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Iran will shortly boost uranium enrichment cap set by 2015 deal

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Rapinoe, Lavelle score as U.S. retains FIFA women's World Cup

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NEARBY



Kejriwal meets L-G on corrupt officials

NEW DELHI
Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday discussed the issue of compulsory retirement of corrupt officials with Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal and later directed his Cabinet colleagues to prepare a list of such officials. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia accompanied Mr. Kejriwal to the meeting. The CM also discussed the issue with Chief Secretary Vijay Dev.

CITY PAGE 3

Now and Then

He may live in Goa, but his heart is very much in Delhi. "I don't splurge my earnings," former cricketer Mohinder Amarnath says in the second part of our series featuring sportspersons with a strong Delhi connect.

PAGE 3

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EDGE PAGE 5

Karnataka crisis: CM to seek postponement of session

Kumaraswamy returns to Bengaluru; meets Congress and JD(S) leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

With the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) coalition government on the brink of collapse following the resignation of 12 MLAs on Saturday, Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy is likely to convene an emergency meeting of the Cabinet on Monday.

The Cabinet is expected to send a resolution to Governor Vajubhai Vala, seeking postponement of the monsoon session of the legislature that is scheduled to begin on July 12.

"As of now, leaders of the coalition feel there is a dire need to get some time to work to save the government. In this context, the Chief Minister is considering the possibility of postponing the legislature session on the grounds that there is uncertainty as Speaker Ramesh Kumar has sought time to look into the resignations," sources close to the Chief Minister told *The Hindu*.

The Speaker has said he will start looking into the resignations when he returns to his office on Tuesday. The rebel MLAs have submitted resignations to his office as he was not present when they went to meet him on Saturday.

Mr. Kumaraswamy, who



Youth Congress workers protesting in Mumbai on Sunday, demanding that the MLAs take back their resignations. ■ ANI

returned to Bengaluru from the U.S. on Sunday night, immediately met senior Congress leaders, including AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal, Mallikarjuna Kharge and Siddaramaiah, and JD(S) leaders. He was expected to address the JD(S) Legislature Party meeting, which hadn't started till the time of going to the press.

Cabinet berths

The meeting with the Congress leaders is learnt to have discussed the possibilities of saving the government, including the option of offering the rebels ministerial berths.

Congress leaders, including Mr. Venugopal, also held a series of meetings, which went on till late in the night,

on plans to save the government. Among options, the party is mulling constituting a fresh Cabinet by instructing all its Ministers to resign.

According to sources, the party hopes this "major surgery" will help woo the rebels. The Ministers are likely to be informed about this at a breakfast meeting convened by Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara on Monday. The rebel MLAs, camping at a luxury hotel in Mumbai, remained adamant, saying there was no question of reconsidering their resignations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CLP CONVENES MEET TOMORROW PAGE 8

PARTY WORKERS STAGE PROTEST PAGE 8

More MLAs will quit today, says BJP

STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU

As Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy returned home, the BJP has decided to intensify 'Operation Lotus' from Monday.

"Six to eight more [ruling] coalition MLAs are ready to tender their resignations. They will do so to the Speaker's office from Monday," a senior BJP leader said. The second phase of resignations may include senior leaders and Ministers, sources said.

These resignations are expected to put pressure on Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar to accept all of them, BJP leaders argue. While the BJP believes the Speaker has little option but to accept the resignations, party strategists are ready with a Plan-B. "If the Speaker does not accept the resignations by Wednesday, we will be forced to move a no-confidence motion against him, for which we need to give 12-day notice," a senior leader said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

More resignations in Cong., Scindia, Deora step down

Looking forward to playing national role: Mumbai leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

In a fresh spree of resignations, senior Congress leaders Jyotiraditya Scindia and Milind Deora resigned from their posts.

The resignations come smack in the middle of the Karnataka crisis and at a time when the party leadership is coping with the resignation of its president Rahul Gandhi, owning up responsibility for the Lok Sabha election debacle.

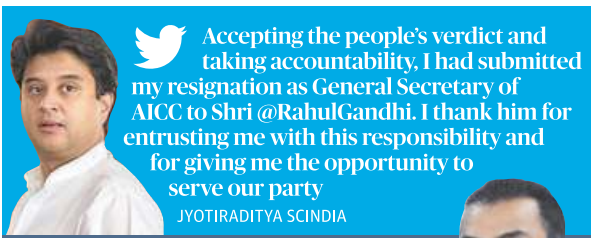
Mr. Scindia was general secretary in charge of western Uttar Pradesh, while Mr. Deora was heading the Mumbai Congress. Both had lost their seats in the Lok Sabha election.

Hard decisions

The two resignations are in line with Mr. Gandhi's comment in his open letter: "Rebuilding the party requires hard decisions and numerous people will have to be made accountable for the failure of 2019."

"Accepting the people's verdict and taking accountability, I had submitted my resignation as General Secretary of AICC to Shri @RahulGandhi. I thank him for entrusting me with this responsibility and for giving me the opportunity to serve our party," Mr. Scindia tweeted.

Mr. Deora said he was



Accepting the people's verdict and taking accountability, I had submitted my resignation as General Secretary of AICC to Shri @RahulGandhi. I thank him for entrusting me with this responsibility and for giving me the opportunity to serve our party
JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

I had accepted MRCC presidency in the interest of uniting the party. I felt I should also resign after meeting Rahul Gandhi
MILIND DEORA

looking forward to playing a role at the national level to help stabilise the party. He recommended establishment of a provisional collective leadership, comprising three senior leaders, to oversee the party's city unit till the Maharashtra Assembly election, which is due later this year.

New realities

He told reporters that the political realities had changed since the Lok Sabha election results, and all of them had to get ready for the roles that these times demanded.

Mr. Deora had expressed his desire to quit after meeting Mr. Gandhi in New Delhi on June 26. "I had accepted MRCC presidency in the interest of uniting the party. I felt I should also resign after meeting Rahul Gandhi," he said. Mr. Deora was ap-

pointed president of the Mumbai Congress before the Lok Sabha election.

The resignations come at a time when the Congress is yet to settle the question who will lead the party. A Congress Working Committee meeting is likely to be called by next week to deliberate on the issue.

The developments coincide with the crisis in the JD (S)-Congress government in Karnataka. "The crisis can be clearly averted if we have a strong person at the Centre who could negotiate with the dissenting Congress MLAs," a senior Karnataka Congress leader said.

Insiders claim that the dissent had been brewing for the last two months but no one interceded.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

THE SEARCH FOR A CHAKRAYA PAGE 10

On the boil



Protesters in Hong Kong on Sunday rally outside a controversial train station linking the territory to the Chinese mainland, the latest mass show of anger as activists try to keep pressure on the city's pro-Beijing leaders. ■ AP (REPORT ON PAGE 14)

Double blow for man from Assam

In detention after being declared a foreigner; family counts days for Supreme Court hearing

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

Paralysis robbed Azizul Hoque of a livelihood even before the authorities snatched his identity as an Indian more than two years ago, his family members say.

They are now counting the days for the next hearing in the Supreme Court, which sought replies from the Centre and the Assam government on how Mr. Hoque, 41, came to be declared a foreigner and lodged in a detention centre on March 24, 2017.

Family hopeful

Anas Tanwir, handling the case, said the court had on July 3 given the Union and the State governments two

weeks to reply.

"That means they have to reply by July 17, right? And we can hope for a hearing by the Supreme Court soon after," Baharul Islam, Mr. Hoque's elder brother, told *The Hindu* from their village Singiapathar in Nagaon district of central Assam, about 140 km east of Guwahati.

Mr. Islam, in his late 40s, could not recall when the Assam police's border wing sent a notice to his brother. The border wing is tasked with detecting and deporting foreigners and refers cases to the Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) for deciding the fate of a suspect. "It was 12-13 years ago. He went to the police when summoned about 10 years ago before an illness made



Azizul Hoque

him paralysed," said Mr. Islam, who sells vegetables in a nearby town.

"I stay away from home most of the time. But Azizul and many others in my family are always at home. They said they gave him notice

thrice, but none of us received it. They took him to the Tezpur Central Jail's detention centre out of the blue," he said.

'Doubtful' tag

The problem for Mr. Hoque began in 1997, when for the first time his name figured in the voters' list but with the 'D' (doubtful) tag that indicated he was suspected to be an illegal immigrant. None of his three elder siblings – sister Hafiza Khatun and eldest brother Khairul Islam – are D-voters.

The name of Mr. Hoque, as those of everyone else in his family, was included in the draft National Register of Citizens (NRC) published in July 2018.

Doctor shot dead in Karnal, three arrested

ASHOK KUMAR GURUGRAM

Less than 24 hours after an eminent doctor in Haryana's Karnal district was shot dead by motorcycle-borne men, the police on Sunday claimed to have solved the case with the arrest of three persons, including a former employee of his hospital.

The prime accused bore a grudge against the doctor for dismissing him from service, the police said.

Managing Director of Amritdhara Hospitals Rajiv Gupta, 56, was on his way to TTI Chowk from Chora Bazar in a chauffeur-driven sports utility vehicle when three motorcycle-borne young men waylaid him in Sector 16 around 6:30 p.m. on Saturday. They shot him three times from close range and two bullets hit Dr. Gupta. He later succumbed to his injuries.

DETAILS ON PAGE 2

Mob thrashes three Dalit youth over theft bid in U.P.

Video of the incident has sparked much outrage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

Three Dalit youth were publicly stripped and thrashed by a mob after they were allegedly caught during a robbery bid in a village in Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh, the police said on Sunday.

A video of the incident was widely shared on social

media, leading to much outrage.

Jaunpur Superintendent of Police Vipin Mishra said that on the intervening night of July 5 and 6, the three youth were trying to break the lock of the customer care centre of the Union Bank branch, under the Sarai Khwaja police station. When the watchman

woke up and raised an alarm, the three youth tried to flee but one of them was caught by the villagers, Mr. Mishra said.

The youth held captive by the villagers led them to his two partners the next day, said the officer.

The three were later handed over to the police.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Doctor shot dead in Karnal, 3 held

Prime accused bore a grudge against the doctor for dismissing him from service

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

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In view of the gravity of the crime, Karnal Superin-



The three accused in police net. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tendent of Police Surinder Singh Bhoria constituted eight teams to work out the case. The accused, later identified as Pawan, Raman and Shiv Kumar, were arrested by the Crime Unit of the Karnal Police. All three are residents of Karnal.

Two pistols, both .32 bore, were recovered from the trio, the police said.

During interrogation, Pawan reportedly told the police that he worked as a dialysis operator at Dr. Gupta's

Amritdhara Hospital for more than a decade, but was dismissed from service in December last following some "differences".

Dr. Gupta also allegedly ensured that Pawan did not get a job elsewhere in the city.

Conspiracy hatched

Pawan then hatched a conspiracy along with his accomplices to eliminate Dr. Gupta, said Karnal Inspector-General of Police Yogen-

dra Singh Nehra at a press conference on Sunday.

The accused were produced in court and taken on police remand. Mr. Nehra said the three would be interrogated to ascertain the source of the weapons and the motorcycle used in the crime.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who was present in Karnal on Sunday, told media persons that the law and order system in the State was "perfect". He said recruitments were recently made to increase the strength of the police force and modern equipment were provided to them.

The Opposition took the government to task over the alleged deteriorating law and order situation in the State. In a tweet, Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala condemned the State government for the "complete failure of law and order in the State".

Man kills mother for refusing him money

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing his mother during a quarrel over money in north-west Delhi's Model Town, the police said on Sunday.

DCP (North-West) Vijayanta Arya said Deepak surrendered before the Model Town police at 1.25 a.m. saying that "during a quarrel, he slit his mother's throat with a kitchen knife". After this, a team rushed to the spot and found Asha Devi lying on a bed in a pool of blood. "One bloodstained knife, bedsheet, pillow and jeans and tee-shirt were found at the spot. The body was shifted to Babu Jagjivan Ram Hospital for post-mortem," Ms. Arya said. A case of murder was registered. During investigation, Deepak allegedly told the police that he had asked for money from his mother for liquor but she refused after which a quarrel broke out between the two when he killed her.

He said he suspected his mother of having an illicit affair. Deepak's brother had gone to a market at the time of the incident, the police added.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	91	Gurugram	71
Ghaziabad	89	Faridabad	70
Noida	95	Greater Noida	128
Good	0-50	Satisfactory	51-100
Moderate	101-200	Poor	201-300
Very poor	301-400	Severe	>401

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

DELHI TODAY

Talk: "Conservation as seen through the Agamas", an illustrated lecture by Dr. Satyabhama Badreenath, Joint Director General, Archaeological Survey of India at Conference Room-I, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Talk: "The Evolution of Fashion and India Modern" by well-known fashion designer, Tarun Tahliani at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Dance and Music: "Megh-Malhar", a solo Kathak performance by Shikha Sharma, followed by a Sufi music recital by Shuheeb and Zohaib Hasan at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Untitled", a solo show of digital art by Deepak Nath at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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

Central government employee found murdered at home

Victim did not have enmity with anyone, says brother

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 43-year-old Central government employee was found murdered at his residence in south-east Delhi's Jaitpur in the small hours of Saturday, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Chinmoy Biswal said Anand Singh was working as a senior auditor in receipt and dispatch section of Director General of Audit Central Expenditure under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The police said they received a PCR call at 5 a.m. regarding a man lying dead inside his home.

On reaching the spot, Singh was found dead with multiple stab injuries on his back.

The post-mortem was conducted at AIMS mortuary after which the body was handed over to the family.



Anand Singh. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The victim's 16-year-old son, Pradeep, said his mother woke him up at 3 a.m. and told him that his father is lying dead.

"My father had come home late on Saturday...by then my siblings and I had slept off. After my mother told me, I woke up my uncle Mukesh, who was sleeping in our room," the son said.

Mukesh claimed that the victim had no personal enmity and hardly spoke to anyone.

'Gate of house was open' During preliminary probe, the police said the members present inside the house told them that they keep the main gate open during summers.

"They said Singh came home at 11 p.m., had dinner and went to sleep in his room. His wife, children and brother-in-law were in a separate room. Around 3 a.m., the wife woke up to use the bathroom when she saw blood coming out of Singh's room after which alerted everyone," said a senior officer.

Mr. Biswal said a case under Section 302 (punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and the matter is being probed.

2 held for trying to loot bank

Robbery bid foiled by security guard

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly trying to rob a bank in Shahdara's Krishna Nagar on July 2, the police said on Sunday. The robbery was foiled by the bank's security guard, they said.

DCP (Shahdara) Meghna Yadav said Prabhjot Singh (25) and Sukhdev Singh (19) have been nabbed while their accomplice, who has been identified, is on the run. On July 2, the branch manager of Kotak Mahindra Bank told the police that at 3 p.m., two persons wearing a helmet entered the bank and tried to overpower the guard, who had a gun in his hand.

Meanwhile, one of them tried to threaten an employee to part with the cash. But, on seeing that his associate was unable to control the guard, he went to help him. The accused then failed to snatch the gun from the guard and fled off. The police then registered a case under relevant sections. During interrogation, the accused said Prabhjot has an account in Kotak Mahindra Bank and often visited the branch and so he knew the security system there. Prabhjot was a trader but suffered losses after which he planned the robbery. "He was inspired by the movie *Baby Driver*, which is based on a heist," the DCP said.

Fire breaks out at DU exam centre

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A fire broke out at a coaching centre in Dwarka's Kakrola village where DU's entrance examination was scheduled to take place on Sunday morning. No injuries were reported in the incident, said officials.

Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg said they received a call

at 11.36 a.m. regarding the fire after which six fire tenders were rushed to the spot. "The fire was in the electric meter board wiring due to short circuit at the ground floor. It was doused by 12 noon," Mr. Garg said. Around 300 people were safely evacuated from the building, the officer said. The exam was delayed by 30 minutes.

Man held for raping 5-yr-old

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old labourer has been arrested for allegedly raping a 5-year-old girl in north-east Delhi's Dayalpur, the police said on Sunday.

An officer said that three days ago, a PCR call was received stating that a girl has been found in a secluded area. "The police then reached the spot and brought her to the police station. She shared her father's contact details and he was informed," the officer said. The medical examination confirmed rape. The accused had lured the victim by giving her ₹50 and later asked her to bring a cigarette. "He then took her to a secluded area and raped her after which he fled the spot," the officer said.

The officers examined footage from 60 CCTV cameras to identify the accused, who was nabbed at 2 a.m. on Sunday. He lives close to the victim's residence, the police said. A case on charges of rape under the IPC and relevant sections of the POCSO Act has been registered, they added.

Duo held for duping people on pretext of 'free gifts'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly duping people of several lakh through an online shopping company - Kart4all -, the police said on Sunday.

DCP (Cyber Cell) Anyesh Roy said the arrested - Lalit Prasad and Pradeep Kumar

- are both 25 years old.

A complaint was received at CyPAD stating that the victim was cheated by a group of persons on the pretext of free gifts as a promotional offer for an online shopping portal. "The caller said the victim had won a free gift, which can be either a Sony LED TV or an iPhone or a

Dell laptop. The victim was asked to purchase any product worth more than ₹550 from the website to avail the gift. The victim then purchased a bedsheet worth ₹649 and chose a Dell laptop as the gift," Mr. Roy said.

Following this, the victim claimed to have received various calls on different occa-

sions from the fraudsters and they demanded ₹44,600 in name of GST, insurance charges, security deposit.

"The fraudsters were calling the victims from their in-house call-center in Tughlaqabad Extension. They have cheated hundreds of victims of over ₹70 lakh," Mr. Roy added.

NOW AND THEN

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

'I don't splurge my earnings'

Mohinder Amarnath on making sure he gets his due, his life in Goa today, and the Delhi of his youth in the '60s

Is it the calmness of the sea that drew Mohinder Amarnath to Goa? Not a man to throw tantrums on the field, argue with the umpire, or reprimand a junior, he was known for his impeccable manners and gentle demeanour, even his celebration just a smile or a mild high-five, returning quickly to the job of making runs or taking wickets.

The decision to move out of Delhi was difficult, he says. Having studied at MB High School at Mandir Marg and Khalsa College in Delhi University's north campus, life for Mohinder was about playing cricket at the Karnail Singh Stadium and Ferozeshah Kotla. But he came to love Mumbai during his cricket travels and shifted to India's commercial capital in 1991, after spending more than 20 years in Delhi.

"Once I stopped playing cricket, there was little for me to do in Delhi. I always loved Mumbai for its culture and the proximity to the sea. Now I divide my time between Mumbai and Goa, and visit Delhi occasionally," he says.

He comes to meet his brother Rajinder and for his work with TV channels. "I watch cricket on and off but love spending time with family [wife Inderjit and daughter Nikki]."

Like his batting, Mohinder has taken care to enjoy an organised life at an easy pace. His love for fitness is reflected in his schedule: basic yoga, meditation, and walking 5 km daily. His investments in property and well-thought savings allow him to take care of the comforts of his family. "My dad [cricketer Lala Amarnath] taught me to save. I don't splurge my earnings [from media work]. I tell all young people to save money. I also don't compromise on my financial deals with TV channels. You pay me what I deserve."

Playing the game

He stays in touch with the game through his academy in Baroda (Mohinder Lala Amarnath Cricket Academy) set up in 2005.

"It gives me the space to interact with youngsters of today. It also allows me to understand the modern game when some of my



(Left to right) Mohinder Amarnath holidaying with his wife Inderjit and daughter Nikki in England recently; the Man of the Match with the 1983 Prudential World Cup after the final at Lord's; in action during the title clash against the West Indies. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, THE HINDU ARCHIVES

students go out and do well. I like coaching. My emphasis is mostly on teaching them good techniques. I tell my students that you can shine in all formats of the game if you develop a good technique. I learnt it from my dad."

Mohinder remembers his days in Delhi well. "We lived in different places - Model Town,

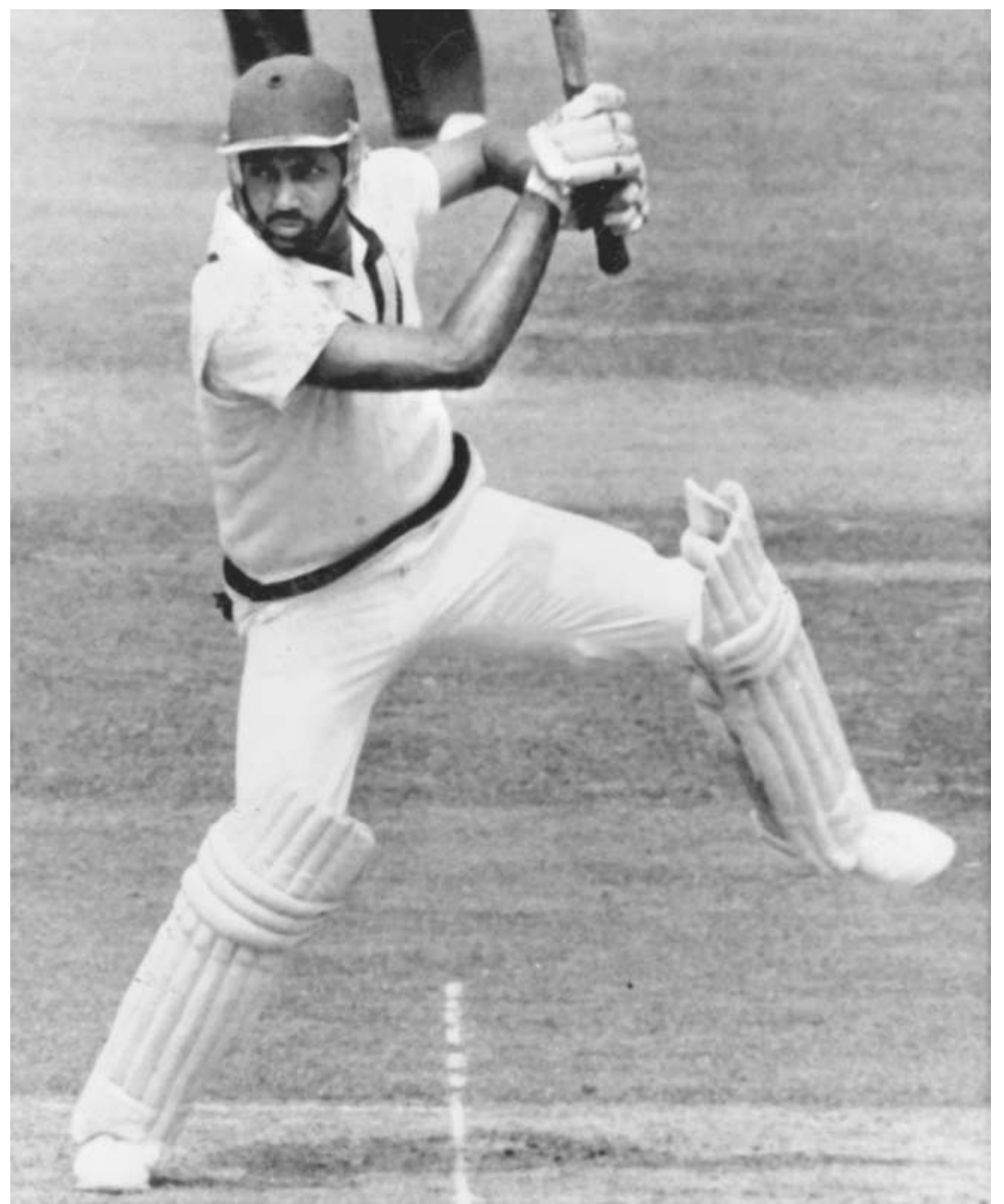
Panchkuian Road, Prasad Nagar, Vithalbhai Patel House, Katwaria Sarai. Delhi darshan it was. I remember my college days and the cricket in Delhi. I was lucky to have the support of my college principal who taught English [Prof. G.S. Randhawa] and Dr. D.S. Claire, who taught Political Science. They were very lovely

teachers."

The Delhi of yore

"School classes were in tents. We would sit on the ground. It was fun. I remember carrying slates to school. At university, cricket was my priority. It was a great time to live in Delhi. A stroll in Connaught Place was a nice way to spend your time or go to India Gate where you could take a dip in the ponds."

Mohinder recalls Standard Restaurant in Connaught Place, "on the top of Regal theatre. I would visit the place regularly with my parents. I loved their chocolate biscuits and the band, the softy ice cream. Movies at Regal, Shiela, Odeon, Plaza, were



not to be missed. Wenger's was my dad's favourite. And the milkshake next to Devi Chand's. We got special treatment there because of dad. That was the time when jukeboxes were introduced in restaurants."

Delhi's population was not bursting at the seams in the '60s, and it pains Mohinder to see the city becoming rough and unsafe for women.

"It has grown in all directions. People are more hungry for success and everyone is in a hurry. I don't know why Delhiites have become so aggressive. Law and

order is an issue and women's safety does not get priority. It is for the government to look into this because these incidents portray a poor image of Delhi."

Gone Goa

In the classic Delhi-Mumbai battle, for Mohinder, the latter wins: It's a cosmopolitan city, he feels. "It grows on you. It is a beautiful city to live in. Goa is wonderful too. The sunset is an amazing sight [in Mumbai and Goa]. The beach is less than a kilometre from my house and I just spend the time watching the waves. I

must say that Delhi, Mumbai and Goa have been kind to me."

A champion batsman against fast bowling, a fearless hooker of the ball, he also played spin with skill. He was among the few not averse to leaving the crease.

"Cricket has changed. There is a segment that appeals to those who look at it as entertainment. I don't like comparisons. Each era has its own appeal and I am glad to have played in times when the quality of cricket was exceptionally high. You had to be very good to be good at international cricket."

IN BRIEF



Cleanliness drive on the banks of the Yamuna

NEW DELHI
Joining the PM's vision for a clean India, staff of Indian Oil Delhi State Office on Sunday cleaned the Yamuna bank at ITO here as part of its 'Swachh Bharat Pakhwada', which aims at cleaning 37 waterbodies across the nation between July 1 and 15.

Woman found dead in central Delhi hotel

NEW DELHI
A woman in her early 20s was found dead in a hotel at central Delhi's Paharganj on Sunday afternoon, the police said. Preliminary investigation revealed that the woman had checked into the hotel along with a male friend. A fight had ensued between them after which the man left the room. After his calls went unanswered, the man returned and found her dead.

SC issues notice to ASI

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court has issued notice to the Archaeological Survey of India on a petition seeking protection of the Gumti of Sheikh Ali, an ancient monument here at Defence Colony.

The top court also sought response from the Delhi government on a petition by a Defence Colony resident, challenging a Delhi High Court's February 20 judgment, in which it declined to declare the Gumti of Sheikh Ali as a monument of national importance.

The petition contended that the monument is an ancient one and a part of the heritage, history and culture of India and Delhi, which is required to be preserved for the generations to come.

Kejriwal meets L-G, pitches for retirement of corrupt officials

Directs Ministers to prepare a list of such officials

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday met Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal, along with Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, to discuss the compulsory retirement of corrupt officials and directed his Ministers to prepare a list of such officials in all departments.

Discussions were also held with Chief Secretary Vijay Dev. "This will be in line with the Central government's initiative of retiring such officers under Fundamental Rule 56[J] of Central Civil Services [Pension] Rules, 1972," Mr. Kejriwal said in a statement. The L-G had on July 4 tweeted that he had directed the DDA Vice-Chairman, Police Com-

This will be in line with the Centre's initiative of retiring such officers under Fundamental Rule 56[J] of Central Civil Services [Pension] Rules, 1972

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
Chief Minister

missioner and Municipal Commissioners to take action under this rule in order to weed out "dead wood".

Expressing a "zero tolerance policy" towards corrupt officials and corruption, he said that without agencies like the Anti-Corruption Bureau in Delhi, he was restricted to complain-

ing about such officials to the L-G. Expanding on this, he said that during the last four-and-a-half years, the Delhi government has come across officials who opposed public welfare policies for "extraneous considerations" and harmed the interests of Delhi and that a thorough probe into their acts of "omission and commission" was required.

He also pointed to a "major crackdown" against officials undertaken during his first stint as the Chief Minister in 2013-14. During the current tenure as well, the government believed, such officials were ruining the various welfare schemes for the people of Delhi and filling their own coffers, he said.

Tiwari launches membership drive

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari on Sunday launched its membership campaign 'Sangathan Parv Sadastya Abhiyan-2019' at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here.

Mr. Tiwari said he was confident that a new record will be set by the campaign.

Hits out at Rahul
Speaking at the event, BJP national vice-president Shivraj Singh Chauhan took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi's resignation and said: "When a ship sinks, the passengers flee first and then the captain leaves. But Congress is such a sinking

ship whose captain has left it before everyone."

Mr. Chauhan also said, "Due to the mistakes committed by Nehru, a large part of Kashmir went to Pakistan and China ended up occupying a large part of the Indian territory."

In the membership drive, people from various sections of the society with distinct identity were enrolled as primary members.

BJP national organisation general secretary Ramlal said, "We have to connect every section of the society with the BJP. We also have to strengthen the party with all the castes and sub-castes".

CM inaugurates CCTV installation

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated installation of CCTV cameras in his constituency, New Delhi, on Sunday and made a case for the role it will play in checking crime.

After inaugurating cameras at government employees' residential colony on Pandara Road and at Laxmi Bai Nagar, he met residents and thanked them. Mr. Kejriwal said the network of CCTV cameras will help solve crimes, making reference to a recent rape case of a six-year-old, which was solved with the help of CCTV footage.

Geography
By : Neetu Singh **10**
Optional JULY 5PM.
DIRECTION IAS
14A/103, WEA, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-05
PH : 41049872 / 41059872 (M) 9810382305

DELHI Timings

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
RISE 05:31 SET 19:22
RISE 13:19 SET 00:31

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	36	28
Safdarjang	36	28
Palam	37	28

Delhi Palam Today
36°C A hazy and dusty morning is likely. Day will be warm and humid with cloudy sky. Light rain is likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
33°C A fall in day temperature is likely. A warm and humid weather with cloudy sky will prevail.

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BJYM leader's wife shot dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BARABANKI (U.P.)

The wife of a BJP youth wing leader was allegedly shot dead in the Fatehpur area of Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district, the police said on Sunday.

Snehlata (28), the wife of Rahul Singh, a district-level office-bearer of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), was shot dead under mysterious circumstances late on Saturday night, the police said.

The woman's father, Ramkumar, has accused his son-in-law of killing her for not fulfilling the dowry demands.

According to Mr. Singh, he and Snehlata were going to Daulatpur when suspected robbers stopped them and looted them. The leader alleged that he and his wife were beaten up, and when Snehlata resisted, she was fired at and died on the spot.

Avoid politicisation of 'Parkash Purab': Minister

'Any controversy could put a spanner in the preparations'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa on Sunday said politicisation of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev should be avoided and any controversy at this stage could put a spanner in the preparations. The senior Congress leader asserted that the State government was committed to celebrate the occasion in full tandem with the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) under the aegis of the Akal Takht (highest temporal seat of Sikhs).

"The politicisation of the occasion as sacred and pious as the 550th 'Parkash Purab' of Guru Nanak Dev should be avoided at all costs as the occasion is fast approaching



Punjab Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa.

politicising" the sacred occasion, he alleged.

The Congress leader said it would have been better had the invitations been extended jointly on behalf of the Punjab government and the SGPC as the State government is duly-elected by the people.

'Need for coordination'

He also said the coordination between the SGPC and the State government was the need of the hour as it would send all the positive signals concerning the celebrations.

On July 1, the SAD delegation had invited Mr. Modi to attend a function to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev on November 12 at Sultanpur Lodhi in Punjab.

and any controversy at this stage could put a spanner in the preparations," Mr. Randhawa said in a statement here.

But the recent development in which SGPC chief Gobind Singh Longowal went with the delegation of the Shiromani Akali Dal, led by its chief Sukhbir Singh Badal to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi "smacked of

Mayawati hits out at PM for cake remark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "size of the cake matters" remark, BSP supremo Mayawati said on Sunday that the PM was talking about cake for people when a majority of them are reeling under the problem of "roti-rozi".

In a tweet, Ms. Mayawati said, "At a time, when a majority of population is reeling under basic problems of inflation, poverty, unemployment, illness, illiteracy and jobs and food (roti-rozi), the Prime Minister is talking about cake for them."

Her comments came a day after the Prime Minister dismissed as "professional pessimists" the critics of the Centre's target to achieve a USD 5-trillion economy within five years.

M.P. villagers parade cattle movers to police station

'Made to do sit-ups amid cries of Gau Mata Ki Jai'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KHANDWA (M.P.)

About 100 villagers tied 25 people with a rope and paraded them through a 2-km stretch to a police station in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday for allegedly transporting cows to Maharashtra, the police said.

A video of the purported incident showed several villagers carrying sticks and forcing the alleged cattle-transporters to do sit-ups holding their ears amid cries of *Gau Mata Ki Jai*.

The incident happened in Sanwalikheda village in Khalwas area, about 60 km from the district headquarters, a police officer said.

"We have booked the people ferrying the cattle for doing so without requisite per-

We have booked the people ferrying cattle for doing so without requisite permission and also lodged a case against villagers for ill-treatment

SHIV DAYAL SINGH
Superintendent of Police, Khandwa

missions. We have also lodged a case against the villagers, including farmers, for ill-treating those booked for unauthorised cattle transport," Khandwa Superintendent of Police Shiv Dayal Singh said.

"Villagers brought the group transporting cows to our police station. We seized 21 trucks used for the purpose. The cows have been shifted to a shelter. They were taking the cows from

Harda district in M.P. to Maharashtra," said Inspector Harishanker Rawat of Khalwas police station.

The incident comes a day before the start of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly session in which the Kamal Nath government is likely to table an amendment in a law to curb violence in the name of cow protection.

Act amendment

The State Cabinet last month approved the proposal to amend the M.P. Cow Progeny Slaughter Prevention Act, 2004.

The move to amend the law, cleared during the previous BJP government, came after a Muslim man and woman were beaten up on suspicion of carrying beef in M.P.'s Seoni district in May.

Dry spell, monsoon delay may hit cotton crop yield

Rain deficit in Punjab and Haryana stands close to 50% as the monsoon is moving at a sluggish pace

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

A prolonged dry spell in Punjab, Haryana and northern parts of Rajasthan and a delay in the onset of monsoon could impact the yield of cotton crop.

Union Agriculture Ministry data show that in Punjab the cotton crop has been sown in a little over 4 lakh hectares during the ongoing season. In neighbouring Haryana, farmers have sown cotton in 6.7 lakh hectares. While in Rajasthan, the crop has been sown in 3.4 lakh hectares.

The rain deficit in Punjab and Haryana stands close to 50% as the monsoon this year has been moving at a



Monsoon is likely to cover Haryana and Punjab in the next 48 hours, says the Met Office. ■ FILE PHOTO

sluggish pace. It is, however, likely to cover both the States in the next 48 hours, as per the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

"Adequate irrigation facilities are available in the

northern parts of our country, barring some areas in lower Rajasthan. And it's true that cotton plants need only moderate water. However, the delay in monsoon rain is a cause for concern

for the cotton crop. Widespread rain is badly required in the entire cotton belt of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan for satisfactory vegetative growth of cotton plants," said Rakesh Rathi, former president of India Cotton Association Limited.

'Better yield'

Mr. Rathi said that a moderate spell of rain on cotton plants helps in washing away certain types of insects on the leaves and stems and stimulates growth of the crop. "Sufficient vegetative growth leads to sufficient flowers and a better yield," he said.

Meanwhile, according to the IMD, conditions are be-

coming favourable for further advance of the southwest monsoon into the remaining parts of Haryana, Punjab and some more parts of Rajasthan during the next 48 hours.

"There has been a delay in the onset of monsoon. We are expecting the monsoon to cover most parts of Punjab and Haryana in the next 2-3 days and rain could be widespread, which will certainly be beneficial not just for the cotton crop but for other kharif (summer) season crops as well," Surinder Pal, Director at the IMD, Chandigarh told *The Hindu*.

"A moderate widespread rain for cotton will boost its yield," he said.

Cops thrashed in U.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAHJAHANPUR

Twelve policemen, including two sub-inspectors, were injured when people allegedly attacked them when they stepped in to broker a truce between two sides disputing over installation of a transformer in Nathapur village here.

The incident took place on Saturday, Station House Officer (SHO), Puwayan, Jas-

veer Singh said.

"There was a dispute in Nathapur village over installation of a transformer. Police reached the spot and tried to pacify the villagers. However, the villagers started throwing stones at the policemen and even beat them up," the SHO said.

Two S-Is and 10 policemen were injured and shifted to hospital, Mr. Singh added.

Just married



Newlyweds take a selfie during a mass marriage ceremony in Patna on Sunday. ■ PTI

Yogi orders SDM's transfer for 'poor show'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday directed the transfer of a Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) for poor performance and sought an explanation from the officials of other departments for not performing up to the mark.

A statement issued by the State government here said Mr. Adityanath reviewed the progress of the Gorakhpur division and directed that SDM Sadar Maharajganj Satyam Mishra be transferred due to poor performance.

Two inmates escape from U.P.'s Etawah jail

One run over by train, say police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ETAWAH

Two prisoners escaped from the Etawah district jail in Uttar Pradesh by climbing the boundary wall early on Sunday, with the police saying one of them died after he was apparently run over by a train.

A railway line runs on the rear side of the jail.

Ramanand and Chandra Prakash, both of whom were serving life sentences in separate murder cases, escaped from the jail around 2 a.m. using iron rods and tree branches to climb over the walls, an officer said.

The incident came to light an hour later when Deputy Jailor Jagdish Prasad went on a routine inspection, following which a search was launched for the two inmates, Jail Superintendent Raj Kishor Singh said.

"It was during this

[search] that the railway police informed [us] about a person being run over by a train. The person was identified as Ramanand, 45," Mr. Singh said.

Prima facie Ramanand was run over when he tried to hurriedly board a train, the Jail Superintendent said, adding that efforts were on to nab Chandra Prakash.

'Action against guilty'

Mr. Singh admitted lapses on the part of the jail administration and promised action against those found guilty.

District Magistrate Jitendra Bahadur Singh and the Senior Superintendent of Police visited the jail.

"Laxity was found on the part of officials on duty from midnight to 4 a.m. How was an iron-cutter sneaked inside the jail?" the District Magistrate said. The official said a magisterial probe has been ordered.

Never stop learning, Azad tells new MLAs

'Becoming a politician is tough'

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad advised more than 90 first-time MLAs in Bhopal on Monday to be attentive, dedicated and know the importance of time in the Assembly. "Most people think becoming a politician or a legislator is easy. However, it's tough," he said.

"When those passionate about something are ready to sacrifice their lives for it, are politicians ready to do it? Do they love what they do?" he asked the legislators a day before the beginning of the Monsoon Session.

"They don't," he quipped. "That's why people today disregard politicians with the same intensity with which they loved them after Independence." Stating that for being a politician, one needed to sacrifice everything, he said legislators often didn't stand by



Ghulam Nabi Azad in Bhopal on Sunday. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

the oath they took on being elected.

"We follow the common religion of politics, which erases all other differences. The Constitution is our sacred text which we have to follow," he said.

Waving his phone, he added: "Don't fall for rumours. Verify first. Our job is to douse the communal fire, not stoke it."

Relating an anecdote from Jawaharlal Nehru's life, he reminded the legislators to never stop learning, even if it means imbibing a quality from someone in the Opposition, and have no pride.

TMC to take action against Salt Lake Mayor

'Sabyasachi Dutta liaising with BJP, led protest against govt.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress is juggling with another impending crisis as a report on Sabyasachi Dutta, the Mayor of Bidhan Nagar [Salt Lake], has been submitted to the disciplinary committee following a meeting of about 40 councillors.

Mr. Dutta has been openly liaising with the Bharatiya Janata Party and had even led a protest against the Mamata Banerjee government earlier this week. On Friday, he joined a TMC-backed labour union programme in the State-run power company.

Removal recommended
The union targeted the government for not increasing salaries and clearing the dearness allowance of the



Sabyasachi Dutta. ■ FILE PHOTO

employees.

In this context, Sunday's meeting was convened to initiate disciplinary action against Mr. Dutta, and a report was sent to the party recommending his removal. The TMC councillors unanimously agreed that he was an "underperformer".

"His performance as a Mayor is abysmal and both his councillors and the party chief are upset," said Sudhir Saha, a TMC councillor of

the Salt Lake's civic body. Many criticised his move to embarrass the party, however, Mr. Dutta remained unfazed.

His take

"Ms. Banerjee is our leader and I have walked on her path only. She told us to stand by the people in need. So I joined the union in her protest," said Mr. Dutta.

Meanwhile, speculation has been rife in Bengal over the last few months that Mr. Dutta may join the BJP, especially after BJP leader Mukul Roy landed up at his residence before the election.

On Sunday, Mr. Roy appreciated Mr. Dutta's "role during the election [which] was good for the BJP".

He did not comment on whether Mr. Dutta was joining the BJP.

Over 100 crude bombs seized, 9 held in Bengal

Bombs defused; vigil in Birbhum intensified

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA

The police in West Bengal have seized more than 100 live crude bombs and arrested nine persons for keeping illegal arms.

Police intensified vigil across Birbhum after two separate blasts took place in Mallarpur and Labhpur here within a span of 10 days.

Though no one was killed or injured in the blasts as they took place in empty buildings, the incident brought back memories of the 2017 blast that killed eight persons.

Firearms seized

"We have seized over 100 live bombs from different areas in Birbhum. The bomb disposal squad has successfully defused them. Nine persons have been arrested and six illegal firearms seized from them

during night-long raids," said Birbhum Police Superintendent Shyam Singh.

"We have arrested three persons in the Labhpur blast case," he said.

Asked whether explosives and illegal arms were being brought from outside Bengal, Mr. Singh said such incidents "are not new in Birbhum".

A blast ripped through a club building near Mallarpur railway station on June 30 morning, causing the roof and a wall of the building to partially collapse. A forensic team was called in to ascertain the nature of the blast.

On July 4, another blast in Birbhum's Labhpur rocked an abandoned section of a government primary health centre, close to a district police camp. The blast took place around 3 a.m., damaging the roofs of two nearby buildings.

Charred remains



Police personnel inspect vehicles that were set ablaze in a clash between BJP and CPI(M) supporters during filing of nominations for panchayat elections, at Dharmanagar in Tripura on Sunday. ■ PTI

Kui tribals in Odisha accuse police of committing atrocities

'Framing us in fake cases, trying to help liquor traders'

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

The Kui Samaj Samanwaya Samity, an organisation of Kui tribals in south Odisha, has alleged police atrocities on a group of tribal families in Ganjam district's Kasakendupalli village under the Bhanajanga police station limits.

"Police personnel are trying to implicate poor tribals in illicit liquor-related cases to help liquor traders," alleged KSSS president Lambodar Kanhar. Around a dozen Kui tribal families live in Kasakendupalli.

Farmers' support

Peasants' organisation Rushikulya Rayat Sabha has also come out in support of the tribals.

At a joint press meet organised by the KSSS and the RRS in Berhampur on Sunday, one of the victims, Pramila Mallik of Kasakendupalli, said: "On June 13, a police team from Bhanajanga police station raided our houses accusing us of manufacturing and trading in illicit liquor. But no liquor or liquor manufacturing goods were found. When we protested, four of us were beaten up by the police and cases lodged against us."

KSSS Ganjam district president Pandab Mallik alleged that there were no women police personnel in the raiding team. "Later the police tried to implicate tribals in seizure of illicit liquor," he added.

"We brought this to the notice of the Ganjam District Collector and the Superintendent of Police on June 29, who promised action," said Mr. Kanhar.

He alleged that some police personnel wanted to promote sales of liquor traders in the area. "If tribals stop preparing their own liquor for special occasions, it will lead to increased sales for liquor traders," he added.

According to him, to save themselves, police personnel of Bhanajanga station then tried to frame the tribals in seizure of illicit liquor at Kasakendupalli on July 3.

Ms. Mallik of Kasakendupalli accepted that Kui tribals prepare traditional liquor in small amount only before festivals for personal consumption, but never for trading. According to RRS secretary Simanchal Nahak, tribals are allowed to prepare and keep small amount of traditional liquor.

KSSS and RRS have demanded strict action against the police personnel.

150 hospitalised for suspected food poisoning in Assam

2 critical, referred to Gauhati Medical College

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RANGIA (ASSAM)

At least 150 people, including women and children, have been hospitalised due to suspected food poisoning in Kamrup district, officials said.

The incident occurred at Lenga village near North Guwahati in Kamrup district on Saturday night.

According to the village head, the villagers started feeling unwell after

taking 'prasad' at a religious programme.

The 150 people were admitted to a government hospital in Amangaon on Saturday night after they displayed symptoms of food poisoning, including stomach ache, diarrhoea and vomiting. The condition of two persons was critical following which they were referred to the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, the officials said.

Switch to ethanol production, Gadkari tells sugar mill owners

Minister urges farmers to use alternative fuels such as bio-diesel, bio-CNG

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Exhorting sugar mills to switch to producing ethanol, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari on Sunday said ethanol would prove beneficial for tackling the problems stemming from surplus production and falling prices.

He also warned the mills that if they did not switch to producing ethanol, they would risk becoming dysfunctional.

"The surplus production of sugar is a major problem. However, it is not possible to reduce it, and it is also hard to change crop patterns. Sugar mills must decide whether they want to make sugar or ethanol from sugar cane juice," Mr. Gadkari said at the conclusion of a 'Sugar Conference' organised by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank.

"Even after providing financial aid, if a sugar mill suffers losses, then nothing can be done by the State or the Centre. So I urge the sugar cooperatives to turn to ethanol, else the government cannot save you," he said.

Mr. Gadkari said the Centre has a consistent, transparent and long-term etha-



BITTERSWEET PILL: (R) Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and NCP chief Sharad Pawar (L) at a Sugar Conclave in Pune on Sunday. ■ JIGNESH MISTRY

nol purchase policy. "Today, the ethanol economy in the country is ₹11,000 crore. In the next two years, this is set to rise to ₹50,000 crore. It is a pollution-free, green fuel."

The minister said, "In Brazil, the price of sugar is ₹22 per kg while in India, we have fixed ₹32-34 per kg. Hence in the world market, nobody is willing to buy our sugar and as a result, we are making losses."

Mr. Gadkari said it has come to his knowledge that Maharashtra is slow in giving permission to sugar factories for converting sugar

cane juice to ethanol and B-class molasses to ethanol. "As a result, a number of sugar factories could not start adopting this policy last October. I would recommend that there be an eight-day limit for permission to be given once the request is received."

On production costs, Mr. Gadkari said farmers should be encouraged to use alternative fuels such as bio-diesel and bio-CNG.

"I have experimented with my factories in Vidarbha and have saved ₹40 lakh a month. The annual savings

come to ₹5-7 crore annually. Sugar factories in western Maharashtra can save as much as ₹15 crore a year by running their tractors on these fuels."

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, who was also present on the occasion, urged the Centre to help pull ailing sugar cooperatives from their financial crisis. "The following year [2019-2020] may spell trouble for sugar production. I expect it will plummet by nearly 40-45% owing to the acute water scarcity that hit the State in the summer months."

FIR under Atrocities Act against Vice-Chancellor of Pune varsity

Student moves court alleging he was falsely implicated in a case

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

An FIR has been registered against Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) Vice Chancellor Nitin Karmalkar and four others, under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The Chaturshringi police registered the FIR on Saturday night, following a complaint by Akash Bhosale (25), who is pursuing an M. Phil degree in Marathi. Mr. Bhosale also works as a journalist for vernacular print and broadcast media.

Last month, the Pune Sessions court last month had directed the police to investigate Mr. Bhosale's complaint after the latter filed a petition in the court. Mr. Bhosale's counsel, Tosif Shaikh, had alleged that he was falsely implicated in a case filed by the university as he belongs to the backward class.

The case referred to a students' protest on April 1, against the ad-hoc refectory rules put up by the university. The rules, issued in the last week of March, had scrapped the coupon system and prohibited the sharing of meals with 'guest' students. They stipulated

The university never gave prior intimation of their new refectory rules nor held any discussions with students

AKASH BHOSALE

that henceforth, only students with a monthly pass would be served meals at the refectory.

"I had gotten wind of these rules and reported on the same in a vernacular paper that I work for. I had also written that there could be unrest among students over this," Mr. Bhosale told *The Hindu*.

The new rules led to a commotion between students and university security personnel near the refectory on April 1. The SPPU administration later lodged a complaint with the Chaturshringi police against a number of students, accusing them of vandalism among other things.

Twelve students including Mr. Bhosale were named in the FIR that was filed against them the same day under Section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and other sections of

the Indian Penal Code.

Termining the protest spontaneous and not planned, Mr. Bhosale alleged that he was named in the FIR as he had written a number of articles against the SPPU, exposing alleged malpractices within the establishment.

He said students, who usually hail from social margins, shared meals in a bid to cut costs. "The university never gave prior intimation of their new refectory rules nor held any discussions with students. Furthermore, we only came to know the following day (April 2) that an FIR had been filed against us. Why was I singled out despite other journalists being present at the protest?" Mr. Bhosale asked, alleging that the FIR against him was an attempt on part of the university to dissuade him from writing anti-establishment articles.

In response, Mr. Bhosale approached the police, but they refused to take cognisance of the issue. Finally, he petitioned the Sessions Court, which directed the police to lodge an FIR against the university authorities. When contacted, university officials refused to comment on the matter.

One killed, two hurt in Nashik

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NASHIK

A 30-year-old man was killed and two were injured when their speeding car overturned after hitting the railing of a bridge in Nashik district, the police said on Sunday. The accident occurred near Matori village on Girnare-Makhmalabad road on Saturday night when the victims were returning home, an official at Nashik taluka police station said.

As the car was speeding, the driver lost control of the wheels and rammed into the railing of a bridge and overturned.

Aniket Dhabale, a resident of Mhasrul, received severe head injuries and was rushed to Nashik Civil Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

80 kg meat seized in Akola

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AKOLA

A 40-year-old man was arrested on Sunday from Akola district for allegedly selling red meat, suspected to be that of cow. The police raided a hut in Kawtha village and seized 80 kg meat from Shaikh Raju Shaikh Rauf, a local official said.

Gadchiroli attack: one of 8 accused is ex-NCP worker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

One of the eight people arrested in connection with the May 1 Naxal attack in Gadchiroli was a Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) worker, a local leader said on Sunday. An IED blast carried out

by Naxals in Jambhulkhedha tehsil killed 15 Quick Response Team commandos and a civilian driver.

NCP's Gadchiroli district president Ravi Wasekar on Sunday told *PTI* that accused Kailash Premchand Ramchandani was a taluka

level functionary whose membership has since been terminated. Mr. Ramchandani was arrested on June 29, and has been remanded in police custody till July 12.

"He was a member of the NCP since the party's formation. He became Kurkheda

taluka president in January last year and resigned in March, 2019, citing lack of time to devote to party affairs," Mr. Wasekar said. The National Investigation Agency is set to take over the probe of the attack in a few days, an official had said.

Patkar opposes move to replace labour laws with codes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THANE

Narmada Bachao Andolan leader and activist Medha Patkar on Sunday hit out at the Central government for its move to subsume 44 existing labour laws into four codes dealing with wages, social security, industrial safety and welfare, and industrial relations.

One of these, the code on wages Bill, which seeks to replace existing laws related to workers' remuneration, was approved by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday.

The code on wages will replace the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

Ms. Patkar said labour unions will oppose these anti-worker moves of the government. "These codes will do away with social security measures of the labour force in the country. It will give a free hand to industrial houses and big companies. All labour unions must come together to agitate against these moves of the Centre."



Medha Patkar

Breaching safe levels



Submerged: Flooding caused by the Godavari river following heavy rain, in Nashik on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

State to pursue GST rate cut on multimodal transport

Amendments to Port Policy will likely benefit 500 ports

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

With an eye on the Assembly elections, the BJP-led government is likely to recommend to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council to lower the indirect tax levy on multimodal transport operators from 12% to 5%.

The GST rate cut is one of the key elements of a fresh package of concessions being worked out by the State for private port operators. The proposed amendments to the State's Port Policy 2016 include a reduction in port and wharfage charges for major and non-major ports, sources said. The amendments will be considered by the State Cabinet this month, and are likely to benefit 500 minor as well as major ports.

Officials said the changes to the policy have been proposed based on a representation made by the Indian National Shipowners Association (INSA), Association of Multimodal Transport Operators of India (AMTOI),

The INSA has requested that the benefits to industries under the Industrial Policy be extended to cargo carriers as well.

OFFICIAL
Transport department

and other stakeholders. "The INSA has requested that the benefits to industries under the Industrial Policy be extended to cargo carriers as well. It also said charges of non-major ports are higher as compared to major ports. We have promised to examine the issue carefully," a transport department official said.

Officials said currently, the 5% GST on road transport operators is lesser than that imposed on the multimodal operators, who have to pay 12%. The AMTOI had requested the government to ensure a reduction in this duty. The government has promised to take up the issue with the Centre once

the AMTOI provides relevant data to back its claims.

The changes would also reduce the current rebate given on inter- and intra-State movement to ports and jetties. The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) and the Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) have put the focus on development of ports along the national waterways. "We have decided to ensure the capital dredging work too goes on in coordination between the State, the MMB and MIDC," the official said.

Additionally, the amendments will address security concerns around ports in Maharashtra. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had, along with the Indian Navy, recently declared 20 ports in Raigad as sensitive, and informed the Assembly about it. Of the 591 ports in the State, 20 in Raigad district have been categorised as sensitive by the Navy. The naval inspection had recommended a security beef-up for these ports.

Defence allocation disappoints military

Questions over military modernisation and big-ticket deals lined up for conclusion this year

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

There is disappointment in the military and industry over the defence allocation in the Union Budget. There are questions on the overall military modernisation and the big-ticket deals lined up for conclusion this year as no resources are left for new procurements.

"The capital expenditure allocated for the Navy and the Indian Air Force (IAF) does not meet their committed liabilities this year. Services had taken up the matter with the Defence Ministry after the interim Budget," a defence source said on condition of anonymity.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, as Defence Minister previously, had promised to take up the matter with the Finance Ministry and get it addressed in the full Budget. "But nothing has

Falling short A look at the allocation for the tri-services in the Budget 2019-20

2019-20 DEFENCE BUDGET		CAPITAL (₹ CRORE)			
Total allocation	₹4,31,010.79 cr.	Service	Projected	Allotted	Committed liabilities
Revenue	₹2.02 lakh cr.	Army	36,000.00	29,461.30	21,600.00
Capital	₹1.03 lakh cr.	Navy	35,714.00	23,156.40	25,461.00
MoD Civil	13,635 cr.	Air Force	74,895.00	39,302.60	47,413.00
Pensions	₹1.12 lakh cr.				

* With committed liabilities exceeding the allotted capital, both Navy and Air Force have no money left for new deals, and may default on earlier payments as well

been done," the source said. Committed liabilities are payments for deals signed and typically spread over several years. The remaining part of the capital head goes for new procurements.

Industry downcast
The industry too has given the thumbs down to the defence budget. There was no major expectation on defence, but this is actually dis-

appointing, a senior industry official said. "One expected easing of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), but the decision was excluded," said another official of a major Indian company.

The IAF has committed liabilities of ₹47,400 crore, as in the past few years, it had signed major deals such as those for 36 Rafale jets and the S-400 air defence systems and is beginning to in-

duct platforms such as the CH-47F Chinook heavy lift and AH-64 Apache attack helicopters. In contrast, its capital allocation is ₹39,300 crore. Similarly, the Navy's committed liabilities stand at ₹25,461 crore while the capital allocation is ₹22,227 crore.

The Navy has major deals lined up and they are in advanced stages. A deal for 24 MH-60R multi-role helicop-

ters from the U.S. valued at \$2.6 billion is expected to be concluded by year-end. A proposal for 10 more P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft estimated to cost over \$3 billion is waiting for clearance from the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).

This means the Navy and Air Force have no money left for new deals, and may default on earlier payments as well. The Army with its large size has a huge revenue burden and a significant part of it goes towards salaries. For the coming year, the Army has a total shortfall of ₹12,000 crore of which ₹6,300 crore is in the capital head and around ₹5500 crore in non-salary expenditure.

The only relief the services were given was waiver of basic customs duty for import of equipment not manufactured in the country.

Outlay for child welfare sees a meagre increase

Health allocation has shown a decline of 0.39%

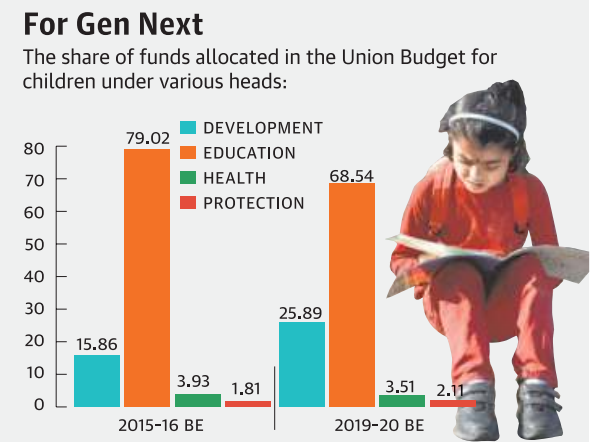
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The outlay for children in the Union Budget has shown a marginal increase of 0.05%, going up from 3.24% in the last fiscal to 3.29% in the current fiscal with a grant of ₹91,644.29 crore.

The share is less than the low share of 5% that the National Plan of Action for Children, 2016, has recommended, says the HAQ Centre for Child Rights.

A detailed analysis of the budgetary grant carried out by Child Rights and You for four thematic areas of child rights – education, health, development and child protection – shows the allocation for the first two categories have declined and that for the ambitious plan for nutritional development may be insufficient.

Minor rise
The share of education has increased marginally to 68.54% from 68.2%, but has declined by more than 10



percentage points from the 79.02% of 2015-16. These include schemes such as Samagra Shiksha, National Programme of Mid-day Meal in Schools and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti.

Health-related financial allocation as a share of the child health budget has shown a decline of 0.39 percentage point – from 3.9% last fiscal to 3.51%.

The Anganwadi services and the Poshan Abhiyan

(Nutrition Mission) are among the most important government programmes aimed at reducing stunting, anaemia, low weight and low birth weight. While the former has registered an increase of 19% and the latter of 14% in this latest Budget announcement, experts have argued it is inadequate. Activists are unhappy with the cut back of 16% for the National Child Labour Project Scheme.

IN BRIEF



Nirmala Sitharaman to address RBI board today
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will address the post-budget meeting of the RBI's central board on Monday and highlight the key points of the Budget, including the fiscal consolidation roadmap. The government has lowered the fiscal deficit target to 3.3% of the GDP as it is expecting net additional revenue of ₹6,000 crore over the interim Budget estimates.

CBI registers case on Edesmetta encounter

BHOPAL
On the directions of the Supreme Court, the Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case on the Edesmetta encounter that took place in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh in 2013, leaving a police commando and eight villagers dead. The encounter took place on the intervening night of May 17 and 18, 2013, when the tribals were celebrating a sowing ritual before the monsoon. While the tribals alleged that some CoBRA personnel had fired at them indiscriminately, the police claimed they had killed suspected Maoists.

Red signal for Train18 production

Design goes back to the drawing table; investigation on into procurements

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The production of India's first semi high-speed train, or Train18, has come to a grinding halt at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai. The work on rolling out 10 of these trains this fiscal remains a non-starter despite floating of tenders.

Reason: the design of the train has been found to be in violation of certain specifications and it will go back to the drawing table.

Investigation is also on into allegations that one company was favoured in the making of the ₹97-crore train set, railway sources said.

Success story

The Vande Bharat Express, the first service to use the train set, was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi between New Delhi and Varanasi on February 15.

The train, indigenously built by Team ICF in record time and celebrated as one of the most successful products of the "Make in India" initiative, has been running with no reported issues in these six months.

On the instructions of the Railway Board, vigilance officials have taken away hundreds of files relating to the



Under watch: Train18 at the New Delhi railway station.

manufacture of Train18 from the ICF. The primary issue was that the production made dozens of deviations from the specifications prescribed by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO).

After the vigilance inquiry, engineers are now hesitant to use the traction transformer and other electrics procured for the first train.

The ICF has decided to follow the RDSO specifications for electrics and go for fresh tendering, the sources said.

However, ICF engineers say Train18 was built to industry-standard specifications and with readily available equipment to roll it out in a record 18 months.

"There was no compromise on safety. The train has been successfully running in

the past six months at high speeds between New Delhi and Varanasi. If we had strictly adhered to RDSO specifications, the axle load of Train18 would have been much higher, resulting in less speed. Also, the cost would have been on the higher side," a senior engineer involved in the work told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The objective was to roll out a world-class train at the lowest possible cost and highest output in terms of operational efficiency, safety and comfort.

"Team ICF achieved this goal, and Train18 was showcased as a game changer in the industry. Now, some turf issues have also cropped up on the ownership of the train that will be the future of Indian Railways," said the offi-

cial who preferred not to be identified.

He quoted the Member, Rolling Stock, Railway Board as saying in a recent meeting that "Vande Bharat Express has taken the world by storm. It was a herculean job to get the service started and credit goes to all the units which have worked hard in the project."

Suppliers in gloom

"This stoppage of work has caused gloom among the suppliers [of parts] in and around Chennai since they had worked equally diligently to make the project a success and had invested crores of rupees in developing high-tech products," another top railway official said.

"They believe that several multinational firms are behind the repeated stalling of the tender process, which had earlier resulted in development of low-cost indigenous alternatives."

A senior ICF official confirmed that work had come to a halt, and he was not sure when it would resume since the project had run into a controversy.

There was no response to questions to the top management raised through the Public Relations Officer.

Baloch leader says U.S. mollifying Pak. Taliban

Marri says BLAs support base has grown

KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE
NEW DELHI

Following the U.S. ban on the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), the militant organisation's support base has widened within the political spectrum of Balochistan with even a prominent over-ground leader urging the U.S. to reconsider its decision. Hyrbyair Marri, one of the nationalist leaders living in exile, has come out with open support for the militant organisation.

"Taliban, the brainchild of Pakistan, has been complicit in bringing the Twin Towers down and now the U.S. has unfortunately bent its knees to appease Pakistan and Taliban by banning the Baloch organisation. The Trump administration should rethink their decision," he said in a message on social media. Mr. Marri is the son of the late Khair Bakhsh Marri and political scion of the Marri clan. He is known as a leader for the Free Balochistan Movement and remains in exile but not in hiding.

Mr. Marri's comment came days after the U.S. Treasury added the BLA in the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list. His comment reflects the position taken by the head of the BLA, Bashir Zeb Baloch, who had called upon the



Hyrbyair Marri

U.S., the EU and others to find out the "real terrorists" in Balochistan. A spokesperson of the outfit, Jiyand Baloch, had also urged for a reconsideration of the U.S. ban. The Marris are a family of traditional aristocrats of the Pakistani province whose hold on the movement is being challenged by the more aggressive BLA cadre. Mr. Marri had in the past said he was not associated with the BLA, and the latest social media message is a sign of acceptance of its growing popularity among all sections of the Baloch movement.

Baloch spokespersons claim that "death squads" are active in the province that assist the law and order operations of the Pakistani military against the rebels and have claimed to have conducted several operations against Pakistani forces in recent weeks.

'Crackdown on disability pension based on analysis'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The latest circular which clarified the eligibility for availing disability pension by armed forces personnel was issued after data analysis found that the provision

meant for the needy was being misused, P.C. Mody, Chairman of the Central Board for Direct Taxes, has said.

Earlier, the circular sparked an outcry among defence and war veterans.



Modern problems Your neck isn't just a victim of age, but also your overall health and diet

• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

this starts as dynamic lines around the neck that become static with time, so if you're alert to it, you can actually check it, but if you're not, it's hard to get rid of. "Tech Neck can also be accompanied by muscular pain, so you need to start by improving your posture and practising neck exercises, besides hydrating well," explains Dr Sharad.

"Tech Neck makes your pigmentation worse," says formulation scientist Dr Aneesh Sheth, of Dr Sheth's, Mumbai, who has formulated a mask specifically targeted at Tech Neck. "Our mask contains spirulina, which tightens the skin, and a combination of clays and other botanicals, which are all skin brighteners."

Your health and neck

Your neck isn't just a victim of age and the times we live in. Your overall health and diet can affect the way it looks, too. "If your glucose levels are high, the skin around your neck will lose its elasticity due to glycation of collagen, leading to fine lines, wrin-

kles, sagging of skin and sun spots," explains Dr Sharad. "Sometimes, you may also see a thick, dark, velvety band around the neck, which looks like dirt, but is actually a condition called Acanthosis Nigricans, caused by insulin resistance, diabetes, Cushing's disease, hormonal imbalances or obesity. It may even be drug-induced, or caused by a folic acid or Vitamin B12 deficiency." "Genetics and weight loss are also major factors when it comes to making your chin and neck droop," adds cosmetic dermatologist Dr Rekha Sheth, of Dr Sheth's.

A good starting point is regulating your diet and adopting an exercise routine. "Avoid meat, chicken, whole milk, oily food and excess carbs," says Dr Sharad.

Eczema, psoriasis, vitiligo, ashly dermatosis and certain fungal infections can also affect the neck, besides it being a popular spot for skin tags and warts. Your dermatologist will help you ease the symptoms. The key is not to ignore even a small change, so it doesn't escalate.

Caring for the neck

"Skincare has to go all the way from face to chest," says Dr Kiran Kaur Sethi, Delhi-based dermatologist and founder of Isya Aesthetics. Dr Sharad suggests a Vitamin C serum and moisturiser at bedtime, and a sunscreen during the day. You don't have to use separate products for your neck unless you're targeting a specific problem. "Your face creams will work for your neck, except that you need to use a lower concentration of retinoids and hydroxyl acids, which can be irritants on more sensitive skin," elaborates Dr Sharad. Dr Sheth concurs. "Retinoids are the gold standard, when it comes to delaying the ageing process, but I would recommend these for older people (over 60) and under supervision," she says. "If you're younger, AHAs like glycolic acid work really well, as do Vitamin C and niacinamide, for both anti-ageing and anti-pigmentation."

"Use hyaluronic acid, glycerine and ceramides. Alpha and beta hydroxy acids help exfoliate, while Vitamin C prevents pigmentation. Using a retinol-based cream twice a week will delay lines and wrinkles." Your neck has fewer sebaceous glands, making it more prone to irritation, dryness and scarring. So, you have to moisturise well. "Whether it's turkey neck you're fending off or tech neck, the trick is hydration," Dr Sethi says.

Q&A

Over the years my diabetes medicines have increased. Should I be taking insulin injections instead?

■ You have not mentioned what your blood sugar values are or what your glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) reading is. If your HbA1c is near 7%, then the tablets can be continued. If trial of all the tablets has failed or if your insulin level in the body has come down significantly, or if your sugar and HbA1c levels are high, or if there is any risk of complications, then insulin injections can be considered. Your doctor would be the best to decide if insulin is needed or not. Since I have not seen any of your records, I will not be able to suggest any individual treatment. It all depends on the level of diabetic control and also whether there are changes in any other parts of the body.

• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK



I have been diagnosed with acute pancreatitis. Is it curable? How much time will it take to recover?

■ Acute pancreatitis, as the name suggests, is an 'acute' condition. There is usually severe abdominal pain, which is referred to the back along with the inflammation of the pancreas. In many people, it occurs only once and may not occur again. The usual causes of acute pancreatitis are gallstones, very high triglyceride levels in the blood (hypertriglyceridemia), excess alcohol intake and possibly certain medicines. It is usually curable and the symptoms normally subside in a few days time after treatment. However, in some people, it tends to recur, and this is called as 'acute relapsing pancreatitis'. You should consult a physician or gastroenterologist, who will be able to help you and advise you regarding the treatment.

Dr V Mohan is a diabetologist based in Chennai, who heads a WHO Collaborating Center for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and an International Diabetes Federation Center of Education.

Nothing in this column is intended to be, and is not, a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Please seek independent advice from a licensed practitioner if you have any questions regarding a medical condition. Email us with your questions at mp_health@thehindu.co.in

PRERNA SINGH BUTALIA

Back in the 1930s, Marlene Dietrich is said to have used surgical tape, deftly concealed under her wig, to pull up the skin on her neck, so it would look firm. Almost a century later, the Australian Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery reveals surgical tape remains popular on the red carpet, to help with 'décolletage drop'. Kim Kardashian West, who admits to being obsessed with her 'neck getting old', opts for a \$2,000 neck laser ultrasound, which, according to her Beverly Hills dermatologist, stimulates collagen production, preventing deep as well as shallow wrinkles from forming. Its effects are said to last a year. The good news is, you can do without tape tricks or breaking your bank to show your neck a little extra love.

Turkey neck to tech neck

For dermatologists, the neck area has always been a cause for concern. "The skin on the neck is much thinner than that of the face, which also means there are fewer skin appendages like sweat or oil glands and hair, making it drier and more prone to wrinkling," explains Mumbai-based author Dr Jaishree Sharad, Medical Director of Skinfiniti Aesthetic Skin and Laser Clinic. "Neck skin is a continuation of facial skin. If you're neglecting it, it will age faster even as your face continues to look youthful."

In recent times, the neck has started to gain more focus, as the age at which your neck starts to wrinkle

The neck project

Skincare giants are bringing the neck into focus

has come down drastically. Typically, the skin around your neck and jowls would start to sag in your 40s and 50s. The most common manifestation of this is Turkey Neck, a wattle that starts at the chin. However, according to the findings of a 2015 study commissioned by cosmetic bigwig Yves Saint Laurent, people between the ages of 18 and 39 are now being affected by wrinkles around the neck, caused by constantly looking down at screens. Called Tech Neck,

People between the ages of 18 and 39 are now being affected by wrinkles around the neck



WHAT'S IN THE MARKET

From specially-formulated creams and masks to fillers and lasers, there's much to help lift your neck and jowls.

PRODUCTS

Estee Lauder Resilience Lift Firming/Sculpting Face and Neck Crème Oil-Free SPF 15, ₹7,500.

Mitchell USA Age-Less Neck Therapy Refining Cream, ₹1,550.

Tjori Chest & Neck Anti-Wrinkle Oil, ₹430.

Elizabeth Arden PREVAGE Anti-Aging Neck and Decollete Firm & Repair, ₹7,470.

Dr Sheth's Tech Neck Tightening Mask, ₹375.

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



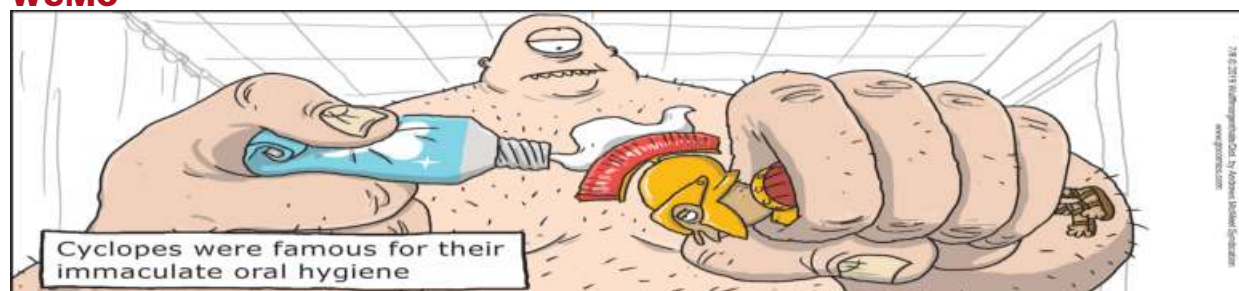
TIGER



GRAFFITI
© 2018 LIP'S Dist. by Andrews McMeel for LIP'S

A 4-YEAR-OLD BOY MAKES HIS MOM WORK FROM SON UP TO SON DOWN

WUMO



HEALTH CAPSULES
by Bron Smith

CAN BEE IS IMPROVE MY ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE?

BEEF *Bos taurus*

BEE'S ARE AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF NITRATES, WHICH, WHEN CONSUMED, ARE CONVERTED INTO NITRIC OXIDE, WHICH INCREASES BLOOD FLOW, IMPROVES LUNG FUNCTION AND STRENGTHENS MUSCLE CONTRACTIONS. IN ONE STUDY, ATHLETES MAINTAINED EXERCISE ENDURANCE 60% TO 80% LONGER AFTER DRINKING BEE JUICE.

Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic device.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13116

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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3 Undesirable people (4-4)
4 Folly (6)
5 Chinese money (4)
6 Ordinary (13)
7 Loftier (anag) - clover-like plant (7)
12 Good manners (8)
13 Powdered hot spice (7)
15 Communicated in words (6)
18 Horse sound (5)
19 Actor in a principal role (4)

Across

- 1 A who's-the-daddy action (9,4)
- 8 Shoulder-to-wrist member (3)
- 9 Stewed meat in a thick white sauce (9)
- 10 Obsessed with a single subject (3-5)
- 11 Not a sausage (4)
- 13 Postpone (3,3)
- 14 Human (6)
- 16 Salmon-coloured (4)
- 17 Flat-sided fuel carrier (5,3)
- 20 Cantankerous (9)
- 21 Romanian money (3)
- 22 Building between The Mall and Trafalgar Square (9,4)

Down

- 1 Instrument with ivories (5)
- 2 Hissy fit (6,7)
- 3 (4)
- 4 (6)
- 5 (4)
- 6 (13)
- 7 (7)
- 8 (8)
- 9 (3)
- 10 (9,4)
- 11 (4)
- 12 (8)
- 13 (7)
- 14 (6)
- 15 (6)
- 16 (4)
- 17 (5,3)
- 18 (5)
- 19 (4)

C	H	E	S	T	E	R	F	I	E	L	D
G	E	A	N	L	T	E					
I	N	L	E	T	C	H	E	K	H	O	V
A	T	E	O	E	I	I					
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T	A	L	E	E	N	I	M				
K	E	L	V	I	N	E	N	I	G	M	A
L	I	S	T	E	R	I	A	T	A	L	C
L	N	E	R	T	B	P	A				
I	S	O	B	A	R	S	A	B	H	O	R
N	U	T	C	K	I	E					
G	E	T	R	I	C	H	Q	U	I	C	K



There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour.

CHARLES DICKENS



■ NANDINI RAMAN

Are you completely hooked onto your Facebook, Instagram, Google Hangouts, Twitter, PS4 and your WhatsApp accounts? Do you find it hard not to check your phone every five minutes and refresh the notifications and reply to the pop up messages on your screen almost instantaneously? Do you love to play video games on the Internet so much so that you pretty much forget the physical world that exists around you? Or are you a compulsive online shopper who must buy everything you get online? Do you love to indulge in the sales, discounts and various offers that e-sites offer from time to time? Is your excessive screen and Internet usage interfering with your everyday functionality and impacting primary relationships, work, school, hobbies, interests, social meet ups?

If your answer is yes to any of these questions, then you may be suffering from Internet Addiction Disorder, also commonly referred to as Compulsive Internet Use (CIU), Problematic Internet Use (PIU), or iDisorder.

Technology addiction is defined by, an impulse control disorder that involves the obsessive use of mobile devices, screens, the Internet or video games, despite negative consequences to the user of the technology. The disorder may also be referred to as digital addiction, or internet addiction.

The number of cases that come in with gaming, phone and screen addictions are only on the rise and it is genuinely a huge concern as most of the clients are in the prime age group of 12-28 years. Most of them are school referrals and some desperate parents who bring in their little and not so little adolescents. It is, however, almost rare to have an individual accept with complete responsibility that yes, he/she is suffering not only from over-usage but in fact is addicted to his gadget(s).

Symptoms?

Guilt, dishonesty, depression, anxiety, feeling 'high' or euphoric whilst using the gadget, inability to keep and maintain schedules, isolated behaviour, lack of purpose and time management, increased defensiveness, aggressive behaviour when the gadget is taken away, shoddy work - personal and professional, avoidance of work to be completed on time, mood swings, agitation and increased irritation and procrastination are some of the heightened symptoms.



When the virtual becomes real

While technology makes us feel blessed, its mindless usage could be addictive. Where does one draw the line?

The brain experiences the exact process, similar to that of any other form of chemical dependency and addiction, such as drugs, alcohol, nicotine and so on.

Ill-effects

The excessive usage of gadgets, screens and gaming affect and impact the pleasure centre of the brain. The addictive behaviour triggers release of dopamine that promotes pleasurable experiences activating further release of this chemical and the cycle goes on. Over time, more and more of the activity is needed to induce the same pleasurable response, creating a dependency and an addiction.

Behavioural and physical symptoms such as backaches, headaches, neck pains, carpal tunnel syndrome, insomnia, poor nutrition (failing to eat or eating anything in excess to avoid being away from the computer), poor personal hygiene (not brushing, bathing to stay online), dry eyes and other vision problems are very common in this

condition.

Internet addiction also causes changes in the prefrontal region of the brain (the area that is associated with remembering details, attention, planning, and prioritising tasks). This is rather detrimental as it literally grips one's capability to prioritise tasks, work, school assignments, studying, eating, nature breaks, leisure activities, outdoor play, exercise, your entire life in short, i.e., the screen literally replaces your life.

Another reason why one might be so addicted to screen activity (e.g. gaming, gambling, shopping, pornography, and so on), is because it provides multiple layers of rewards. That is, constant surfing of the Internet leads to multiple rewards that are unpredictable. Each level of your game, Facebook and WhatsApp refresh button gives you unpredictable results that keeps you entertained and "hooked", to keep coming back for more. Certain games, such as MMORPGs (massively multiplayer online roleplaying games) - including World of Warcraft and Everquest may

certainly lead to internet addiction because, in effect, they never end.

Finally, there are also claims that the inherent predisposition of an individual could also be a reason to be addicted to the Internet. For example, with anxiety or depression, you may turn to the Internet to seek solace and relieve your sufferings. Shy individuals, and especially those with social awkwardness and social anxiety, might also be at a higher risk, as this offers a 'people free' environment and does not need any interpersonal interaction whilst is hugely emotionally rewarding to the individual.

Therapies

Step 1 - Recognising that a problem exists. If the client (not the parent, sibling, friend, spouse) does not believe he/she has a problem, he/she is not likely to seek treatment.

The excessive usage of gadgets, screens and gaming affect and impact the pleasure centre of the brain.

Step 2- Action. Control, monitor and ration your internet usage and the sites you visit. Deleting games and your accounts are all temporary measures and sooner or later people re-activate them. Total abstinence from the Internet is not an effective method of correction.

Step 3 - Meet a professional counsellor to get an exact assessment of the depth of the addiction. Some common therapies include individual, group, or family therapy sessions, behavior modification, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), art therapy, recreation therapy and so on.

A psychiatric evaluation is also solicited should there be an underlying condition of anxiety and depression to treat the illness via medication and therapy.

Step 4 - Physical activity is always a great idea as it increases the endorphin and serotonin levels in the body.

The author is a practising counsellor and a trainer.

VOICES

It's no to ragging

While freshers are excited to finally live their college dream this academic year, seniors are being cautioned to stay clear of ragging

■ NEHA RUPEJA



HIMANI MANHAS, III, MBBS, AKASH INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BENGALURU



SUHASINI, II, PGDM, TA PAI MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (TAPMI), MANIPUR



SAGAR JAIN AMOL, II, MA (J&MC) COURSE, AMITY UNIVERSITY, NOIDA



GHANASHYAM KATTI, COMPUTER SCIENCE ENGINEERING, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING COLLEGE, MYSURU

Ragging is an act of violence which causes, or is likely to cause, insult, intimidation, or injury to students. This can lead to adverse effects such as depression, anxiety, and sometimes, even suicide. Therefore, extra measures should be taken to ensure students' safety, in and around campuses. Conducting of cultural festivals and other extracurricular activities involving both, juniors and seniors, can alleviate such situations.

The culture of ragging continues to prevail in our country despite relentless measures against it. While law and order is in place, institutes should take initiatives to provide a sense of security to students. Colleges should have counselling cells that can help students in times of crisis. Most tormentors consider ragging to be casual entertainment. This can be reduced by conducting regular interactive sessions on the impacts of ragging.

The fear of ragging, among freshers, can be reduced if healthy practices are adopted by universities. Anti-ragging programmes can be held to spread awareness about the ill-effects of ragging. Anti-ragging students committee can help in making sure it is a ragging-free campus. The counselling services should be autonomous so that confidentiality of students can be maintained and they can seek help without any hesitation.

Transitioning from school to college is always enthralling. However, new environment and experiences come with their own lessons. To avoid ragging, colleges should ensure that their students are aware of the general dos and don'ts, especially for campuses located in the outskirts of the city. Colleges should also try to set up a working 'campus safety office'. Such initiatives will instil hope not just for students, but also for parents.

SCHOLARSHIP

HDFC Bank Educational Crisis Scholarship Support

HDFC Bank has announced the scholarship for students who are economically challenged and are victims any family crisis. The programme is aimed at financially aiding them in continuing their education at a critical time and reducing dropout rates from schools.

ELIGIBILITY: Class VI to XII, undergraduate, postgraduate or doctoral students pursuing any full-time, part-time course, ITI, diploma, polytechnic, PhD, course from recognised institutions and facing any family crisis (orphaned, terminal illness/death of earning member, physical disability and so on) since last three years or less.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: ₹10,000 as the one-time amount to selected school students and ₹25,000 to selected university, ITI, diploma and polytechnic students.

DEADLINE: July 15
APPLICATION: Online

<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/HEC6>

BML Munjal University Scholarship Programme

BML Munjal University is inviting meritorious students to pursue higher education in the fields of law and technology at the institution with up to 100% tuition fee scholarships. The scholarship initiative aims at helping financially underprivileged students who have scored well in the national/international entrance exams for engineering and law studies in India.

ELIGIBILITY: Students who have passed IIT-JEE (Main and Advanced) or have passed CLAT or LSAT-India exams this year may apply for the B.Tech and Law scholarships respectively.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Applicants will be awarded with variable benefits including up to 100% tuition fees scholarship, accommodation and meal expenses based on their performance in the respective national/international examinations.

DEADLINE: July 22

APPLICATION: Online
<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/BML1>

Jamia Hamdard Wockhardt Excellence Award

Jamia Hamdard University is inviting nominations from researchers in various fields of technology, medical and life sciences. This award is accorded to experienced researchers for appreciating their efforts in the development of human knowledge and its fundamental progress.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian citizens working at minority research institutions in India or minority candidates working in specified fields of sciences anywhere in India, who were below 50 years of age as on Dec 31, 2018, may apply.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: The winner of the excellence award will be provided with a sum of ₹3 lakhs along with a citation and silver plaque to recognise their contribution to science.

DEADLINE: July 15
APPLICATION: Send nominations offline
<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/JHW2>

Courtesy: www.buddy4study.com

Postcard

» The Hindu EDGE invites Indian students in foreign universities to share their experiences about the campus, course, quality of education, city life and adapting to changes abroad. The article should be not more than 500 words. Send three different pictures of yourself on campus (each should be minimum 2MB size, JPG/JPEG format) to goalpost@thehindu.co.in.

Most searched university

Recent study conducted by SEMrush reveals Calicut University to be the most searched academic institute this year. The university, situated at Malappuram, Kerala, received

9,10,417 online search entries followed by Gujarat University and Kashmir University on second and third places respectively. The study also shares the top three most searched

universities of 2018 and reveals June 2018 to be the most active month for universities as per the number of searches. Mr. Fernando Angulo, head of the international market, SEM-

rush says that these facts show the global trend of researching about the products or services in terms of their efficiency. Education is gradually becoming a part of it.

UPSILL

Invest in a good dictionary, and develop your vocabulary

VINEY KIRPAL

If you wish to develop your vocabulary you must be prepared for hard work, daily practice and application. At 16, I decided to increase my vocabulary using Norman Lewis' book *30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary*. I have never regretted it. You too can use Lewis' book though it focuses on difficult words. A modern-day dictionary will serve the purpose at this stage.

Dictionaries today provide a lot of information around a word. Let us analyse the entry below from the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*:

ac-quire/'kwaiə \$ə'kwair/
verb[transitive]

1. formal to obtain something by buying it or being given it

Manning hoped to acquire valuable works of art as cheaply as possible.

The council acquired the land using a compulsory purchase order.

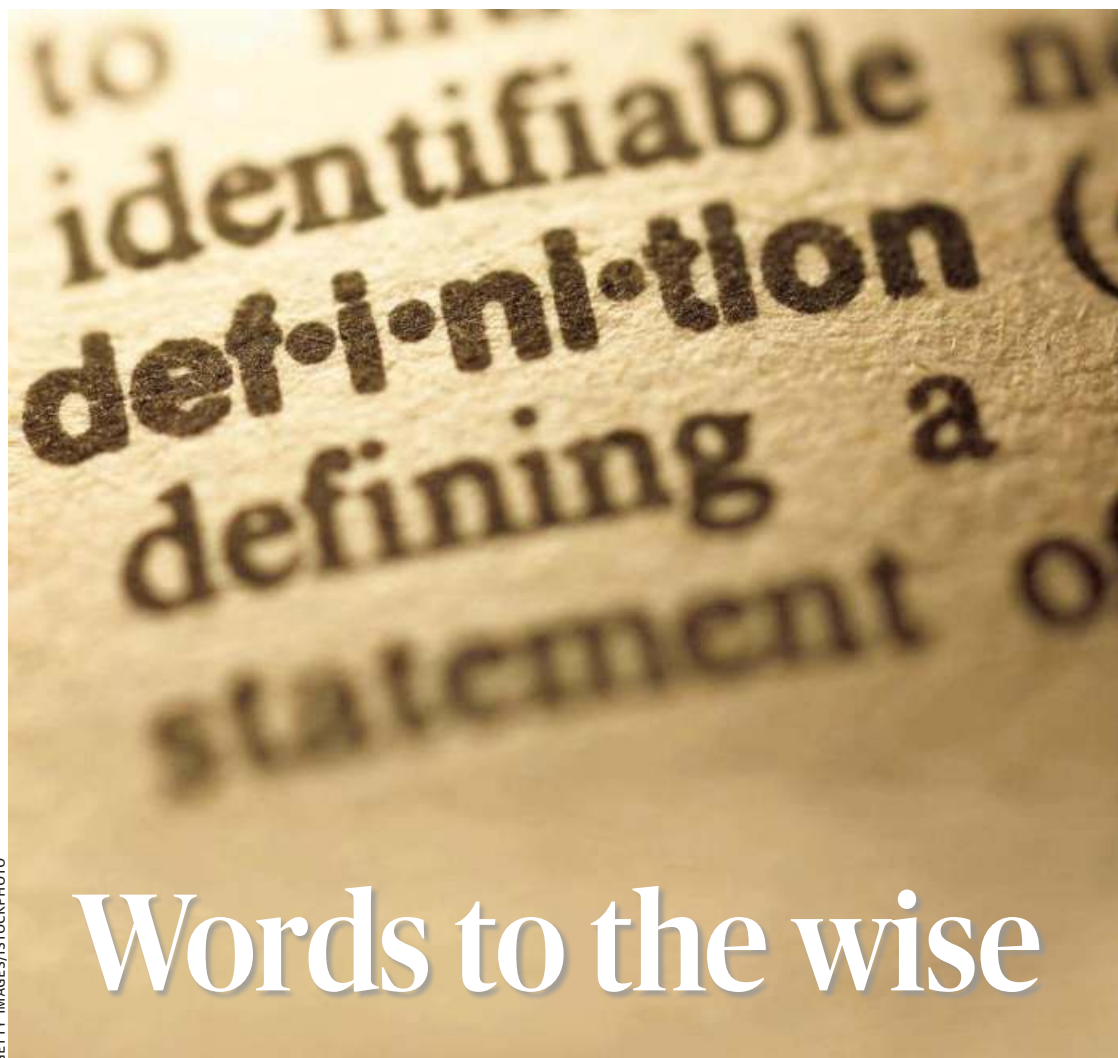
2. to get or gain something

The college acquired a reputation for very high standards.

Breaking it down

First, it has given the pronunciation both British where (/r/ is silent) and the American (\$) pronunciation where (/r/ is pronounced). The pronunciation has been transcribed in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) which is an internationally accepted system of transcribing pronunciation in all languages. It is based on sounds and not spellings.

The key to IPA is provided in the introductory pages of the dictionary and is very easy to master. The phonetic alphabets, especially the vowels, are quite similar to vowels in Hindi. There is a short /i/ and a long /i:/, short /u/ and long /u:/ (two dots as in a colon represent a longer sound) and so on. Barring a few consonants, the rest are similar



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Words to the wise

to the letters of the English alphabet.

Second, the entry demonstrates the placement of the accent or emphasis when uttering a word. In /ac'quire/, the accent or stress is placed before /k/. The accent may change with the grammatical category for example, noun - /employ'ee/ to verb - /'employ/.

Third, the dictionary has provided multiple meanings of /ac'quire/ and used three ordi-

- Developing one's vocabulary involves hard work, daily practice and application.

- Dictionaries today provide a lot of information around a word like its pronunciation, placement and usage.

- Create a system where you focus on frequently used words that you do not understand.

Learn, practise, apply the newly-learnt words and develop a vast vocabulary.

ary use sentences to convey the distinction in meaning. Knowing the meaning of a word without its context is of little use. Popular dictionaries like Longman's and Oxford English Dictionary provide you examples with every word.

Fourth, it tells us if a word is countable or uncountable, used for scientific writing or legal, whether it is used in formal situations as in the above entry (F) or if it is informal, colloquial (used only in speech) or slang. It further provides us with knowledge of the grammatical category to be used. Here /to/ is used only in one sentence. Such input

makes our understanding of a word complete.

Avoid learning words at random from the dictionary. You will not master them or use them. Create a system where you focus on frequently used words that you do not understand. Convert your passive (recognised) vocabulary into active vocabulary by using it regularly. Commit to a target and stick to it. Learn, practice, apply the newly-learnt words and develop a vast vocabulary.

Vocabulary development is an ongoing process. Once you learn to love the process you will grow your vocabulary exponentially. Invest in one good dictionary even if it is a bit costly. It is going to be your friend for life.

The writer is former professor of English, IIT Bombay.
vineykirpal@gmail.com

POSTCARD FROM...SHEFFIELD

Machine learning and more

For Rahul, moving out of his comfort zone, and into the unknown, was the best decision of his life



I was comfortable in my swivel chair; my life as a software engineer in Tech Mahindra was full of challenges, goals, projects,

meetings and targets. For three years, I believed I was happy, but then, one night, I thought to myself, what if I moved out of my comfort zone? This changed my life completely.

Soon, I was looking at universities in the U.K. because of all the rich experiences my friends had narrated to me, about their stay there, and I zeroed in on the University of Sheffield because it was one of the best universities in the world, and in every sense, truly international. I was accepted for the MSc Data Analytics 2018 course and also received the Postgraduate Taught Sheffield Scholarship worth 2,500 GBP. Once I came to Sheffield, I was continuously amazed by the campus, the numerous clubs and societies, the state-of-the-art architecture and my favourite, the Sheffield students' union.

Application-oriented

I vividly remember all the classes, labs, assignments and exams which moulded the new me. My professors taught me the significance of exploring the reading material independently and applying my knowledge. It was quite different from what I had learnt in



NAME: Rahul Sengupta
COLLEGE: University of Sheffield, the U.K.
COURSE: M.Sc Data Analytics

India, where we mostly stuck to the syllabus. Though it was initially challenging, I started to adapt and grow as an eager learner. Machine learning, text processing and natural language processing did not intimidate me anymore. During my second semester, I was exposed to the industry again, where along with my group, I had to do a project for Gweek, a company working on speech technology. Now, it was a massive opportunity for me to engage with the 'real world' of work in an industry-inspired project, where I had to solve a problem set by the company. Getting to know fellow students and their approach to work made it extremely engaging. Although we spent about two months working relentlessly on it in the sprawling Diamond building or at the Information Commons library, the sleepless nights and countless cups of coffee were well worth it, in the end. This industry exposure taught me how to perform to the best of my ability under pressure, and deliver nothing but excellence.

Rahul Sengupta is a student of M.Sc Data Analytics, from the University of Sheffield, the U.K.

VALUE ADD

Get crafty to succeed

Bringing back art and craft into the classroom today can play an instrumental role in improving cognitive development

AMRITA VOHRA

In today's academic scenario, the creative arts have all but entirely disappeared from the Indian education system. There was a time when creative classes were compulsory for students, and were given their due importance by parents, teachers, and kids alike. However, the current mounting academic pressure, coupled with the insurmountable curriculum goals, has completely pushed art and craft to the sidelines. The burdening importance placed on aca-

When teachers encourage children to put their creativity in practice they increase their capacity of focusing and grasping the subject matter.

demics and the growing neglect of extracurricular activities is certainly not unheard of. However, unfortunately in most cases, the concerned parties are still unaware of the contribution of those very subjects to a child's academic and personal growth.

Learning art and craft doesn't solely foster a child's creative development, but also assists in advancing and refining his or her core skills, which help further academic achievements as well. Therefore, an early interest in arts and craft, can give children several key advantages, some of which are:

- 'Crossing the midline', is a critical skill dependent on bilateral coordination

- All forms of art, including sketching or dancing, require and train the perseverance and focus of children

- For young kids, painting, sculpting, and sketching play important roles in helping evolve and engage their visual skills



K.V. SRINIVASAN

Improved bilateral coordination

This is the ability to simultaneously utilise both sides of the brain, and is a good indicator of cognitive progress. Children who struggle with coordinating both sides of their bodies face difficulty in completing daily tasks like tying their shoes, conducting motor activities such as stringing beads, and carrying out visual motor tasks like writing. 'Crossing the midline', for instance, is a critical skill dependent on bilateral coordination. It is the ability to reach across the middle of the body with one's arms and legs crossing over to the opposite side. This coordination ability is enhanced by creative activities, since they simultaneously activate several different areas of the brain through absorbing tasks such as using play-doh 'tools', and lacing yarn through holes, and other related activities.

Enhanced focus

All forms of art, including sketching or dancing, require and train the perseverance and focus of children, making them absolutely essential in enhancing cognitive development. When teachers encourage children to put their creativity in practice they increase their capacity of focusing and grasping the subject matter.

Visual learning

For kids, painting, sculpting, and sketching play important roles in helping evolve and engage their visual skills, while also improving their knowledge of spatial relations. When children draw items that are specific and correlated, such as objects which are thick and thin, smooth and rough, far and near, and so on, they are able to easily understand the concepts of distance, size, comparison, and textural differences, in an elementary manner, which augments their fundamental visual analysis skills. As such, arts and crafts help educate students on interpretation and criticism, showing them how to make choices based on visual information, which is certainly beyond the scope of pure academics. Visual processing and spatial relations are crucial in performing basic skills like riding a bike or playing ball, and an underdeveloped skill capacity may greatly hinder this functioning.

Problem-solving skills

When we draw, we have to carefully depict several specific attributes of an object, in order to portray it accurately. The same goes for children, when they draw a house and a tree, for instance, using their cognitive skills to determine where the door of the house should be, and what should be the relative size of the person, or what kind of emotions he or she is displaying. These entail problem-solving and decision-making skills which are being constantly applied during these exercises, and hence, are assimilated, while producing artistic projects.

The writer is principal, GHS Chinchwad

COURSES

Build on your skills



SIMATS's College of Architecture and Design will offer a holistic architecture curriculum with emphasis on allied skills

One course: Myriad avenues.

JENNY VARGHESE

Once a student decides on his/her career path, it is only natural for him/her to choose the institute that offers the finest courses, to achieve that goal. However, in many cases, it is also highly likely that a student may not want to go the mainstream route. It would be ideal for such students if a course offers the opportunity to branch out into various, and perhaps less conventional paths, than initially thought.

Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS) in Chennai, is set to do just that by introducing the Saveetha College of Architecture

and Design (SCAD) with a unique curriculum. The aim of the newly-designed curriculum is to not only teach students architecture, but also to give them an opportunity to explore other subjects which may benefit them.

SCAD offers a holistic architecture curriculum, with design studio and technological workshops at its core – a unique programme with emphasis on critical thinking, practical experience, creative explorations, liberal arts, innovative technologies, and quality research.

Wide range

The programme, with a flexible-credit system, offers an opportunity for students to choose their subjects and electives from a wide range of options such as film-making, journalism, liberal arts, interior design, product design, digital technologies, heritage walks, environment, theatre and music, and so on.

The idea to introduce electives such as journalism was to enable architects to evolve their

skills in writing and communication, which will help those who would like to pursue something different from the mainstream architecture route. For example, architectural journalism is a growing field which focuses on articles or essays on future cities, environmental standards, heritage, and related subjects.

Film-making as an elective aims at encouraging students to explore new media to convey an idea, whereas the fascination for product design and interior design gives architects a wider perspective in allied fields for creative expression of their ideas and views.

Professor Duraganand Balsavar, Dean of Research, says that the course was made interdisciplinary because it was felt that today, the architecture courses within the country are so focused only on buildings that when the student graduates, he or she tends to not be as well-rounded in different skill sets. "Nowadays, many architects don't just stick to the norm; many diversify into things such as freelance journalism, which the

usual college courses don't equip students for," he adds.

Saveetha University has international collaborations with Penn University, Arkansas State University, University of Sheffield, Curtin University, and many more. Collaborations with international universities provide the possibility of exchange studios, workshops and travel to experience new cultures.

Travel programmes have been proposed to universities in Europe and South-East Asia, as well as study trips to Kerala, Tamil Nadu and other states in the north, to expose students to the rich cultural diversity, contemporary developments and architecture heritage. The programme also looks forward to hosting faculty and students from international universities as well as to collaborate and work in the studios of Saveetha in Chennai. Recently, an international workshop was conducted by Professor Balsavar, with students from Braunschweig University, Germany. A lecture was also organised in collaboration with the Goethe Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan,

Chennai.

Hands-on

"It is important to provide hands-on workshops in a school of architecture, where students are exposed to materials and innovative technologies as well as construction processes," says renowned architect Dean D'Cruz, who has been invited to mentor students at Saveetha.

These workshops, which will give students the experience and knowledge of different cultures, cities, technologies and ecological themes, will also be open to students of all universities and practising architects.

The five-year B. Arch programme has an intake of only 40 students per year, and has received approval from the Council of Architecture, India. Admissions are open to students who have written the National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA).

The first semester commences in mid-August, this year. The eligibility criteria are as per the guidelines of the Council of Architecture, and is indicated on the website.

VALUE ADD

Get a makeover



Get, set, develop: Skills that matter.

Personality building is work-in-progress; invest in it while at college to reap benefits

KULNEET SURJ

Today, employers look into more than technical skills while hiring. Your field expertise remains primary, but the interview bench also includes a professional who constantly evaluates your personality. So, whilst in college, it is crucial that you also invest time in personality development.

Socially-acceptable

A great personality makes you socially-acceptable, which in turn makes you employable. There will always be a difference between talking to someone by looking directly into their eyes and speaking erratically with no eye contact at all. When you work on your personality, you build yourself to enhance your levels of self-acceptance, that will make you more acceptable to the people around you. When recruiters hire personnel, they also look for individuals most likely to get well with their existing team. No one will look at graduates who are incapable of conducting themselves in a social group.

Better soft skills

When you develop your personality, every achievement builds a sense of confidence in you. This newfound confidence can improve other abilities that you may possess. It can enable you to get over your stage fright, make you a better speaker, or help you improvise during a tough situa-

When you work on your personality, you build yourself to enhance your levels of self-acceptance, that makes you more acceptable to the people around you.

tion. The experience you gain from this can be channelised into helping others, which starts building leadership qualities in you. Working on one skill sets a chain in motion that improves your overall quality, and employers will never fail to notice it.

Adapt to stress

You build your personal self during personality development. Your attitude towards situations improve, your perspective changes and you are almost always goal-oriented. Every task that comes your way becomes a learning process to you, and you tend to take out the positives from every instance. You become your source of encouragement, you barely rely on external validation, and you become capable of looking into the bigger picture. All these act together to keep you stress-free in the highly competitive corporate world.

Emotionally aware

Personality development teaches you to identify your strengths and weaknesses. You become conscious of both your positive and negative emotions. You may be struggling with anger management issues, but the patience that you will learn from personality development will help you to curb that toxic emotion. Anger clouds logical thinking and you will start identifying the trigger to stay away. In the process, you will gel with your colleagues better and your overall performance will improve.

Most PGDM colleges have dedicated sessions for developing students' personality, as it is vital for their career. Make use of such events, invest time in yourself and continuously work for a better you.

The writer is Senior Director, Institute of Management Studies (IMS) Noida.

IN BRIEF

Yoga awareness



Jindal Nature Institute recently organised an event to spread awareness on the significance of Yoga. The event organised under the Government of India's theme 'Yoga for Heart' was attended by over 1,200 school and college students. Participants were taught a series of asanas. The institute has also endeavoured to contribute to environmental conservation.

MoU signed



IIT Roorkee recently signed a MoU with Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), a Portugal-based engineering school. The ceremony was organised at IST and the memorandum was signed by Prof. Arlindo Oliveira, President, IST. This collaboration is aimed at promoting academic and research cooperation between the two institutions which would benefit students at the research level.

Public speaking course



Over 150 invitees recently attended the launch of SPEAK, Express Yourself, a tailor-made public speaking course brought by Innovative Services, Chennai. An array of speakers shared their experiences and views on the significance of speaking skills in the contemporary scenario. They emphasised on the importance of public speaking and wished the SPEAK Team the best for their programme. The company, founded by Venkatesh Narayanasamy, has trained more than five lakh students over the last decade.

MY INTERNSHIP

New options, new media

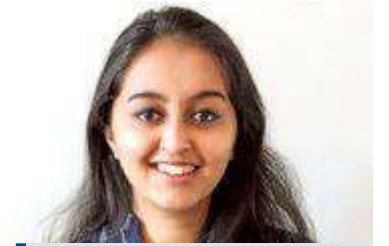
A combination of coding and social media marketing is rare, but this was exactly why Surbhi opted for it

During the summer, I took up a three-month social media and business analyst internship at Rsquare Media Inc., a creative internet marketing company head-quartered in Uniondale, Long Island, New York. I came across the company on a job portal. They were offering mentorship throughout undergraduate, and a letter of reference post-internship. I got a Skype interview with the CEO, Rajiv Jadhav. He specifically asked me why I wanted a social media internship in spite of being an electrical and computer engineering major. I told him that since technology is being used to propagate products and services extravagantly, I wanted to learn WordPress, graphic design tools for editing, and so on, to stay ahead of my competition.

Job profile

This was a remote internship that I started in the U.S. and continued later in India. I had the responsibility of both, technical work and social media. I was in charge of website blogs and Facebook posts of three clients. I used to research about these companies and learn various ways in which companies used technology and the web to maximise their reach, and how their services excelled through the use of proper equipment and up-to-date software. After researching the need, history, usefulness, and targeted audience of the products of the clients, I used to create weekly blog articles on a product and publish it on their respective websites, which were built on WordPress. I also learnt to promote the blog posts on their respective Facebook pages and redirect the traffic to the clients' Facebook fan page to hype the product before its launch.

For the technical work, I was a part of a coding project called CUBENTS (Comprehensive Utility Board for Equation Text and Graphics). This was an in-



NAME: Surbhi Inani
COLLEGE: Carnegie Mellon University, the U.S.
ORGANISATION: Rsquare Media Inc.
DURATION: Three months

teractive content editing web application for creating presentations and lectures using text, equations, and graphics to bring static content to life using animations. Using the concept of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), this web application could be used by companies to create and display their services. I worked on drawing graphical shapes on the web board using Fabric.js and apply animation to them. I designed graphic toolbars which facilitated the editing of different features of the shapes such as line width, smoothness, position, and so on. I hard-coded various animations such as fade in-out, draw, disappear, and so on, for each shape. Then, I worked with the UI coder to simplify buttons on the graphics toolbar to make it user-friendly.

I enhanced my knowledge of social media marketing, and improved my business analysis and reporting skills. I also developed a working knowledge of GitHub, and learnt to write project reports and document programmes so as to make our project open-sourced.

Surbhi Inani recently graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, Pennsylvania, U.S. Courtesy: Internshala (internshala.com)

OFFBEAT... GAMING

More than just a game

The gaming world is evolving by leaps and bounds



ASHISH SOLANKI

Imagine it is the 90s, you are downloading big files or using CD-ROMS to install the heavy files and play your favourite games. It was a time when gaming used to be PC generic. But thanks to technology, you can now experience quality gaming, in a matter of moments, and that too with just a bit of space.

From PC to mobiles
The gaming industry now boasts of being one of the

- Live gaming streams are now gaining more attention.
- Many evolving gaming communities, events, and competitions add to the scope of being a successful gamer in the industry.
- There has been an exponential growth in the fan base of trending gamers.

world's fastest growing industries. This growth seems to be unstoppable considering the rate of development and innovation happening around it. A number of new gamers

and innovative apps have been flooding the market in the past decade, and the user base seems to grow in leaps and bounds. The rate at which technology is growing has been an important factor in allowing firms to bring forward new formats of games. These games go viral due to their features, and are extensively downloaded. Without indulging with a lot of graphics and heavy processing, the innovative ideas have played a key role in the development of better user engagement that the user base is expe-

riencing.

Applications these days, focus on being user-friendly, time-efficient, and providing a compelling gaming experience. These easy-to-use features allowed the gaming industry to successfully shift from PCs to small screens of the mobiles. A feature that has been attracting many gamers, of late, is one where players can win real money from games.

Gamers' community
YouTube and other social media platforms are continuously

observing a growing trend of the upsurge of the gaming community and the increasing base of gamers. The live streams are now gaining more attention. The user base is trying to follow and indulge with this growing trend to experience and perform better. This is leading to an exponential growth in the fan base of trending gamers.

Many evolving gaming communities, events, and competitions such as World Electronic Sports Games in China, Electronic Sports World Cup and ESL India Premiership Winter LAN, add to the scope of being a successful gamer in the industry. Gamers such as Sagar Vyas, Ankur Diwarkar, Bhavin Kotwani, Simar Sethi and Ishan Arya, are some of the trending names in the country's gaming industry.

The wide and varied growth of the user base is expected to keep growing. The fact that the existing mobile gaming industry has made a significant impact on how games have evolved, in recent times, cannot be ignored. The industry is yet to experience the highest boom of success, and looks forward to the innovation and development that technology has to offer.

The writer is Co-Founder, Funnearn.