all international sanctions on Iran in return for the country scuttling its nuclear programme. With sanctions by the U.S. back, Tehran turned to other signatories to save the deal. But over the past year, most foreign companies that had promised investments in Iran during the brief U.S.-Iran détente pulled out of the country fearing American sanctions. Countries that had stepped up buying Iranian oil after the deal was signed, including India, started cutting back on imports. As a result, Iran's oil exports plummeted. Iran now exports about 230,000 barrels of crude a day, down from 2.5 million barrels a day in May 2018. Inflation has soared to 35%, while the rial, the Iranian currency, has fallen by 70% since early 2018.

Faced with tough choices, Iran decided to confront the U.S. and put pressure on other signatories to take bold steps to save the deal rather than capitulating to American pressure. The nuclear deal is a crucial bargaining card, and Tehran has decided to use it as a pressure tactic. In May, Iran gave a 60-day deadline to other signatories to fix the deal and also vowed to keep unspent enriched uranium and heavy water with itself. As the deadline was almost over, Iran has announced that it has breached the uranium stockpile limit. The threat to breach the enrichment limit is the most serious one as highly enriched uranium can be used to build nuclear bombs.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Could Iran make the bomb?
There are two paths to the bomb. One is using uranium and the other using plutonium. In the first, uranium is enriched to the weapons grade level using centrifuges. The enrichment increases the fraction of that isotope of uranium which makes up the bomb. In the second method, plutonium, produced as a waste material by heavy water reactors, will be reprocessed to enhance its purity.

Iran's official position is that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes and that it never sought to build weapons, a claim which western governments and the International Atomic Energy Agency have challenged in the past. Iran had a functional uranium-centred nuclear programme and it was in the advanced stages of building a heavy water reactor at the time nuclear negotiations started. When the deal was signed in 2015, Iran had a stockpile of 11,560 kg of low-enriched uranium. It had also enriched uranium to 20% purity. According to nuclear experts, if Iran can produce uranium to 20% purity, it is possible for the country to make the weapons-grade fuel – at 90% purity. Iran had also possessed some 20,000 centrifuges in 2015. In Arak, it was building a heavy water reactor. The nuclear deal has substantially reduced these capabilities. It set the enrichment limit at 3.67% and the limits to the low-enriched uranium stockpile at 300 kg. Under the deal, Iran had also placed two-thirds of its 20,000 centrifuges in storage, besides removing the core of the Arak heavy water reactor and fill it with concrete. The plan was to enhance the break-out time (the time required to build a bomb if Iran resumes its nuclear programme in its full potential) to at least a year. Now that its stockpile of uranium is rising and it is threatening to enrich high purity uranium, at least in theory, the distance between Iran and the bomb is shrinking. If Iran continues to violate the deal, redeploying the centrifuges and resuming construction of the Arak facility could be its next steps. That would allow Iran to reload its nuclear programme in full capacity.

What is next?
Both the U.S. and Iran are currently on a confrontational path, while other signatories to the deal call for a diplomatic solution to the crisis. The Trump administration wants Iran to return to talks on the U.S.'s terms. The reason Mr. Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal was that he believed it was a "bad deal" that does not address Iran's ballistic missile programme and its "subversive" activities in West Asia such as backing proxy militias. So Washington wants to negotiate an agreement that addresses all these issues.

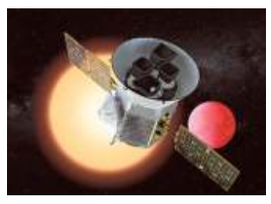
> Now that Iran's stockpile of uranium is rising and it is threatening to enrich high purity uranium, at least in theory, the distance between Iran and the bomb is shrinking

Iran, on the other side, sees the Trump administration as the main disruptor of the deal and instigator of tensions in the Gulf. It wants either the U.S. to return to the deal or other signatories to save it sans the U.S. But the American sanctions make it difficult for other countries to save the agreement unless they are ready to take on the U.S.'s economic might, which is unlikely. This has created a dangerous stalemate in the nuclear crisis. If either the U.S. or Iran fails to back off from the brinkmanship, another military conflict in the Gulf cannot be ruled out.

CAPSULE

Mould grows in space
The spores of two species of mould – *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium* – seem to have survived in the International Space Station despite being subjected to X-ray exposure 500 times as strong as what would kill a human being according to the American Geophysical Union. Astronomers spend hours trying to clean this; according to new research, the spores may have survived on the outer walls of the ISS too.

Hallucinogen in brains
From the pineal gland in the brain of rats, researchers extracted a sample that revealed the presence of dimethyltryptamine (DMT). DMT is the active ingredient in some drugs that causes psychedelic visions. Further research revealed that brain neurons with enzymes needed to make DMT are present in other parts of the brain such as the neocortex and hippocampus. The research was published in *Scientific Reports*.



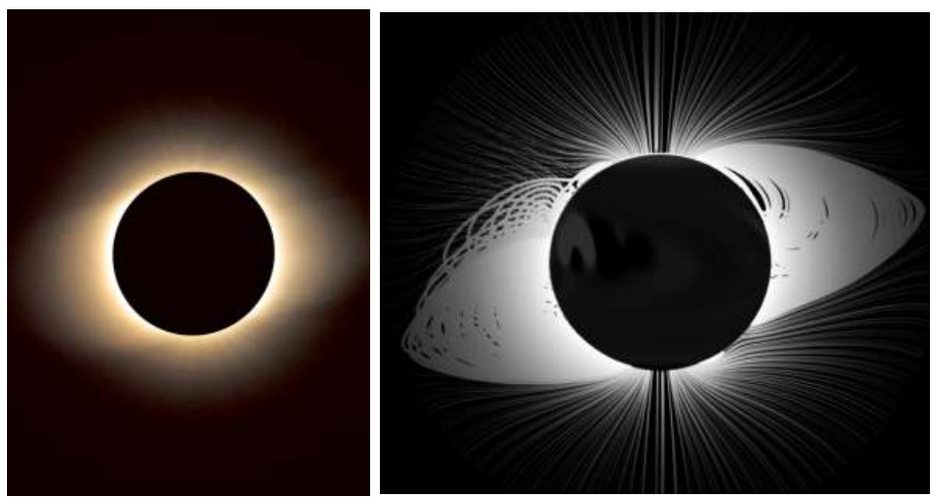
Satellite finds tiny world
The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) launched by NASA in 2018 has discovered an exoplanet orbiting a nearby star. It is the smallest exoplanet discovered by it so far and has two neighbours. Published in *The Astronomical Journal*, this discovery was a challenge both as engineering and scientific demands go. This exoplanet is about 80% the size of the Earth and 10% smaller than the previous smallest world discovered.

Entirely natural
On October 19, 2017, astronomers discovered the first interstellar object that had entered out solar system. Amid speculations as to what it was, the cigar-shaped object was named Oumuamua. A report in *Nature Astronomy* has now shown strong evidence that it is a natural object and not an alien spacecraft. This paper is mainly an analysis of previous research work.

Larger features of total solar eclipse match IISER Kolkata's prediction

The team predicted the shape of the Sun's atmosphere at the time of the eclipse using a two-step model

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN



Spot on: The team's prediction (right panel) of two bright petal like structures in the Sun's corona were confirmed by the observations of the eclipsed Sun (left panel). ▪ DURGESH TRIPATHI AND CESSI

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata were in for a pleasant surprise as the total solar eclipse on July 2 proved their prediction correct in its major features. They joined solar physicists from India and several international researchers who had gathered in Argentina to view the eclipse.

While their aim was to check whether their prediction of the shape of the corona had been realised, imaging the solar corona, or the Sun's atmosphere was the motivation for many others. The corona can only be viewed during a total solar eclipse. This total solar eclipse was visible only within a narrow strip of land stretching over Chile and Argentina.

Dibyendu Nandi's group, from IISER Kolkata, had used a two-step model to predict first the shape of the solar magnetic field on the day of the eclipse and then extrapolate it to describe what the corona would look like. "Our predictions of two cross-equatorial streamers, or bright petal like structures the Sun's Corona were confirmed by the observations," said Prof. Nandi in an email to *The Hindu*.

Space weather
The model built up by the IISER Kolkata team can be used to predict space weather. It will also be useful in analysing data from the proposed Indian space mission - Aditya-L1 - which is meant to study the Sun's corona. "We now know the basic theoretical premise of our computational modelling is correct. This work has given us confidence to utilise similar theoretical models for supporting the interpretation of data from India's Aditya-L1 solar space mission which is currently under development," says Prof. Nandi.

The path of the eclipse was known well in advance and hence a professional meeting was planned for solar physicists about a year earlier.

"The local organisers looked at possible locations near San Juan (which is situated at the edge of the path). One needs to go to the central line for maximum duration of totality," said Dipankar Banerjee, solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics who helped organise the meeting.

"Special permission was needed to reach this place; apparently tourists are not allowed to these locations," he added in his email to *The Hindu*.

This eclipse offered an excellent opportunity to view and image the corona. Despite being hotter than the layers of the Sun that lie within, the corona has lower density of photons. For this reason, the inner layers of the Sun such as the photosphere outshine the corona, rendering it practically invisible. Except, that is, when the Moon totally occults the Sun. But just before totality, light from the Sun reaches viewers, first as a brilliant spot of light known as the "diamond ring." At this stage, you can see the chromosphere and solar prominences. The next instant, when the Moon's disc covers the Sun, we see an uneven ring of light - the corona. This is seen only during the totality.

Details to be analysed
The broad features of the corona are as predicted by the IISER Kolkata team. "We have to perform a detailed analysis to ascertain which fine scale features of the corona we got right and what aspects we did not. For this we have to wait for technically processed images and other scientific observations acquired during the eclipse by teams from the US National Science Foundation, regional observatories in Chile and Argentina and space-based satellites," explains Prof. Nandi.

Based on constraints set by these observations, the group plans to refine their models before translating these into operational space weather forecasting tools.

University of Hyderabad's inhibitor increases effectiveness of malaria drugs

The inhibitor blocks an enzyme that is crucial in repairing DNA damage in malaria-causing parasite

R. PRASAD

Synergy: When the inhibitor is used along with the drug, less concentration of the drug is sufficient to kill the parasites, say Mrinal Kanti Bhattacharyya (right) and Pratap Vydyam.

A small inhibitor that blocks an enzyme (Rad51) that plays a crucial role in repairing DNA damage in malaria-causing parasite – *Plasmodium falciparum* – has been identified by researchers from the University of Hyderabad.

Both strands of the malaria parasite DNA get broken naturally. When DNA repair is prevented it can lead to the accumulation of several double-strand breaks causing death of the parasites. Also, certain anti-malaria drugs such as artemisinin are designed to kill the parasites by causing such breaks in the DNA. So when the inhibitor is used along with such drugs, the effectiveness of the drugs increases drastically in both drug-sensitive and drug-resistant malaria.

Plenty of DNA double-strand breaks occur naturally in malaria parasites due to errors during replication. Also, when the parasites infect the red blood cells, free radicals are generated (during haemoglobin detoxification). The free radicals produce numerous double-strand breaks.

"In an earlier study we found that the parasites use a particular mechanism – homologous recombination – to repair DNA double-strand breaks. In the present study we demonstrated that the inhibitor targets and prevents the Rad51 enzyme from functioning. The Rad51 enzyme is essential for the homologous recombination repair mechanism," says Prof. Mrinal Kanti Bhattacharyya from the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Hyderabad. Prof. Bhattacharyya is the corresponding author of a paper published in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. The work was done in collaboration with Dr. Sunanda Bhattacharyya from the Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, UoH.

Double-strand breaks
The researchers created genome-wide double-strand breaks using a chemical. And they found that in the presence of the inhibitor the parasites were unable to repair the break, leading to death causing death. "The inhibitor blocks DNA repair in both drug-sensitive and drug-resistant malaria parasites," says Pratap Vydyam from the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Hyderabad and first author of the paper.

Artemisinin drug used for treating malaria is designed to generate more double-strand breaks. Similarly, chloroquine is also thought to produce more double-strand breaks by increasing the generation of free radicals inside red blood cells. "When the inhibitor is used together with the drugs the effect is pronounced leading to sharp reduction in parasite load," says Prof. Bhattacharyya. "The inhibitor has a synergistic effect and so less concentration of the drugs is sufficient to kill the parasites."

In the case of drug-sensitive malaria parasites, the effectiveness of artemisinin to kill the parasites increases sharply when used together with the inhibitor. The synergistic effect is so pronounced that a 15-fold less concentration of artemisinin is sufficient to kill 50% of parasites. Compared with artemisinin, the synergistic effect of the inhibitor and chloroquine in killing the parasites is relatively less -- there is an 8-fold reduction in drug concentration to kill 50% of the parasites.

In the case of drug-resistant parasites, when the inhibitor is used along with chloroquine, 6.48-fold less concentration of the drug is sufficient kill 50% of parasites, while it is only 4.6-fold reduction when the inhibitor is used together with artemisinin.

"Reducing the concentration of drug used for treating a disease is desirable. So achieving several-fold reduction in the concentration of the drug to kill the parasites in the presence of the inhibitor, we have enhanced the effectiveness of the drugs," says Prof. Bhattacharyya. "Importantly, we have increased the effectiveness of the drugs even in the case of drug-resistant malaria parasites."

There is increasing prevalence of malaria parasites that are resistant to artemisinin, a first-line drug. So increasing the effectiveness of the drug becomes important.

The researchers will soon start testing the inhibitor on mouse malaria model.

One porcupine burrow houses 22 different animals

While in most cases, the animals ignored each other and co-occupied, some like jackals were aggressive

ASWATHI PACHA

Competition: The researchers described an interaction between a python and jackals that lasted 30 minutes.

Hate sharing your flat with a room-mate? Maybe you should take a few lessons from the Indian crested porcupine which shares its burrow with 22 different species, including birds and reptiles.

Porcupines are known to be great engineers, and their burrows can go up to 13 metres in length with a number of side chambers of varying depths. A study conducted by researchers from the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History in Coimbatore used camera traps to understand the complex co-habitation.

At the study site of Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur, Rajasthan (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), the temperatures can vary from 0.5 degrees Celsius to as high as 50 degree Celsius. So, burrows play an important role in giving refuge and protection against the weather and predators.

The researchers set up cameras around porcupine burrows and made note of the visitors. From October 2014 to December 2016, they tracked about 20 active burrows and studied the different occupants. The four major occupants were porcupines, jackals, rock pythons and bats. Some birds such as peafowl, robins and babblers also visited the burrows to feed on the insects that live there.

The team also noted the different interactions between the visitors. While in most cases, the animals ignored each other and co-occupied, some were aggressive.

Porcupines, pythons and bats co-occupy in peace whereas jackals are fierce.

The paper published recently in *Ethology Ecology and Evolution* described an interaction between a python and few jackals which lasted more than 30 minutes, The jackals growled while the python hissed and puffed its body. The python finally fled from the burrow site which was already occupied by jackals and pups. The camera also recorded a fierce fight where four jackals attacked a python, eventually killing and evicting it from the burrow.

Most of the animals used the burrows temporarily only. "During the winter days, the pythons bask in the Sun, and as the temperature drops, they crawl into the burrow at night. When we inserted a burrow video camera, we saw up to five pythons inside. Also in camera traps and during field surveys, 9 to 15 of them [pythons] were recorded basking and congregating in the same burrow," explains Dr. H.N. Kumara from the Conservation Biology Department of the Centre and the corresponding author of the work.

A paper published by the team in 2017 was able to point out the specific burrow characters each animal preferred. Jackals liked larger chambered burrows, while the pythons chose smaller compact ones and bats preferred the burrows with few branching and openings.

When asked if the decline of porcupine would affect the 22 species, Avadhoot D.V, a PhD scholar at the Centre and one of the authors of the paper explains, "It would be difficult to see a direct effect immediately. But of course, there will be a domino effect. The study has clearly shown that porcupines are a keystone species in the semi-arid region."

The Indian crested porcupine is accorded a status of 'Least Concern' under IUCN Red List.

"Our study attempted to shed light on the spatial and temporal activities of porcupines and the significance of their burrows in its Indian range. Since the study was restricted to one area, it would be interesting to understand its burrowing behaviour in other regions as well," adds Aditi Mukherjee in an email to *The Hindu*. She is the first author of the paper.

Students returning a wallet they found on the road to the owner. ▪ S. K. MOHAN

Individuals are more honest than they think they are

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Honesty is essential for personal, social, economic and national development. Yet, we see how people, companies and national governments cheat for self-interest, Does this happen across the 205 countries across the globe? Do individual people value honesty in their personal dealings? This question has been the subject of a recent paper by a group of experts in information gathering and analysis, economists and management scholars (A. Cohn et al "civic honesty around the globe", *Science* 10.1126/science.aau8712, 2019). They decided to examine the trade-off between honesty and self-interest in over 17,000 people in 355 cities in 40 countries across the globe. The remarkable result of their experiments is what *The Economist* wrote about this paper: "Individual people are actually more honest than they think they are!"

The experiment
How did they do the experiment? They had volunteers who would drop a wallet (purse) near a bank, hotel or a police station. The wallet had a transparent cover on one side, where it had a card with the name and contact details of the owner, a shopping list for ordinary items to buy for home (say, milk, bread, medicine etc.). And in one set of wallets there was no money. Some others had some small money (about $14 or the equivalent in local currency), while some others had more ($95 or equivalent). And, in another set, the wallet also had a key in addition. Thus, they had set 1 (wallet with no money), set 2 (small money), set 3 (large money), set 4 (no money, but with key) and set 5 (money with key).

The volunteers dropped such wallets near a public place in the city, watched what a passerby does when he finds the wallet. Does he go to there, hand over the wallet and ask the person in the counter to send the wallet to the owner – what were the results ?

Citizens overwhelmingly turned in more often the lost wallet with money than without. This was seen across the 40 countries across the world.

What if the wallet had "high money"? Did people pocket some or all of the money before turning in the wallet? Did they turn it in because they were afraid of punishment? Or did they expect to get a reward from the owner, while turning in the wallet without pocketing any money? Or was it altruism? This experiment was done in 3 countries (US, UK and Poland) and the results were remarkable: Over 98% of the moneyed wallets were returned! (It would be interesting to do this experiment in the many other countries, which are economically less blessed.)

In the next experiment, they had put in three sets of wallets: one with small money but no key, another with small money plus a key and yet another "money plus key" one. Again the results showed that people turned in wallets with a key than without. It appears that they did not want the owner to suffer. This was fairly seen across the countries tried.

Indian cities
A point of interest to us in India is that these experiments were done using 400 citizens in Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Coimbatore and Kolkata. The results in these cities matched those found elsewhere; notably similar results were found in the Thailand, Malaysia and China in Asia, and in Kenyan and South African cities.

To quote the authors: "We conducted field experiments in 40 countries to examine whether people act more dishonestly when they have a greater economic incentive to do so, and found the opposite to be true. Citizens were more likely to return wallets that contained relatively larger amounts of money. This finding is robust across countries and institutions, and holds even when economic incentives for dishonesty are substantial. Our results are consistent with theoretical models that incorporate altruism and self-image concerns, but also suggest modification in that non-pecuniary motivations directly interact with the material benefits gained from dishonest behavior. When people stand to heavily profit from engaging in dishonest behavior, the desire to cheat increases but so do the psychological costs of viewing oneself as a thief- and sometimes the latter will dominate the former ....Comparative analysis suggested that economically favourable geographic conditions, inclusive political institutions, national education, and cultural values that emphasize moral norms extending beyond one's in-group are positively associated with rates of civic honesty".

It would be valuable for us to do such wallet experiments in many parts across India ranging from big cites down to small towns, villages (poor and not so poor) and tribal areas so that we may see how well our results fit in with the general conclusion above. After all India is a mini-world representing much of the 40 countries studied above with comparable economic and social norms, ethical and belief systems.

dbala@lvpei.org

The season of the king

AJIT YADAV

It has been that time of the year. Despite doomsday predictions about a poor crop, from unseasonal rain, hail or wind, the local markets were awash with all sorts of mangoes. Topping the list of the king of fruits in Chennai was the Banganapalle. The mellow yellow skin that glistens and beckons is like a beacon of taste. Over the years I have become adept at spotting the good ones without really touching or smelling them. I was driving past a pyramid-shaped cart full of them recently when something told me these were sweet ones! Hurriedly I pulled over, taking a motorcyclist by surprise, for a change, till I pointed to the mangoes – which had a surprisingly calming effect on the rider.

A relative was hoping to time her visit to India from the United States to sample her fair share of the seasonal offer. She was sounding low at the prospect that the whole season may pass her by; the the Mexican mangoes back home were such an apology for the real ones here! We then discussed how we ought to start a mango export business so that a whole lot of people could get their rightful share. She also told me each one is priced at almost $6 and is considered exotic.

In America, the Brazilian bananas rule the roost. I thought standardisation of taste in the name of safety could be making people short-tempered. There is some culinary science to be explored there.

A friend advised me to hurriedly freeze some for her as it was quite likely that the best would soon be gone. It was sad, the urgency in her voice, as the frozen mango loses much when unfrozen.

My daughter was not answering my phone calls so I messaged her there would be no mangoes for her if she continued to avoid my calls. Promptly she messaged back about being busy with this and that and how when I come to see her could I please smuggle a few mangoes past Customs? She told me there were mangoes in Hawaii, where she is, that rot and fall to the ground but people still buy only from the supermarkets. She and a friend gathered some of the fallen fruit surreptitiously from under a neighbour's tree hoping not to be shooed away. They made mango pulp that was delicious.

Just like the weather many people were enquiring about the state of the mango crop in your part of India this year. It gave them a strange sense of geographical satiation since mangoes from one part of the country are rarely available in another. So the greedy are stuck with their own stock. Evocative and unfamiliar names of local varieties – neelam, badami, benishan, safeda – are shared. I remember walking in the hills around Coonoor where ripe mangoes had fallen under a tree. Quite unimpressive in terms of size, shape or colour, they had an incredible new flavour. What they were called it was unclear. Just great taste to be enjoyed largely by the locals, parrots and casual wanderers.

At least one popular brand of home-based blood glucose testing kits seemed to have tried to identify itself with the hardship of the diabetics in the mango season. The advertisement said the mango season was best enjoyed when you know your sugar levels accurately.

An apple a day might keep the doctor away, but the mango king is far ahead, having settled in people's hearts.

eastcoastortho@hotmail.com

From role model to ROLL MODEL?

How and why this senior scientist powers on, despite some niggles

G. PADMANABAN

I am 81, a scientist by profession and continue to do my research. I drive to my institute, which is 4 km from home, despite the crazy traffic. I travel out at least twice a month, mostly to Delhi. I chair committees. I try to help the research community in the country in whatever way I can.

I am quite busy with research, lectures, reports and correspondence. I personally type all my letters and I make my own PowerPoint presentations. I wrote and published two volumes of my memoirs on my experience of doing science in India. People tell me I look the same in all these years and that I am a *role model*.

There are some minor problems! My right ear is hard of hearing and I hang on a hearing device when I attend meetings. My vision is not perfect and the ophthalmologist told that me there is no change in power and new glasses will not help. A small membrane is right at the centre of the eye (I had cataract surgery earlier) and if I cannot manage, laser therapy can be tried. I have a small denture to replace the right side grinding teeth. I had irritation in the left part of the stomach for years and in the last year this is accompanied by irritation of the left foot sole. I went through all the diagnostic protocols. My daughter is a clinician and through her contacts I could get things done much faster, since I found every diagnostic centre is virtually overflowing with patients. I have infection with *H pylori*, which is a nasty bug to have. I went through two rounds of antibiotics. There is improvement, but not quite.

The interesting thing is that none of these 'niggles' seem to attract the attention of others and my routine continues and I want to maintain the image that I am perfectly fit! I do not use the transport van inside the Delhi airport, despite a fairly long walking distance to the departure gate.

I have been practising meditation for decades, but still cannot focus. I am deeply engaged in understanding the 'self'. The Advaita philosophy has deeply influenced me. A war is going on inside me, a full-scale tsunami, to be honest. I listen to wholesome talks on these subjects in person and through YouTube.

I don't know how to proceed, although the enquiry gives me peace of mind. I can offer sincere prayers for the welfare of society at large. But I would need extraordinary grace to really experience the same 'self', not only in me but in the world around, both animate and inanimate. I like solitude, but at the same time I do not want to be branded as a recluse or being senile!

Nobody seems to recognise my internal turmoil. I am sought-after because I do not have an agenda of my own. I can accept both compliments and insults. I take all my assignments, big and small, seriously. I have a broad knowledge base in my area of science.

But I know I need to quit all my assignments if I have to progress in my spiritual journey. Whenever I raise the topic of quitting, people tell me, "you are irreplaceable" – which as all of us know is not true.

I continue because I do not know what I can do if I just sit at home. I am not of much use with the family chores. I keep debating whether it is better to quit all my assignments or keep externally active till the end.

I understand people age that much faster sitting at home after retirement. I shudder at the thought of becoming a vegetable and be a burden to the kith and kin. I do not know whether others of my age have similar challenges. One thing is certain. The role model image is fake and the model has to roll over!

Professor Padmanaban is a former Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and Chancellor of the Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur. He is NASI-Platinum Jubilee Senior Scientist with the Department of Biochemistry, IISc, and Senior Science Innovation Adviser to the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.
geepee@alumni.iisc.ac.in

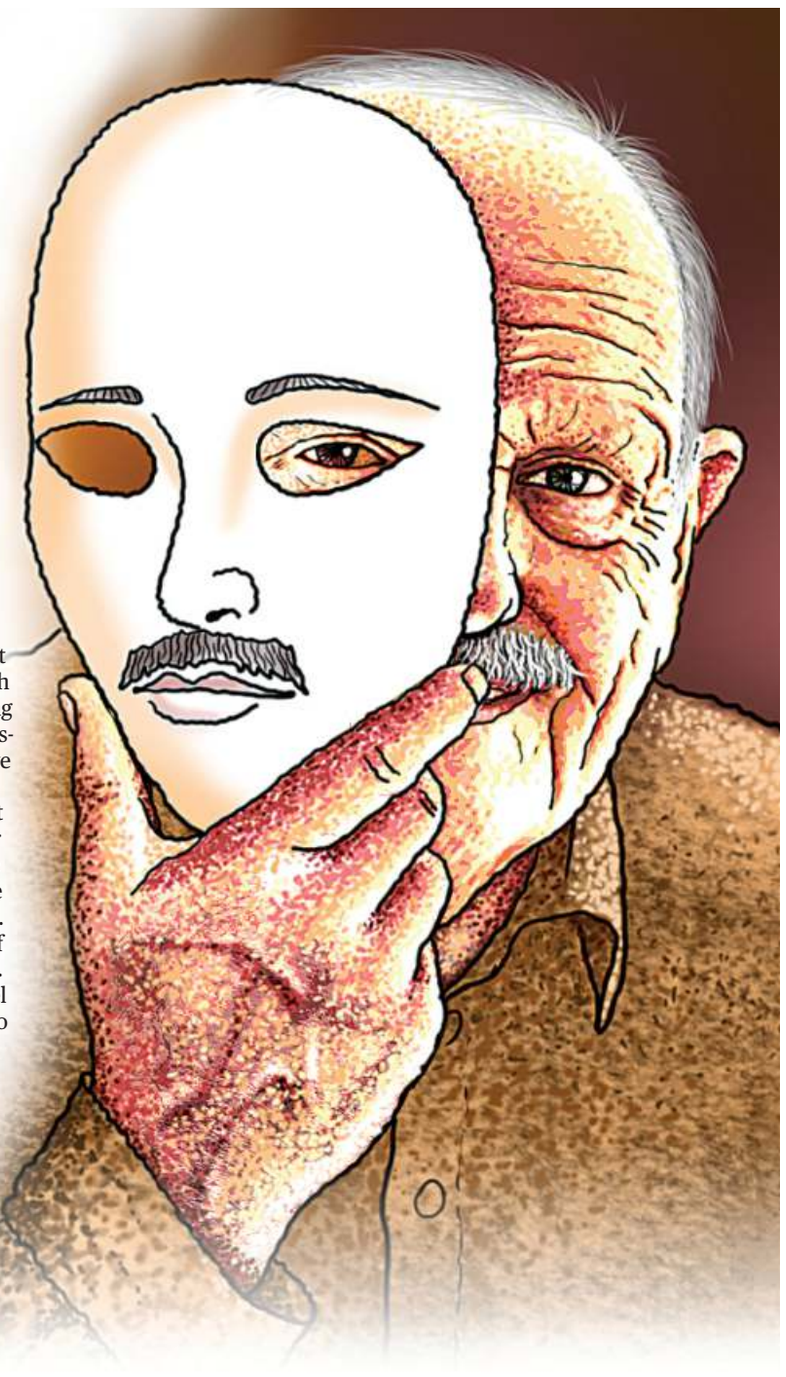


ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

Where have the rains gone?

No chants, no prayers, no marriage of frogs can bring back the bygone days

ASHOK B.B.

In India, rains have traditionally been an integral part of life. Our economy, history and culture have been regularly swept by periodic episodes of rain and flood, as also drought. The monsoon patterns have determined to a large extent our planning, leisure events and celebrations.

Sitting on the balcony and enjoying the drizzle outside, I kept wondering how unpredictable rains today have become. Even towards the end of June, we were still awaiting the 'burst' of monsoon that we had all read in geography lessons as happening at the beginning of June in my part of the country.

The rainy season used to be so predictable even just 10 to 15 years ago. Our parents and grandparents could even predict different rain episodes, each with a different name. In the present day, even with so much advancement in technology and the study of phenomena that are spread across the world, such as El Nino and La Nina, the predictions are often going awry.

The months of June and July used to be months of intense rain in several regions. The monsoon would spread its force all around us and we would limit our activities indoors. Our hostel dormitories would look nothing less than wet bathrooms. Our clothes would never dry and the house entrances would get flooded with water. There was no way we could escape getting wet whenever we ventured outside even briefly.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Usually, rain made sure there was no play-time in the evening hours. Sometimes, football was the only game where rain was welcome. The thrill of playing football in the rain was something to remember and cherish.

We would walk to the hostel dining hall, two to three squeezed under an umbrella, wet and shivering. Snails and millipedes were our regular visitors. The only consolation was a brief forced holiday for our physical education teacher; he would not come and wake us up at 5-30 for jogging and exercise sessions.

The entire ambience would change, and the town would be nearly deserted when it rained, and it would be the 'calm after the storm' once it stopped. The dripping drops from the trees, the gurgling sound in the drains, and the ground with multiple mini-lakes, made a return to normal difficult for quite some time.

But nevertheless, I feel nostalgic when I remember those rainy days. It had its moments. That cozy sleep under the blanket, the love of walking in the rain under an umbrella, the happiness of playing in the rain, the sipping of hot coffee and homemade jackfruit chips, were all enthralling enough.

It's scary that within a span of ten years we are seeing so much of climate change. The intensity of the rain we saw once is no more there. Either there is a shortfall, or there is a flood affecting millions of lives.

Our dreams for a better life have turned into greed for more and it has ended up disrupting the very livelihood of our own people. No chants, no prayers, no marriage of frogs can bring back the bygone days of plenty.

We may well be descending to our doom, not waking up from the sleep of ignorance, assuming that climate change is a myth!

ashokbbalakrishna@gmail.com

A conscience call

SUNITA VISWANATH

Successive days have brought unbearable news:

A 25-year-old Salvadoran, Óscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez, and his young daughter drowned during their attempt to swim across the Rio Grande to get from Mexico to the United States.

- In Jharkhand, a 24-year-old Muslim man, Tabrez Ansari, was added to the long list of Muslim men who have been lynched to death by Hindu mobs since 2014. He was tied to a pole and forced to chant "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman", while being beaten for hours.
- In Assam, a 14-year-old Muslim girl [name withheld], allegedly hanged herself with her dupatta because she believed her name was not in the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which is being updated in order to target undocumented immigrants.
- A six-year-old Indian girl died of dehydration in the Arizona desert. She had crossed the U.S.-Mexico border with her mother, who had gone to find water. It was reported that the number of Indians detained at the border rose from 2,943 in 2017 to 8,997 in 2018.

As a mother of three boys, aged 24, 21 and 11; as an Indian immigrant living in the U.S.; and as a community activist who has spent the last eight years mobilising Hindu Americans to connect their faith to the service of humanity, the world where Oscar, Tabrez and others die such cruel deaths, is not a world I can bear or accept.

The Taittiriya upanishad teaches: *Matru devo bhava/ Pitru devo bhava/ Acharya devo bhava/ Atithi devo bhava* (Be one for whom mother, father, teacher and guest/stranger are god). We are taught to see god in our nearest and dearest, and in those who are foreign, different or other.

Of course there are complex political machinations at play, but what the entire world needs right now is the ethic of love, compassion and reverence for all of humanity that is contained in that *shloka*.

Hindus – in the U.S., India, and beyond – whose hearts, like mine, cannot withstand such inhumane treatment of our young should stand up and give voice to their opposition to such atrocities, and be counted as ones with conscience. This dark hour calls for it.

sunita@sunitav.net

Some questions over an ancient tradition

Our politics or our marriages, which one is really the real Indian tamasha ?

MOHAN DAS

So, why do people marry? Do men and women marry for the same reason(s)? But do they not both cite the same reason: companionship? (Companionship, by the way, is a western, not Indian, reason for marriage.)

Isn't it true that, in marriage, women desire companionship but most men prefer convenience? And what companionship, pray, did these marriage hopefuls find in the marriages of their predecessors and their elders, particularly their parents?

Do not people marry because they want to be accepted, not necessarily respected, by society?

Ask not why someone's married. Ask instead why they married the one who is now their partner/spouse.

Isn't it correct to conclude that those who are less certain about getting a partner would show greater eagerness to wed?

Are all those who marry fit for marriage, leave alone fit to raise a family? There are fitness/entrance tests for entry into many professions, followed by appraisals for promotions. But how to determine if one is fit for marriage... and for parenting?

A 'journey' is probably a good enough metaphor for a marriage. But why do so many people seem to make a destination of the wedding itself, which is after all only the beginning of the journey?

Why should divorce be interpreted to mean failure on the part of the partners involved? For instance, will anyone in their right mind dismiss a student who 'fails' in an exam as a failure?

Can a marriage be happy and lasting all at the same time? Isn't a lasting marriage that's also happy a statistical anomaly? When there are so many marriages, isn't it a statistical possibility that at least one must be happy and lasting? (Just as a coin tossed up several times should at least once land on its edge is a statistical anomaly.)

ILLUSTRATION: SATWIK GADE

Any attempt to learn their 'secret of a happy and lasting marriage' and follow it is therefore doomed to fail. For instance, some people live comfortably, remain healthy all their life and die peacefully despite having every vice a person can possibly have.

One must seek to answer this question before marriage: What is a successful marriage? In other words, can a marriage that simply lasts and lasts really be termed successful?

Marriage hopefuls must ask themselves (and each other) what they expect from each other. It's important to be specific and not abstruse and say, for instance, 'I want to be respected', is it not? Nobody marries in order to be unhappy, yet should they not be warned of that possibility so they'll ensure it will not be unhappy?

Nobody marries hoping for a short-lived marriage, yet should they not be warned of that possibility so they'll ensure it will not dissolve naturally?

Isn't it better (and more practical) to aim for a happy marriage than a lasting one? How many couples are putting any effort into family instead of just keeping the marriage chugging along?

It is always good to start a venture on a positive note. But will it not help couples to be engaged to know there is a chance, no matter how slim, that their marriage may fail or live up to their expectations? In other words, isn't it a good idea to keep a marriage first-aid kit always ready and handy?

Is it true that people are often less careful in arranging the marriage as they are arranging the wedding?

How to tell if a marriage is happy? For instance, who does the husband wish goodbye when he leaves home for work every day – his children, or his wife, or none?

Isn't match-making, casual or professional, the best way to conceal a bad marriage?

Finally: Is the real Indian *tamasha* our politics or our marriages? After all, without any protest from any quarter, frogs were recently wedded. Wedded!

mjx143@gmail.com

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Back to the books
The cast of characters comes to life from the pages of books revisited
NITHYA SETHURAMAN

The child's special world
Some insightful experiences at a parent training programme
AISHWARYA VISWAMITRA

The pleasure of taking time out
We must rediscover the meaning of leisure in the contemporary world
SACHIDANANDA MOHANTY

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Rohit and Rahul blaze away as India canters to victory

Mathews' fighting century and his 124-run partnership with Thirimanne go in vain for Sri Lanka; Bumrah proves a tough customer again

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP ENGLAND & WALES 2019

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LEEDS

A few days ago, while awe lubricated his voice, Virat Kohli said: "Rohit Sharma is the best one-day player." The Indian skipper's words found further validation as Rohit etched his fifth hundred in the current World Cup and it also proved to be a third ton on the trot.

The vice-captain's rapturous knock (103, 94b, 14x4, 2x6) and the synergy he found from fellow centurion K.L. Rahul (111, 118b, 11x4, 1x6) deflated Sri Lanka as India clinically won its World Cup fixture at Headingley here by seven wickets.

Able ally: K.L. Rahul complemented Rohit Sharma with his first century of the World Cup. ▪ AP

Purple patch: Rohit Sharma, with his fifth three-figure knock and third on the trot, moved past Kumar Sangakkara's record of four centuries in an edition. ▪ AFP

Afternoon's anthem

On a Saturday that dawned with a drizzle and subsequently embraced sunshine, the chants of "Rohit, Rohit" turned out to be the afternoon's anthem while a sea of blue with flecks of orange, exulted. Pursuing Sri Lanka's 264 for seven that was mounted upon a splendid 113 (128b, 10x4, 2x6) by Angelo Mathews, Kohli's men replied with 265 for three in 43.3 overs.

India's chase found an ideal launch-pad through Rohit and Rahul's 189-run partnership off 181 deliveries. Lasith Malinga's tussle with his Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit was an important element and the latter won the joust. Malinga wavered outside off-stump and Rohit with a half-step, drove him past covers. The curly-haired menace then over-compensated on the leg-side and the Mumbaikar elegantly on-drove.

Kasun Rajitha, the other seamer, equally felt the heat of Rohit's willow and both the premier batsman and his understudy Rahul prospered and the fight ebbed away from Dimuth Karunaratne's men. India's first-wicket pair devoured the bowlers and the aggression was distilled into correct cricketing shots.

Even when they reached their respective fifties with an identical modus-operandi – sixes off spinner Dhananjaya de Silva, the strokes had beauty as the overwhelming flavour. Just as he neared his hundred, Rohit played a cover-drive for the ages. Malinga sealed both cover and extra-cover but the batsman nonchalantly drove through the small gap. This was a master at work and though Rohit perished immediately after reaching his milestone, the warm pats on his back from the opposition fielders, reflected the aura he exuded.

Rahul takes over

Rahul then extended the aesthetic mauling, driving, pulling and being unhurried at the crease while his captain Kohli applauded from the other end. A glide to third man off Malinga, ushered in another special hundred for the day and India's cup of joy brimmed. The pacer, who suffered two more fours at the opener's hands, had his vengeance with a bouncer that grazed the glove but the Men in Blue were by then just a few hits from the winning post.

Earlier, Karunaratne opted to bat and he and Kusal Perera coped well with Bhuvneshwar Kumar but found an impenetrable fortress in Jasprit Bumrah. When Karunaratne tried to dab past point, he couldn't hoodwink another southpaw – Ravindra Jadeja. Incidentally, the last-named was drafted into India's playing eleven along with Kuldeep Yadav after Mohammed Shami and Yuzvendra Chahal were rested.

Early trouble

Soon while trying to cut, the Sri Lankan captain edged Bumrah to M.S. Dhoni, who had a busy morning. Perera, meanwhile, swung hard at Bhuvneshwar and the catch eluded Kuldeep as he and Hardik Pandya nearly collided. On seven then, Perera couldn't capitalise as he snicked Bumrah and warmed Dhoni's gloves. Two more wickets collapsed as Kusal Mendis lunged forward to Jadeja and heard the bails being whipped while Avishka Fernando fell to the combine of Bumrah and Dhoni.

Sri Lanka gasped at 55 for four in the 12th over and Mathews had to douse the fire. He precisely did that and with Lahiru Thirimanne (53), scripted a vital 124-run fifth-wicket partnership. The two preferred the doughty approach and once Mathews punched Kuldeep for four, his confidence grew. Thirimanne then swept the chinaman bowler and the Indians had to constantly alter their lines as they had to contend with the right-left mix of Mathews and his partner.

Mathews relished a lifeline on 61 when he hoisted Jadeja and Bhuvneshwar spilled the catch. The all-rounder continued unhindered though the alliance ended with Thirimanne succumbing to Kuldeep. Mathews reached the three-figure mark with an upper-cut off Pandya and even though he holed out during the slog, the Sri Lankan total had acquired strength. Rohit and company, however, felt otherwise.

INNINGS SCAN

SL		IND
2	Maidens	1
24	Fours	30
2	Sixes	3
124 (5th)	Best stand	189 (1st)
5.28	RR	6.09

PROGRESSION

SL		IND
52/2	10 overs	59/0
83/4	20 overs	109/0
127/4	30 overs	189/0
200/5	40 overs	234/1
264/7	50 overs	--

TOP SHOWS

For	Batting	Bowling
Sri Lanka	Mathews 113 (128b, 10x4, 2x6)	Rajitha 1/47 (8)
India	Rohit 103 (94b. 14x4, 2x6)	Bumrah 3/37 (10)

STAT SPHERE

1 Rohit and Rahul have become the first pair to put on 150-plus opening stands in back-to-back matches in the WC. They had put on 180 against Bangladesh

1 Mathews scored 244 runs between 2011 and 2019, the most in ODIs at Headingley, before being dismissed. He surpassed Trescothick's aggregate of 225 (2005-2006). Root is third with 184 (2018-2019)

2 Rohit and Rahul are the second set of openers to score individual tons in a WC match, after Tharanga and Dilshan (twice in 2011, vs Zim & Eng)

3 Number of consecutive centuries for Rohit in ODIs. He is the second Indian after Kohli (2018) to do it. Sangakkara's four on the trot in 2015 is the record

3 Number of centuries for Mathews in ODIs, all coming against India and in a losing cause. The Sri Lankan has joined Salman Butt, Javed Miandad, Geoff Marsh, Chris Cairns and Nasir Jamshed who scored their first three ODI 100s against India. Butt had four

3 Rohit & Rahul have joined Finch & Warner and Roy & Bairstow as the opening pairs with a maximum of three century partnerships (this edition), emulating Gilchrist and Hayden (2007)

4 Man-of-the-Match awards for Rohit in this WC, the joint highest in a single edition, equalling Aravinda (1996), Klusener (1999), Yuvraj (2011)

4 Number of century partnerships India has recorded in this WC, the most by any team. Australia and England have three each

5 Number of hundreds Rohit has notched up (8 inns) in this WC, the most in a tournament, bettering Sangakkara's four (7 inns) in 2015

2 Bumrah (57 innings) is the second fastest Indian bowler to reach 100 wickets, replacing Irfan Pathan (59). Shami (56) is the fastest to the feat

Kuldeep has bowled 67 overs for six wickets in this WC, registering a strike rate of 67.0, his worst in any series/ tournament

MOST 100S IN THE WORLD CUP

6/16 inns Rohit
6/44 Tendulkar
5/42 Ponting
5/35 Sangakkara

HIGHEST BATTING AVERAGE IN THE WC (MIN. 15 INNS)

69.78 Rohit (16 inns)
63.52 de Villiers (22)
63.42 Clarke (21)
63.31 Richards (21)

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Dimuth Karunaratne c Dhoni b Bumrah 10 *(17b, 2x4)*, Kusal Perera c Dhoni b Bumrah 18 *(14b, 3x4)*, Avishka Fernando c Dhoni b Pandya 20 *(21b, 4x4)*, Kusal Mendis st. Dhoni b Jadeja 3 *(13b)*, Angelo Mathews c Rohit b Bumrah 113 *(128b, 10x4, 2x6)*, Lahiru Thirimanne c Jadeja b Kuldeep 53 *(68b, 4x4)*, Dhananjaya de Silva (not out) 29 *(36b, 1x4)*, Thisara Perera c Pandya b Bhuvneshwar 2 *(3b)*, Isuru Udana (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-2, w-8, nb-1): 15; Total (for seven wkts. in 50 overs): 264.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-17 (Karunaratne, 3.4 overs), 2-40 (Kusal Perera, 7.1), 3-53 (Kusal Mendis, 10.4), 4-55 (Fernando, 11.4), 5-179 (Thirimanne, 37.5), 6-253 (Mathews, 48.2), 7-260 (Thisara Perera, 49.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 10-0-73-1, Bumrah 10-2-37-3, Pandya 10-0-50-1, Jadeja 10-0-40-1, Kuldeep 10-0-58-1.

INDIA

K.L. Rahul c K. Perera b Malinga 111 *(118b, 11x4, 1x6)*, Rohit Sharma c Mathews b Rajitha 103 *(94b, 14x4, 2x6)*, Virat Kohli (not out) 34 *(41b, 3x4)*, Rishabh Pant lbw b Udana 4 *(4b, 1x4)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 7 *(4b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-5): 6; Total (for three wkts. in 43.3 overs): 265.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-189 (Rohit, 30.1), 2-244 (Rahul, 40.6), 3-253 (Pant, 41.6).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Malinga 10-1-82-1, Rajitha 8-0-47-1, Udana 9.3-0-50-1, Thisara Perera 10-0-34-0, Dhananjaya 6-0-51-0.

Toss: Sri Lanka. **MoM:** Rohit.

India won by seven wickets with 39 deliveries remaining.

Iconic and inspirational

Phenom: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has applauded M.S. Dhoni for changing "the face of Indian cricket." It also posted a video celebrating the former Indian skipper's achievements. Dhoni turns 38 on Sunday. ▪ AFP

Staying in the present is Rohit's success mantra

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LEEDS

The smile ain't leaving Rohit Sharma's face. The ODI batting behemoth sauntered into the press conference hall at Headingley here on Saturday evening. He blinked once, nodded at known faces and, when asked about whether he is conscious of his fresh records, India's centurion in a winning cause against Sri Lanka, said: "I am not here for the records, I am here to play cricket, score runs and lift the (World) Cup."

And what's his mantra for success? "Staying in the present," he replied.

When probed about being dropped from the 2011 World Cup squad and if that is perhaps pushing him to work harder, Rohit countered: "It has been eight years now and I have moved on."

Seasoned campaigner: Angelo Mathews came in for praise from skipper Dimuth Karunaratne. ▪ AFP

Big brother

Yuvraj Singh had recently tweeted about a chat he had with Rohit during the IPL and the opener revealed the nature of that conversation: "Yuvi is like a big brother. I was telling him about getting starts in IPL but not converting those and he said when it mattered I will deliver, he was hinting at the World Cup. He was in a similar space before the 2011 World Cup."

For now, Rohit wants to cut out the surround sound of advice and expectations. "You don't want someone yapping in your ear all the time," he quipped.

But what about his relative failure to convert his tons into Daddy hundreds, like he did in the past? "It is not much of a worry because eventually we won, but yes the plan is to bat deep and if I am in such a position again come the semifinals, I will ensure that I stay," he answered.

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
India (Q)	9	7	1	1	15	0.809
Australia (Q)	8	7	1	0	14	1.000
England (Q)	9	6	3	0	12	1.152
New Zealand (Q)	9	5	3	1	11	0.175
Pakistan (E)	9	5	3	1	11	-0.430
Sri Lanka (E)	9	3	4	2	8	-0.919
Bangladesh (E)	9	3	5	1	7	-0.410
South Africa (E)	8	2	5	1	5	-0.080
West Indies (E)	9	2	6	1	5	-0.225
Afghanistan (E)	9	0	9	0	0	-1.322

** till the India-Sri Lanka match on July 6.* Q: Qualified, E: Eliminated

India the favourite

Meanwhile, Dimuth Karunaratne backed India to win the World Cup. After his team suffered a seven-wicket defeat against Virat Kohli's men, the Sri Lankan captain said: "India has balance. It has good bowlers and a top-order that is scoring centuries. It has a better chance to win this World Cup."

The skipper lauded Rohit and mentioned that the opener keeps "batting and batting" and is an ideal inspiration for young batsmen. Karunaratne praised Angelo Mathews but rued that they couldn't give a winning World Cup farewell to Lasith Malinga.

And as for the game, he said: "We just couldn't squeeze India. Their bowlers did well and then their batsmen played fearless cricket."

Umpire Gould calls it a day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LEEDS

Englishman Ian Gould brought down the curtains on his umpiring career after officiating in the India-Sri Lanka match here on Saturday.

Gould officiated in 74 Tests and 140 ODIs. An accomplished wicketkeeper, he played for England in the 1983 World Cup, figuring in 18 ODIs in total.

Ian Gould. ▪ AP

Superb knock: South African skipper Faf du Plessis signed off with a brilliant ton. ▪ REUTERS

South Africa piles it on

du Plessis (100) and van der Dussen (95) make merry

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

South Africa captain Faf du Plessis led from the front with a century and Rassie van der Dussen made a superb 95 as the Proteas piled up 325 for six against Australia in the concluding league match on Saturday.

Mitchell Starc equalled Australia legend Glenn McGrath's record of most wickets at a World Cup, set in the 2007 edition in the Caribbean, when he moved to 26 wickets after a return of two for 59.

du Plessis, who won the toss, and van der Dussen put on 151 for the third wicket in front of a sun-drenched crowd. It might have been a different story, however, had Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey not missed a chance to stump van der Dussen off off-spinner Glenn Maxwell when the batsman had made just four.

Aiden Markram, opening the innings after Hashim Amla was ruled out with a knee injury playing football during warm-up on Friday, set the tone with two well-timed boundaries.

Nathan Lyon struck twice to have Markram stumped for 33 and fellow opener Quinton de Kock caught at short third man for 52.

But du Plessis completed his third successive fifty and fourth of the tournament before he advanced down to drive fast bowler Pat Cummins for a superb six. A single helped him reach the landmark in 93 balls, with seven fours and two sixes.

van der Dussen fell short of his maiden ODI hundred when, trying to hit the last ball of the innings for six, he holed out to Maxwell off Cummins. He faced 97 balls including four fours and four sixes, with the 30-year-old now boasting an ODI average of 73.77 from 14 innings.

Australia 191 for four

- Australia was 191 for four in 35 overs with Warner (102) and Carey (35) at the crease.

SCOREBOARD SOUTH AFRICA VS AUSTRALIA

SOUTH AFRICA

Aiden Markram st. Carey b Lyon 34 *(37b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Quinton de Kock c Starc b Lyon 52 *(51b, 7x4)*, Faf du Plessis c Starc b Behrendorff 100 *(94b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Rassie van der Dussen c Maxwell b Cummins 95 *(97b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Jean-Paul Duminy c Stoinis b Starc 14 *(13b, 1x4)*, Dwaine Pretorius b Starc 2 *(5b)*, Andile Phehlukwayo (not out) 4 *(3b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, lb-10, w-13): 24; Total (for six wkts. in 50 overs): 325.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-79 (Markram, 11.3 overs), 2-114 (de Kock, 17.4), 3-265 (du Plessis, 42.5), 4-295 (Duminy, 46.5), 5-317 (Pretorius, 48.5), 6-325 (van der Dussen, 49.6).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Starc 9-0-59-2, Behrendorff 8-0-55-1, Lyon 10-0-53-2, Cummins 9-0-66-1, Smith 1-0-5-0, Stoinis 3-0-19-0, Maxwell 10-0-57-0.

Toss: South Africa.

Record-setting Federer and Nadal roll on

In the women's section, World No. 1 Barty and former champions Serena and Kvitova make the last 16

REUTERS
LONDON

Roger Federer kept tennis statisticians on their toes on Saturday as he mopped up a few more records by trampling all over Lucas Pouille's dreams in a rip-roaring 7-5, 6-2, 7-6(4) win to reach the fourth round of Wimbledon.

The Swiss became the first player – man or woman – to notch up 350 match wins at the Majors. He also set a professional era record of reaching the last 16 for the 17th time – surpassing the previous benchmark he had shared with Jimmy Connors.

Rafael Nadal was in ruthless form as he marched into the fourth round with a 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 rout of France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in 108 minutes.

The victory was his 51st at the All England Club, equalling five-times champion Bjorn Borg in eighth place on the Open Era list for most Wimbledon men's singles match wins.

Nishikori's quiet march

Kei Nishikori's quiet-but-efficient victory will feature in no tournament highlight retrospectives, but it did make some milestones.

The 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 win over American Steve Johnson marked the player's 400th tour-level match win and saw him reach the round of 16 for a fourth time, sharing the Japanese record with Ai Sugiyama. The eighth seed will next face Kazakh Mikhail Kukushkin for a place in the quarterfinals.

In other match-ups, American Sam Querrey overcame John Millman of Australia and Tennys Sandgren ousted 12th seed Fabio Fognini of Italy.

Earlier, in the women's section, top seed Ashleigh Barty swatted aside Briton Harriet Dart 6-1, 6-1 to become the first Australian woman to make the fourth round of Wimbledon since Jarmila Wolfe in 2010.

Strycova stuns Bertens

In a minor upset, Barbora Strycova stunned fourth seed Kiki Bertens 7-5, 6-1 to reach the fourth round for the first time since 2014, when she went on to make the quarterfinals.

Serena Williams, seeking a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam crown, stayed on course with a comfortable 6-3, 6-4 victory over Germany's Julia Goerges in a rematch of last year's semifinal.

Belgium's 21st seed Elise Mertens also advanced with a battling 6-2, 6-7(9), 6-4 win over Wang Qiang but it was the end of the road for 13th seed Belinda Bencic who was beaten 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 by Alison Riske.

Local hope Johanna Konta, who had defeated American Sloane Stephens in their three previous meetings this year, had to dig deep to down the American 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 and set up a last-16 clash with Czech Petra Kvitova.

Marching ahead: Seven-time champion Serena Williams made the second week at The Championships for the 16th time in her illustrious career. ▪ REUTERS

Golden jubilee: Rod Laver, who did the 'calendar Grand Slam' in 1962 and 1969, holds aloft the replica of the Wimbledon trophy presented to mark the 50th anniversary of his last title at the All England Club. ▪ AFP

THE RESULTS

Third round: Men: 2-Roger Federer (Sui) bt 27-Lucas Pouille (Fra) 7-5, 6-2, 7-6(4); 17-Matteo Berrettini (Ita) bt 24-Diego Schwartzman (Arg) 6-7(5), 7-6 (2), 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-3; Mikhail Kukushkin (Kaz) bt 33-Jan-Lennard Struff (Ger) 6-3, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-5.

Sam Querrey (USA) bt John Millman (Aus) 7-6(3), 7-6(8), 6-3; 8-Kei Nishikori (Jpn) bt Steve Johnson (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 3-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (Fra) 6-2, 6-3, 6-2; Tennys Sandgren (USA) bt 12-Fabio Fognini 6-3, 7-6(12), 6-3; Ugo Humbert (Fra) bt 19-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) 6-4, 7-5, 6-3.

Women: 1-Ashleigh Barty (Aus) bt Harriet Dart (GBr) 6-1, 6-1; Alison Riske (USA) bt 13-Belinda Bencic (Sui) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; 11-Serena Williams (USA) bt 18-Julia Goerges (Ger) 6-3, 6-4.

30-Carla Suarez Navarro (Esp) bt Lauren Davis (USA) 6-3, 6-3; 21-Elise Mertens (Bel) bt 15-Qiang Wang (Chn) 6-2, 6-7 (9), 6-4; 6-Petra Kvitova (Cze) bt Magda Linette (Pol) 6-3, 6-2.

19-Johanna Konta (GBr) bt 9-Sloane Stephens (USA) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; Barbora Strycova (Cze) bt 4-Kiki Bertens (Ned) 7-5, 6-1.

Mixed doubles: Second round: Laura Siegemund (Ger) & Artem Sitak (NZ) bt 13-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) & Rohan Bopanna (Ind) 6-4, 6-4.

Subah Ka Tara for feature event

BENGALURU: Subah Ka Tara, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Chief Minister's Cup (1,200m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (July 7). False rails (width about 8.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 SNOW DEW PLATE (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-30 p.m.: 1. Cavaliere (7) Antony 56, 2. Defender (1) Zervan 56, 3. Mighty Red (2) Darshan 56, 4. Roman Senator (3) Sandesh 56, 5. Silver Eclipse (8) Rayan 56, 6. Streaming Gold (5) Neeraj 56, 7. Hukumat (6) Trevor 54.5 and 8. Sainthood (4) T.S. Jodha 54.5.

1. ROMAN SENATOR, 2. DEFENDER, 3. STREAMING GOLD

2 RAMKIRPAL PLATE (1,100M), rated 00 to 20, 3-00: 1. Scarlet Princess (2) John 60, 2. Song And Dance (6) Noornabi 60, 3. Majestic Heroine (7) Nazerul 59, 4. Singhsaab (3) Koushik 58.5, 5. Prime Star (5) Tauseef 58, 6. Smile Of Peace (1) T.S. Jodha 58, 7. Global Ruler (8) P. Mani 57, 8. Dontbreakitherules (11) S. Shareef 56, 9. Tudor Prince (9) Ashok K 56, 10. Odyssey (10) Raghaveer Singh 55.5 and 11. Magnitude Queen (4) N.B. Kuldeep 55.

1. SCARLET PRINCESS, 2. SINGHSAAB, 3. TUDOR PRINCE

3 D.M. SHIVASWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 45 to 65, 3-30: 1. New Moon (–) (–) 60, 2. Dr Logan (4) P.S. Chouhan 59.5, 3. Aeolus (8) Zervan 58, 4. Nikandros (6) Md. Asif Khan 56.5, 5. Standout (2) Antony 55.5, 6. Silver Dew (3) Bhawani Singh 54.5, 7. Attorney General (1) A. Merchant 54 and 8. Masada (5) S.A. Amit 53.5.

1. AEOLUS, 2. DR LOGAN, 3. STANDOUT

4 CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Captain Courage (5) John 60, 2. Cavallo Veloce (9) A. Imran 60, 3. Accolade (6) Suraj 58, 4. Dream Catcher (10) Akshay K 57, 5. Into The Spotlight (3) Sandesh 57, 6. Smile Stone (1) Irvan 57, 7. Southpaw (11) P.S. Chouhan 57, 8. The Champ (4) N.S. Parmar 57, 9. Eastern Star (2) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 10. Star Baron (7) Zervan 56.5, 11. Subah Ka Tara (12) Trevor 56.5 and 12. Organic (8) Neeraj 55.

1. SUBAH KA TARA, 2. ACCOLADE, 3. CAPTAIN COURAGE

5 BASQUE PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Mystic Flame (2) Zervan 60, 2. Gerontocrat (8) John 59.5, 3. Optimisticapproach (3) Koushik 59.5, 4. Sahara (1) P.S. Chouhan 58.5, 5. Orenda (9) Sandesh 58, 6. Land Of Liberty (4) Rajesh K 57.5, 7. Nitromax (7) Shobhan 57.5, 8. Spirit Bruce (10) Darshan 57.5, 9. Black Whizz (6) Akshay K 57 and 10. Amazing Skill (5) Mark 56.5.

1. MYSTIC FLAME, 2. GERONTOCRAT, 3. SAHARA

6 PENDRAGON PLATE (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Armenia (1) Suraj 60, 2. Mariachi (4) T.S. Jodha 60, 3. Ultimate Power (8) Darshan 59.5, 4. Radiant Treasure (3) Yash 58.5, 5. Marco Polo (7) P.S. Chouhan 56.5, 6. Ekalavya (2) Sandesh 55, 7. Three Wishes (6) Bhawani Singh 55, 8. Indian Brahmos (9) A. Merchant 54.5 and 9. Ocean Park (5) S.A. Amit 52.

1. MARIACHI, 2. MARCO POLO, 3. ARMENIA

7 BASQUE PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Winning Heart (7) Zervan 60, 2. Mahanati (2) Vinod Shinde 57.5, 3. Quick Action (3) M. Naveen 57.5, 4. Beond Reach (1) A. Merchant 57, 5. Reczai (8) Raghuveer Singh 56, 6. Panama (5) Arshad 55, 7. Depth Charge (4) R. Manish 54.5, 8. Bold Move (10) S. Shareef 54, 9. Halfsies (6) N.B. Kuldeep 54 and 10. Kingsfield (9) S.A. Amit 54.

1. WINNING HEART, 2. BOLD MOVE, 3. DEPTH CHARGE

Day's best: **ROMAN SENATOR**

Double: **MARIACHI – WINNING HEART**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

India gets into Intercontinental Cup with WC in mind

We do not have much time but we will try to use it wisely, says coach Stimac

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
AHMEDABAD

As the Indian national team prepared to make its second international event in two months, the new head coach Igor Stimac reminded that the prime objective of his side will be obtaining the necessary impetus for the FIFA World Cup qualifiers starting in September.

The Hero International Cup assignment is primarily being treated as a sparring session for the side to sharpen the skills for the tough challenges ahead.

"Football is so beautiful that it can surprise all of us. I wish we can become one of the nice surprises in the upcoming qualifiers. But I will not make promises. I will do my best on a daily basis, working on the players so that they can improve and advance their game. We do not have much time but we will try to use it wisely," Stimac said.

Stimac with Chhetri. ▪ COURTESY: AIFF

The Croatian gaffer is looking to overhaul the Indian team and also its playing style.

Adapting to new style

When India takes on Tajikistan in the opening game at the EKA Arena on Sunday, Sunil Chhetri and his colleagues will not just be looking at retaining the title but also at adapting to the new shape and style that Stimac is looking to infuse in the team.

Retaining the nucleus of side with some seniors like Chhetri, Sandesh Jinghan, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Pritam Kotal, Pronoy Halder, Udanta Singh and Rowllin Borges (and recalling E. Anas from retirement), Stimac has infused a lot of young names who he thinks are the investment for the future.

"It is more important for us get together certain things in our performance that will help us in doing well in the (FIFA World Cup 2022) qualifiers.

"We are now focused on doing well in the qualifiers and I will not at any time put pressure on my players about results in this tournament," was how Stimac laid down the team's priority.

For the young blood in the side like Anirudh Thapa, Sahal Abdul, Jobby Justin, Mandar Rao Desai, it will be about displaying the right attributes which the head coach is looking for.

The fixtures

- **July 7:** India vs Tajikistan
- **July 8:** Syria vs DPR Korea
- **July 10:** Tajikistan vs Syria
- **July 13:** India vs DPR Korea
- **July 15:** DPR Korea vs Tajikistan
- **July 16:** India vs Syria
- **July 19:** Final

SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Storm Breaker wins Juvenile Sprinters' Million

BENGALURU: Storm Breaker (Yash up) won the Juvenile Sprinters' Million, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (July 6).

The winner is owned by Mrs. B.E. Saldanha, Mr. Mark Saldanha, Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep. by. Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla & Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole and Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Pvt. Ltd. rep. by. Mr. Byram N. Jeejeebhoy and trained by M. Narredu.

THE RESULTS

1 NOBLE PRINCE PLATE (1,400m), rated 15 to 35: **BROTHERS IN ARMS** (Suraj) 1, Blarney Stone (A. Ramu) 2, Shivalik Kiss (Shobhan) 3 and Amber Crown (Bhawani Singh) 4. Not run: Goodwill Warrior. 1-1/4, 2 and 4-1/2. 1m, 26.36s. ₹16 (w), 11, 18 and 12 (p), SHP: 56, THP: 41, FP: 93, Q: 67, Trinella: 181 and 39, Exacta: 555 and 327. Favourite: Brothers In Arms.

Owners: Mr. Neil Darashah & Mrs. Anneka Darashah. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

2 RARE GEM PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **SLICE OF HEAVEN** (Darshan) 1, Will To Win (Zervan) 2, Siroco (Neeraj) 3 and Schafenberg (S.A. Amit) 4. Not run: Caesars Palace. 8-1/2, ¾ and 1/2. 1m, 05.94s. ₹28 (w), 13, 15 and 25 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 58, FP: 141, Q: 84, Trinella: 485 and 309, Exacta: 4,658 and 1,837. Favourite: Indian Democrat. Owner: Mrs. Geetha Dilip Ranka. Trainer: B. Prithviraj.

3 MAHALAKSHMI PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 20: **CHULA VISTA** (John) 1, Desert Angel (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Phoenix Reached (T.S. Jodha) 3 and High Tide (Dhebe) 4. ½, 3-3/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 26.99s. ₹21 (w), 13, 14 and 32 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 75, FP: 52, Q: 34, Trinella: 412 and 280, Exacta: 1,142 and 400. Favourite: Chula Vista.

Owner: Sarainaga Racing Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

4 KARNATAKA POLICE CUP (1,200m), rated 60 & above: **INTO THE GROOVE** (Suraj) 1, Bora Bora (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Headi's Folly (Irvan) 3 and Diamond Rays (Neeraj) 4. Snk, 2 and 2-1/2. 1m, 12.45s. ₹19 (w), 13, 41 and 14 (p), SHP: 132, THP: 38, FP: 594, Q: 394, Trinella: 1,668 and 391, Exacta: 3,618 and 1,447. Favourite: Into The Groove.

Owner: Mr. Chaduranga Kanthraj Urs. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

5 JUVENILE SPRINTERS' MILLION (1,200m), 3-y-o only, (Terms): **STORM BREAKER** (Yash) 1, Sitara (Trevor) 2, Mzilikazi (Akshay K) 3 and Breaking Bounds (Zervan) 4. 3-1/4, Nk and 1-1/4. 1m, 11.96s. ₹22 (w), 14 and 12 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 37, FP: 41, Q: 15, Trinella: 159 and 97, Exacta: 597 and 311. Favourite: Sitara.

Owners: Mrs. B.E. Saldanha, Mr. Mark Saldanha, Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep. by. Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla & Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole and Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Pvt. Ltd. rep. by. Mr. Byram N. Jeejeebhoy. Trainer: M. Narredu.

6 JULY PLATE (1,100m), rated 15 to 35: **MORRANE GABRIELLA** (R. Pradeep) 1, Mischief Flyer (A. Ramu) 2, She's Superb (Akshay K) 3 and Genuine Star (Suraj) 4. 1/2, 1-3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 07.30s. ₹23 (w), 11, 23 and 13 (p), SHP: 64, THP: 43, FP: 240, Q: 258, Trinella: 384 and 190, Exacta: 1,210 and 818. Favourite: Morrane Gabriella.

Owner: Mr. R. Keshava Moorthy. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

7 BHISHMA PLATE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35: **BERNARDINI** (S. Shareef) 1, Industrialist (R. Manish) 2, Cosmic Feeling (Zervan) 3 and Darahasini (S. Mubarak) 4. Not run: A Heart-toremember. 2-1/2, Hd and 1-3/4. 1m, 14.19s. ₹28 (w), 12, 13 and 11 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 44, FP: 117, Q: 116, Trinella: 161 and 43, Exacta: 411 and 297. Favourite: Cosmic Feeling.

Owner: Mr. Arun Alagappan. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

Jackpot: ₹6,189 (105 tkts);

Runner up: 196 (1,422 tkts); Treble (i): 105 (255 tkts); (ii): 1,319 (21 tkts).

Sweden finishes third

WOMEN'S WC

REUTERS
NICE (FRANCE)

Sweden benefited from poor defending and the video assistant referee to defeat England 2-1 in the Women's World Cup football third place playoff match here on Saturday.

Early goals

Early goals from Kosovare Asllani and Sofia Jakobsson were enough to see off Phil Neville's side, which pulled one back through Fran Kirby and had an Ellen White equaliser ruled out for handball.

Winger Karen Carney came on for Nikita Parris in the 74th to make her final appearance in an England shirt, having announced on Friday that she would retire after the match.

However, she was unable to help her team claim a second successive third-place finish at the World Cup.

Teunissen clinches opening stage

Photo Finish: Team Jumbo-Visma's Mike Teunissen, right, wins the stage ahead of BORA-Hansgrohe's Peter Sagan. ▪ REUTERS

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

Dutch rider Mike Teunissen won a chaotic opening stage of the Tour de France on Saturday after a collision in the final kilometre blew the bunch sprint wide open.

The 26-year-old Jumbo-Visma rider becomes the first yellow-jersey holder on the 2019 Tour and the first Dutchman to lead the race in 30 years. Teunissen edged Peter Sagan in a photo finish at the winning line, with the Slovak taking the green sprint points jersey after he won the early intermediate sprint. The Tour de France was given a festive send off as the 176 contenders for the 106th edition embarked on a 194.5km jaunt around Belgium.

TV PICKS

Hero Intercontinental Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
FIFA Women's World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Atwal in contention; Lahiri makes the cut

BLAINE (USA)

Arjun Atwal fired a bogey free three-under 68 to get to nine under and Tied-7th to stay in the mix after the second round of the inaugural 3M Open. Bryson DeChambeau dominated the second round with nine birdies to achieve a career-low 62 and vault into the lead. Anirban Lahiri fought back from a modest 71 in the first round to finish his day with a 67 and was tied for 55th at four under. PTI

Pogba plans to move out of Manchester United

LONDON

Paul Pogba's agent Mino Raiola is "in the process" of organising a move away from Manchester United for the Frenchman, he told *The Times* on Friday. The midfielder has had a topsy-turvy stay at Old Trafford since joining for a then-world-record fee of €105 million in 2016 from Juventus. Raiola claimed the Man United bosses know that the World Cup winner wants to leave. Pogba had said in Tokyo last month that it "could be a good time to have a new challenge somewhere else". Despite scoring 16 goals this season, half of which came from the penalty spot, Pogba has been criticised for his contribution as United limped to a sixth-placed finish in the Premier League. AFP

IOC lifts Kuwait suspension

PARIS

Kuwait has been cleared to compete in the 2020 Olympics after the International Olympic Committee announced on Friday it was lifting the suspension it imposed on the Kuwait Olympic Committee four years ago. In a statement, the IOC said the KOC had successfully implemented "a roadmap agreed between all parties". The announcement comes less than a week after Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Ahmad Al Sabah was elected KOC president. This was the third and final step in the roadmap which also required revision and adoption of new statutes for sports clubs and federations, followed by elections. AFP

Four birdies help Aditi make the cut

ONEIDA (USA)

Aditi Ashok shot a three-under 69 on the back of four birdies to make the cut at the Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic here. Aditi was five-under 139 and placed Tied-56th after the second round. Sung Hyun Park twice had four straight birdies in her 10-under 62 to break the tournament's 36-hole scoring record. PTI

Infantino wants bigger women's World Cup

LYON

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said on Friday he was determined to push ahead with plans to expand the women's World Cup to 32 teams in time for the next tournament after hailing France 2019 as "the best ever". Rolling out a series of proposals for the development of the women's game, Infantino said he would try to expand the competition from 24 teams to 32 in time for the next tournament in four years. This is only the second women's World Cup since it was expanded from 16 teams to 24 four years ago. AFP

Pole-to-flag finish for Deepak

Rajiv Sethu wards off Jagan Kumar for a win in Pro-Stock 165cc

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Deepak Ravikumar led a 1-2 finish for TVS Racing in the premium Pro-Stock 301-400cc class, while Rajiv Sethu, fresh from an international outing in Japan, scored a thrilling win in the Pro-Stock 165cc category to bring some cheer for Honda in the second round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National motorcycle racing championship at the MMRT, here on Saturday.

Starting from pole position, Ravikumar held off team-mate K. Y. Ahamed for a commanding win, while Sethu, who missed the first round in Coimbatore last month, fought tooth and nail to beat favourite and pole-sitter Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing), sealing the win in the last lap.

Mathan Kumar (Erula Racing) also chalked up a last-gasp win over Aravind Balakrishnan (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) in the Pro-Stock 200-300cc class that was run on a combined grid with the 301-400cc category while Bengaluru's Abhimanyu Gautam, starting from third on the 39-rider grid, topped the Stock 165cc (Novice) race which went down to the wire.

Earlier, 14-year-old from Chennai, Md. Mikail underlined his potential by comfortably winning the inaugural race in the newly-introduced Honda NSF 250R category of the Idemitsu Honda Talent Cup One-Make championship. Varun Sadasivam, also from Chennai, came in second ahead of another 14-year-old local schoolboy Kavin Samaar Quintal.

Zooming ahead: Md. Mikail underlined his potential by comfortably winning the inaugural Idemitsu Honda Talent Cup One-Make championship. ▪ SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The results (provisional, all six laps unless mentioned, winners only):
National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc (Race 1): Deepak Ravikumar (TVS Racing) (11mins, 41.479secs).
Pro-Stock 200-300cc (Race 1): Mathan Kumar (Erula Racing) (12:11.742).
Pro-Stock 165cc (Race 1): Rajiv Sethi (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) (11:59.724).
Novice - Stock 165cc (Race 1): Abhimanyu Gautam (Sparks Racing) (13:08.136).
One-Make Championship:
Idemitsu Honda Talent Cup - Honda NSF 250R (Race 1): Boys: Md Mikail (Chennai) (11:14.583).
TVS Open (Apache RTR 310, Race 1): Vivek Pillai (Chennai) (11:58.964); **Novice (Apache RTR 200, Race 1):** Venkatesan (Chennai) (13:16.007); **Girls (Apache RTR 200) (5 laps):** Nivetha Jessica (Chennai) (11:27.421).

Abhijeet, Narayanan and Aravindh lead

Three-way battle for the honours promises exciting finale

C'WEALTH CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

In keeping with the expectations, the eighth and penultimate round of the Commonwealth chess championship provided plenty of thrills and left three leaders promising an exciting finale.

Saturday's top-board clash involving overnight leader Abhijeet Gupta and Swapnil Dhopade ended in a 144-move draw. The draw was agreed after the last 50 moves were made without involving a pawn-move.

This energy-sapping game, lasting five hours, raised top seed Abhijeet's tally to 6.5 points and saw him join the triumphant duo of second seed S.L. Narayanan and third seed Aravindh Chithambaram.

Narayanan overpowered Deepan Chakkravarthy in 60 moves and Aravindh checkmated former champion M.R. Lalit Babu in 44 moves following a well-calculated finishing touch.

In the final round, Narayanan plays white against Aravindh and Abhijeet will be sitting behind the white pieces facing Arjun Erigaisi, who reached six points after beating Debashis Das.

For the women's title, Divya Deshmukh, R. Vaishali (5.5 each), defending champion Tania Sachdev and V. Varshini (5 each) stay in the title-hunt.

On Sunday, Lalit Babu plays Divya, Vaishali meets Abhijit Kunte and Varshini faces Tania.

The results (eighth round): Swapnil Dhopade (6) drew with Abhijeet Gupta (6.5); Deepan Chakkraborty (5.5) lost to S.L. Narayanan (6.5).

Aravindh Chithambaram (6.5) bt M.R. Lalit Babu (5.5); Arjun Erigaisi (6) bt Debashis Das (5.5); Tania Sachdev (5) lost to P. Iniyan (5); Swayams Mishra (5) drew with P. Karthikeyan (5); C.R.G. Krishna (5) drew with Suyog Wagh (5); Abhijit Kunte (5.5) bt M. Mahalakshmi (4.5); Niranjan Navalgund (5.5) bt R.R. Laxman (4.5); Divya Deshmukh (5.5) bt Aaryan Varshney (4.5); P. Saravana Krishna (5.5) bt S. Nitin (4.5); Shantanu Bhambure (5.5) bt Bhakti Kulkarni (4.5); Sanskriti Goyal (4.5) lost to R. Vaishali (5.5).

Neelash moves back to the top

Kalyani leads the girls' category

U-17 CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

West Bengal's second-seeded Neelash Saha was back on top after the penultimate round of the 30th National under-17 open chess championship at the Oberon Mall here on Saturday.

Saha, playing black, defeated Tamil Nadu's Sibi Visal while Aronyak prevailed over M. Mohammed Anees in another 10th round game.

In the girls' category, Andhra Pradesh's ninth-seeded B. Kalyani emerged the leader after the two who gave her company at the top on Friday – third seed L. Jyothsna and top seed Saina Salonika – failed to win on Saturday.

While Kalyani beat Swara Lakshmi Nair, Jyothsna lost to West Bengal's fourth-seeded Samriddhaa Ghosh and Salonika drew with second-seeded Shanya Mishra.

Pulling ahead: B. Kalyani, left, emerged the lead, outwitting Swara Lakshmi Nair. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Important results (10th round): Open: R. Sibi Visal (TN, 7) lost to Neelash Saha (WB, 8.5), J.J. Nawin (TN, 7) drew with Arjun Gupta (Del, 8), Aronyak Ghosh (WB, 8) bt M. Mohamed Anees (TN, 6.5), Aditya P. Melani (Guj, 7) bt Vatsal Singhania (Jha, 6), S. Nithyan (Ker, 6) lost to Utsab Chatterjee (WB, 7).

Girls: Samriddhaa Ghosh (WB, 7.5) bt L. Jyothsna (TN, 7), B. Kalyani (AP, 8) bt Swara Lakshmi Nair (Kar, 6.5), Shanya Mishra (Del, 6.5) drew with Saina Salonika (Odi, 7.5), Diya Chowdhury (WB, 6.5) drew with Garima Gaurav (Bih, 6), Palkin Kaur (Del, 6.5) bt M.K. Poorna Sri (TN, 6).

Kashyap in semifinals, Sourabh exits

CANADA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CALGARY

Former Commonwealth Games champion P. Kashyap produced a gutsy performance to enter the semifinals at the $75,000 Canada Open Super 100 tournament here on Friday.

Sixth seed Kashyap outwitted France's Lucas Claerbout 12-21, 23-21, 24-22 in a quarterfinal lasting 76 minutes. Kashyap next faces Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei, who is seeded fourth.

However, reigning National champion Sourabh Verma couldn't extended his run in the tournament, losing 21-15, 21-11 to Li Shi Feng of China in a 38-minute match.

Kashyap, 32, will fancy his chances of reaching the summit clash as he has beaten Wang twice in the past. He had defeated the World No 30 at the India Open in March. The last time Kashyap had reached the final of the Austrian International challenger last year.

Quarterfinal results: P. Kashyap bt Lucas Claerbout (Fra) 12-21, 23-21, 24-22; Li Shi Feng (Chn) bt Sourabh Verma (Jpn) 21-15, 21-11.

Anand loses to Mamedyarov

SPORTS BUREAU
ZAGREB

Viswanathan Anand lost to Shakhriyar Mamedyarov in the Croatia Grand Chess Tour here on Saturday.

The results (ninth round): Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 4.5) bt Viswanathan Anand (3.5); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 7) drew with Levon Aronian (Arm, 5.5); Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 5.5) drew with Wesley So (USA, 6.5); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 5.5) drew with Ding Liren (Chn, 5); Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 4.5) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 4.5); Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 3.5) drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 4.5).

CoA to approach SC on conflict of interest issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Seeking clarity on the contentious 'conflict of interest' issue, the Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Saturday decided to approach the Supreme Court in the wake of BCCI ethics officer D.K. Jain ruling that former players like V.V.S. Laxman and Sourav Ganguly cannot perform multiple cricketing roles.

Keeping the soul of the Lodha reforms in mind – one person one post – former Supreme Court judge Jain last month ruled that ex-India batsman Laxman and former captain Ganguly will have to choose one of the multiples roles they are performing at the moment, including their commentary stints at the ongoing World Cup.

After due deliberation in its meeting on Saturday, the CoA decided on seeking the Supreme Court's guidance on the conflict of interest issue.

Laxman is a member of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), from which he has offered to step down, mentor of IPL franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad and a commentator.

Ganguly, who too is commentating in the World Cup, is a CAC member, Bengal cricket boss and advisor of IPL side Delhi Capitals.

The order, if enforced, can potentially affect a host of former and active players who take up commentary assignments with their other cricketing roles.

Meanwhile, the potential conflict of interest over Rahul Dravid's appointment as NCA's Head of Cricket has been put to rest after the former India captain decided to take leave of absence for two years from his employer India Cements.

Three Indians win gold

SPORTS BUREAU
ALMATY (KAZAKHSTAN)

The timings and throws were not very impressive but Indian athletes picked three gold in the G. Kosanov Memorial international meet here on Saturday.

Mohammed Afsal took the men's 800m gold in 1:49.12s, while discus throwers Gagandeep Singh (men, 52.39m) and Navjeet Kaur (women, 54.80m) also won their events on the opening day of the two-day meet.

In fact, Gagandeep and Navjeet had better throws in the Federation Cup in Patiala in March.

India also won the men's discus silver through S. Mithravarun (49.54m) while Jyothi (58.69m) and Anita (55.38) took silver and bronze in women's hammer throw. Incidentally, Mithravarun had won the Federation Cup silver with 53.29m.

Darshna seventh after costly miss

SPORTS BUREAU
LONATO (ITALY)

Khelo India Youth Games champion Darshna Rathore had an agonising miss and ended seventh with 114 in the junior women's skeet in the shotgun World Championship on Saturday.

Like on the opening day, when she had the first round of 21, Darshna, who resumed with 69 out of 75, shot 21 and 24. She missed the final by one point, after being fourth overnight.

Parinaaz Dhaliwal (106) and Asees Chhina (101) were 18th and 23rd in a field of 27 shooters.

In men's skeet, Sheeraz Sheikh shot 25 and 24 on the second day of competition, but a total of 119 was four points short to make the final, and placed him 37th out of 130 shooters.

Sheeraz was shooting with a borrowed gun as his own had got damaged before the competition as the barrel burst. He had shot 70 out of 75 overnight with rounds of 23, 23 and 24.

Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan shot 118 with rounds ranging between 23 and 24, while Anant Jeet Singh Naruka also had the same total as he shot all scores between 22 and 25. They were 48th and 49th.

Omkar finishes 21st

SPORTS BUREAU
NAPOLI

Omkar Santosh shot 620.1 and finished 21st in the men's air rifle shooting competition of the 30th Universiade on Saturday.

The results:

10m air rifle: Men: 1. Patrik Jany (Svk) 249.2 (627.9); 2. Park Hajun (Kor) 248.3 (625.0).

3. Evgenii Panchenko (Rus) 227.2 (630.1); 21. Omkar Santosh Ukirde 620.1.

Top seed Yugal clinches title

SPORTS BUREAU
SONEPAT

Top seed Yugal Bansal outplayed Callvin Golmei 6-2, 6-0 to clinch the title in the ₹100,000 AITA men's tennis tournament, organised by Pradhan Tennis Academy, here on Saturday.

In the semifinals, Yugal had got past Rohan Mehra 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

The results: Final: Yugal Bansal bt Calvin Golmei 6-2, 6-0; **Semifinals:** Yugal Bansal bt Rohan Mehra 1-6, 6-3, 6-4; Calvin Golmei bt Shivam Dalmia 6-2, 6-2.

Yugal Bansal. ▪

IN BRIEF

Royal baby Archie gets a private christening

LONDON

Britain's Prince Harry and wife Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, held a private ceremony at Windsor Castle on Saturday for the christening of their two-month-old son. Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor, born on May 6, was baptised in front of close family and friends in a private chapel at the Castle. PTI

AI-powered tool to help identify galaxy clusters

LONDON

Researchers have developed an Artificial Intelligence-powered tool that has been trained to "look" at colour images and identify galaxy clusters quickly. The "DeepCEE" model is based on neural networks, which are designed to mimic the way a human brain learns to recognise objects by activating specific neurons when visualising distinctive patterns and colours.

Scotland Yard questions Spacey over abuse claims

LONDON

A British police team is in the U.S. to interview Kevin Spacey about sexual assault allegations. The Metropolitan Police is investigating six allegations against the former *House of Cards* star, who ran London's Old Vic Theatre between 2004 and 2015. AP

Jaipur makes it to UNESCO World Heritage Site list

Pink City among other sites worldwide chosen for the honour

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Jaipur, celebrated for its grid plan-based architecture and buildings of pink façades, on Saturday entered the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It was among the seven sites worldwide to have made it to the list.

The decision was taken by the World Heritage Committee at the UNESCO's 43rd session under way at Baku, Azerbaijan. The committee, comprising representatives of 21 State Parties to the World Heritage Convention, examined the Walled City's nomination.

The International Council on Monuments and Sites had inspected the city in 2018. It took into account the architecture of streets with colonnades, which intersect the centre, creating large public squares called *chaupar*. The uniform façades of markets, residences and temples in the main streets had also impressed the council.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot congratulated the residents on the capital getting the World Heritage status and said it would add to the glory of the city. "It will boost tourism, benefit the local economy and help to improve the infrastructure," he said.

The fortified city was founded in 1727 by the Kachwaha Rajput ruler of Amber, Sawai Jai Singh II. The city was established on the plains and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture.

The city's urban planning shows an intermingling of ideas from ancient Hindu, modern Mughal and western cultures.

The six other cultural sites added to the list are the Dilmun burial mounds (Bahrain); the Budj Bim cultural landscape (Australia); the archaeological ruins of Liangzhu (China); the Ombilin coal mining site of Sawahlunto (Indonesia); the Mozu-Furuichi Kofun group of ancient mounded tombs (Japan); and the Plains of Jars containing the megalithic jar sites in Xiengkhouang (Lao People's Democratic Republic).

The committee also voted to add Iran's Hyrcanian forests and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai, Gulf of China, to its World Heritage List, praising the regions for their "remarkable" biodiversity.

Artistic trove: (Clockwise from top) A view of Jaipur's Hawa Mahal, which was built in 1799 by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh; the ancient city of Babylon near Hilla, Iraq; and the Ananda Buddhist temple in Bagan, Myanmar. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY/AFP/REUTERS

Buddhist city of Bagan

Myanmar's ancient capital of Bagan, nearly a quarter of a century after the complex of Buddhist temples was first nominated for listing, has been included in the list.

The latest recognition for Myanmar site, which includes more than 3,500 stupas, temples, monasteries and other structures built between the 11th and 13th centuries, is expected to boost the country's tourism sector.

The German city of Augsburg was also granted World Heritage status for its over 800-year-old water management system boasting an aquaduct, water towers, ornate fountains, canals and hundreds of bridges.

On Friday, the sprawling Mesopotamian metropolis of Babylon made it to the list after three decades of lobbying efforts by Iraq. Iceland's Vatnajokull National Park, Europe's largest with a landscape of "fire and ice," also found a place in the list.

(With inputs from AFP)

Southeast coast of India prone to heat waves: study

IITM-Pune model can forecast extreme events in real time

R. PRASAD
CHENNAI

Researchers at Pune's Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) have found that the southeast coast and the northwest region of India have become more vulnerable to heat wave conditions, which lasts for about eight days, in recent years.

The observations came during the development of an extended range prediction model by the researchers which can now predict heat waves two to three weeks in advance of an extreme event.

'70% accuracy'

The system can predict heat waves with 70% accuracy, a considerable improvement as no real time prediction was possible earlier. The model has been successfully transferred to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which has been using it since 2017 and was used to predict heat waves this year.

Based on observation data available from 1981 to 2017 and model-run data available from 2003, researchers found that places in northwest India and southeast coastal regions are prone to heat wave conditions. Places in these two regions experience heat waves for more than eight days during summer.

Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, west Madhya Pradesh, west and east Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Vidarbha, parts of Gangetic West Bengal in central India and coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana experience heat waves for more than six days in a year.

"The extended range forecast can predict heat wave conditions two weeks in advance with 70% probability. The short-range forecast two-three days before the onset of heat wave condition can provide more reliable information about the time and location of the heat wave condition," said Dr. Susmitha Joseph from IITM and co-author of a paper published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

"The heat wave forecast starts from March 1 till the monsoon covers the whole country," Dr. Joseph said.

Advance warning: The extended range prediction model can predict heat waves with 70% accuracy. ▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Specific conditions

A heat wave day is identified when the maximum temperature is above 44° Celsius (C) or when the three following conditions are observed – when the region is facing unusually hot temperature, when the temperature is more than 36° C and when the departure from the normal temperature is more than 3.5° C.

"While the IMD considers 45° C the maximum temperature to classify it as a heat wave, we used 44° C because we were using gridded data," said Dr. A.K. Sahai from IITM, Pune and corresponding author of the paper.

Based on the new criteria, between 1981 and 2018, the researchers identified 22 heat wave events in the northwest region, and 14 in the southeast coastal region. In addition, the researchers found nine events in a new region called northwest-southeast – when heat wave spells in northeast and southeast regions have at least one day overlap.

The researchers verified the model using three select events in all the three heat wave regions. The model verified the onset, duration and end phase of heat wave events by the first three and last three consecutive days and the total length of the event.

For northwest region, the heat wave event of June 2-11, 2014 which caused more than 1,500 deaths was used. The model was able to capture the onset even a week in advance but not the intensity.

It was able to correctly predict the duration and end of the heat wave event but not the precise location about three weeks in advance.

For the southeast region the heat wave even of May 15-22, 2008 was taken for testing.

Soon, contraceptives for animals

Project aims to control population of elephant, wild boar, monkey and blue bull

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has launched a project for undertaking 'immunocontraceptive measures' for population management of four species of wild animals – elephant, wild boar, monkey and blue bull (Nilgai).

"We have launched the project and the Finance Ministry has given approval for it. We are trying to utilise the best in the country, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and National the Institute of Immunology (NII), for developing a protocol of immunocontraception," Soumitra Dasgupta, Inspector General of Forest, Wildlife, MOEFCC, told *The Hindu*. The pilot project will begin in Uttarakhand and then implemented in rest of the country, the official said

"Only hitch for using (immunocontraception) on elephants is that there is a court injunction. The Ministry is trying to vacate the order," said Mr. Dasgupta, who was in the city to participate in a conference on 'Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India'.

The project will begin in Uttarakhand and then be extended to other States.

Human-animal conflict

Human-animal conflict has emerged as a major challenge in managing wildlife in the country and human-elephant conflict causes the maximum number of causalities every year. According to reply tabled in Parliament on June 28, 2019, nearly 494 persons were killed by elephants last year alone. Between 2014 and March 2019, 2,398 people died in elephant attack in the country, with West Bengal accounting for maximum number of such deaths .

Raman Sukumar, a well-known elephant expert and ecologist, said immunocontraception is a technology that uses a female animal's immune system to build a protein around the egg that prevents it from fertilising.

Not a simple task

Professor Sukumar said the birth-control method has been tried in Africa in areas like the Kruger National Park but added that the implementation of such a project in India will not be a simple task. It will involve multi-disciplinary effort over a long period of time, he said.

"It depends on the goal, whether one wants to completely seize reproduction in a population or you want to delay reproduction so that the population growth rate comes down. So that instead of an elephant producing a calf every three or four years you want the elephant to produce a calf in seven or eight years. That requires mathematical modelling and knowing the adult female population in the group that has to be delivered the vaccine," he said.

Professor Sukumar said that after developing the technology, the test will be to deliver the contraceptive and the logistics around it. In Africa the system has worked in private reserves with a relatively small elephant population, where every individual can be easily identified, he added.

Elephant kingdom

A herd of Asiatic elephants grazing near the National Highway 37 in Jagiroad in Morigaon district of Assam on Saturday. ▪ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Stranded sea cow named 'Jamil'

Second one to wash ashore in a month

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

A second orphan baby dugong, also known as a *sea cow*, found stranded on a southern Thai beach has been named 'Jamil', meaning a "handsome sea prince" by one of the country's princesses, officials said on Saturday.

Southern Thailand's waters are home to about 250 mammals classified as vulnerable. A baby dugong dubbed 'Mariam' washed ashore on its beaches last month and her antics went viral on social media, stoking interest for ocean conservation in the country's plastic-choked waters.

The newly named dugong was found on Monday with scratches on its back and is now rehabilitating in a pool at the Phuket Marine Biological Centre.

Southern Thailand's waters are home to about 250 vulnerable mammals. ▪ AFP

The name, given by Princess Sirivannavari "is from the Yawi language, and it means 'handsome prince of the sea', said the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources.

The princess has also set up "working teams for the conservation of Thailand's sea and corals and marine animals," the DMCR said.

The DMCR is now setting up a livestream of her in captivity.

Game of Thrones saga unfolds on a tapestry

A museum in Belfast is showcasing a 90-metre-long exhibit, depicting all the seasons of the popular show

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRITAIN

In a Belfast museum, seamstresses are at work depicting gory battles and warring kings in shimmering threads of red and gold -- an epic homage to the TV phenomenon *Game of Thrones*.

The team of volunteers at the Ulster Museum are putting the final touches to a 90-metre long tapestry depicting all eight seasons of the fantasy saga, which reached its dramatic conclusion in May.

"Game of Thrones", which first hit screens in 2011, was produced and chiefly filmed in studios in Belfast and in the Northern Irish countryside.

"A tapestry is, more than anything else, a great storytelling device. The length of the tapestry allows the story to unfold, so in many ways it's the perfect medium for telling the story of the 'Game of Thrones' project." explained Valerie Wilson, costume and textiles curator at National Museums Northern Ireland.

Styled in the manner of the treasured Bayeux Tapestry -- which depicts the 11th-century Norman conquest of England -- the completed piece will be transported to France to hang near its predecessor in September.

"This tapestry references the Bayeux Tapestry in that it has a series of repeated icons through it," explained Mr. Wilson.

Story time: Seamstresses working on the final section of the hand-embroidered tapestry in Belfast. ▪ AFP

The panels of the piece are woven by machine before the finishing touches are put on by hand.

For two years, a team of 30 has been at work on and off stitching embellishments on the icons -- "blood red weddings", "emerald green wildfire" and "cold-blue White Walkers" which prove pivotal in the HBO drama series.

The museum display also comes with a warning for underage visitors owing to its graphic content.

The group has been working on stitching depicting the eighth and final series. Participants -- like actors in the show -- were also sworn to silence, forced to sign non-disclosure agreements to maintain the shroud of secrecy.

"It was very crucial when the project launched that it had that new, fresh, almost surprise element," Mr.Wilson said.

After the embellishments are put on, the final panels are being added to the display of series one to seven which are already on show for the visitors.

A life-size statue for Melania

Her Slovenian hometown has become a magnet for tourists

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEVNICA

After Melania cake, Melania honey, and even Melania slippers, the Slovenian hometown of Melania Trump, the U.S. First Lady, will now boast a statue of its most famous daughter. The life-size statue on the outskirts of Sevnica was inaugurated on Friday and is the brainchild of 39-year-old American artist Brad Downey.

The sculpture was carved into a tree using a chainsaw and depicts Ms. Melania in a blue dress raising her left hand in a waving gesture, emulating a pose she struck at her husband's 2017 inauguration.

"I can understand why people might think that this falls short as a description of her physical appearance," Mr. Downey said, but insisted that the final result was "beautiful".

Since U.S. President Donald Trump took office in 2017, Sevnica has become a popular spot for tourists and journalists. Local entrepreneurs have also launched an array of Melania-branded food and merchandise as well as a tour to the key sites of her early years.

However, the statue has received mixed reactions from the locals. Nika, a local 24-year-old architecture student, said, "We in Sevnica can only laugh and, at the same time, hold our heads in our hands over their (the Trumps') catastrophic reputation."

Looming large: The statue is set in the fields near the town of Sevnica, the hometown of U.S. First Lady Melania Trump. ▪ AFP